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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

2001 Census results reveal information on nationalities and language in Ukraine

by **Oleh Wolowyna***Special to The Ukrainian Weekly*

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – The 2001 Census was the first census implemented by Ukraine as an independent nation, and its results are likely to be as hotly debated as some of the questions proposed during the planning of the census. The two most controversial issues during this debate relate to the questions on nationality and language.

Some experts have stated that during Soviet times many Ukrainians declared Russian as their nationality, and thus the percent of Ukrainians was underestimated in the 1989 Census. The language question in the 2001 Census raised fears that it would show a large percentage of persons declaring Russian as their mother tongue, and that this would be used as an argument for making Russian an official language in Ukraine and thus would reverse the trend to eliminate the consequences of Russification policies during the Soviet period.

The census results presented here are likely to be surprising to many persons. They can be interpreted as positive or negative within this debate, depending on one's perspective. (We will present the results and let the readers make their own conclusions.)

Before launching into the main topic of this article, we provide evidence that the census has confirmed what has been already known: that Ukraine is losing population at an alarming rate. Between 1989

and 2001, Ukraine's population declined from 51,706,700 to 48,457,100, which translates into a 6.1 percent decline. This decline is not uniform across the country.

Only two oblasts and the city of Kyiv showed small increases in their population (0.5 percent for Zakarpattia and 0.3 percent for Rivne and the city of Kyiv) during this period, and one oblast (Volyn), maintained its population size.

The largest losses occurred in the eastern, northeastern and some central oblasts. For example, Chernihiv, Luhansk and Zhytomyr experienced more than 10 percent loss of their population; Sumy, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kirovohrad, Cherkasy and Vinnytsia experienced between 8 percent and 9 percent loss.

The smallest losses occurred in the western oblasts and on the Crimean peninsula. Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernihiv, Ternopil and Lviv oblasts, as well as the Crimean Autonomous Republic and the city of Sevastopol, experienced losses of between 1 percent and 5 percent.

Nationality (or Ethnicity)

The data on nationality is based on the following item in the 2001 census: Your ethnic origin (state nationality or ethnic group). In other words, each respondent was free to provide any nationality as his response, and the concept is similar to the ethnicity or ancestry concepts used in the

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Ukrainian prime minister's visit to Poland confirms good relations

by **Roman Woronowycz***Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich made his first visit to Poland as the head of Ukraine's government on January 8, receiving confirmation from Warsaw that it had resolved to maintain a "flexible" visa policy for Ukrainians after it enters the European Union and that it will continue to cooperate on a Odesa-Brody-Gdansk oil pipeline.

"Today we held talks on those subjects that will help us to come closer to determining our [relations'] future direction" explained Mr. Yanukovich after his meeting with Polish Prime Minister Leszek Miller.

Ukraine has repeatedly voiced concern that a new type of "iron curtain" could descend at the border between the two countries once Poland entered the European Union, while Poland has insisted all along that it would do everything possible to loosen stringent EU visa requirements and border controls. Kyiv has even suggested that one by-product of the new EU "border" at Ukraine's door could be an influx of illegal immigrants from South-Central Asia into Ukraine seeking to slip into Western Europe.

Mr. Miller maintained during his meeting with Mr. Yanukovich that Poland was committed to maintaining a

flexible visa regime for Ukrainians desiring to travel there.

"Visas will be cheap, multi-entry and affordable. We are suggesting that certain categories of individuals, including businessmen and young people, should be allowed to enter Poland without visas," explained Mr. Miller, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

Poland is expected to become an EU member in 2004. One of the requirements it must meet is the implementation by 2003 of a visa regime acceptable to the EU. Currently Ukrainians can travel to Poland without obtaining a permit to enter the country.

The two prime ministers also discussed increasing economic activity across their 543-kilometer (about 360-mile) common border. Although the meeting included discussions on broadening what is generally considered a low level of economic turnover and investment between neighboring countries, the Ukrainian government placed an accent on receiving assurances from Warsaw that it would continue to cooperate in developing the Odesa-Brody-Gdansk oil pipeline, which the Polish side maintains must include the development of a Polish investment consortium to support the project on the Polish side.

Mr. Miller explained the importance of private Polish investment in order for the project to succeed, but emphasized that the value of the project and the demand for the oil in Western Europe needed to be quantified and specific potential suppliers identified as well.

Mr. Yanukovich, meanwhile, maintained that most important at the moment were concrete expressions of the political will to move forward on the project by both Ukraine and Poland.

The Ukrainian prime minister expressed optimism that economic activity between the two neighbors had much room for expansion, especially in the agricultural sector, and said he believed that Warsaw and Kyiv could cooperate in developing common export projects in the military-industrial sector. He also noted that Ukraine would consider purchasing Polish coal for its energy sector.

Polish Prime Minister Miller stated that Poland would continue to support its neighbor's move into the World Trade Organization and, generally, would remain a strong backer of post Soviet reforms under way in Ukraine.

"Poland supports the market and political transformations in Ukraine and is ready to share its experience if Ukraine is ready to listen," explained Mr. Miller, who underscored that a European choice for Ukraine is exclusively dependent on the will of its people.

Finally, the two sides broached the

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Batkivschyna prepares for next leg of around-the-globe voyage

by **Roman Woronowycz***Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV – Increasingly looking like the little sailboat that not only could, but did, the cement-bottomed schooner *Batkivschyna* continues to make muck of detractors and doubters who believed it had no chance of completing an around-the-world voyage. In late October the Ukrainian sailing vessel completed the third leg of a five-stage journey that should have it back in Kyiv near the end of 2004.

Currently housed in dry dock in southern California for winter repairs, the 28-meter-long schooner, which gained international attention and a front-page story in *The New York Times* in July 2000, is set to begin its trans-Pacific journey in May. It should dock in Australia sometime in August if it sticks to schedule.

Staying on schedule, however, has not always been simple for this Ukrainian sailing vessel, which set off in April 2000 from its home port of

Kyiv to "let the world know about Ukraine," as its skipper, Dmytro Biriukovich, explained at the time. The *Batkivschyna* drew international attention after a harried trans-Atlantic crossing, which left it lost at sea at one point and well behind in its plans to join Operation Sail, an international gathering of sailing vessels on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States in celebration of the Millennium – the largest such event in maritime history before it was over.

Captain Biriukovich decided on the trans-global journey after stops at various ports of call in Europe and the Middle East in the early and mid-1990s during which fellow sailors often asked him the identity of the blue-yellow flag under which he sailed. He decided to develop a project he named "Discover Ukraine," which would inform people about Ukraine and also allow him to travel the world.

"I believe we have done a lot for Ukraine," said Captain Biriukovich during an interview in late November

2002 back in Kyiv at his home not far from the banks of the Dniro River. Mr. Biriukovich explained that over the past three years he had received scores of letters from people acknowledging his commitment to Ukraine.

"In one letter I received it simply said, you are so small and have done so much," explained the captain.

Today the Discover Ukraine project includes a bevy of informational displays on the culture, history and economic potential of Ukraine, which the *Batkivschyna* crew presents along with traditional Ukrainian folk music and souvenirs from Kyiv for sale at each port of call. The project has remained afloat even with crew problems and financial uncertainty following it like the wind the *Batkivschyna* needs to keep moving forward.

During the first stage of its journey – which took the schooner from Kyiv to Connecticut, with stops from Norfolk, Va., to Nova Scotia en route – obtaining fuel was a major problem,

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ANALYSIS

The clan from Donetsk

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

PART I

On November 16, 2002 Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma fired the government of Anatolii Kinakh on the pretext that it had been unable to ensure financing for education and science, and he proposed that Viktor Yanukovich become the 10th prime minister in Ukraine's 11 years of independence. On November 21, Mr. Yanukovich's candidacy was approved in Parliament by a less-than-overwhelming vote of 234 for and 0 votes against, as opposition factions decided not to participate in the voting.

Viktor Fedorovich Yanukovich was born on July 9, 1950, in the city of Yenakievo in the Donetsk Oblast. According to his official biography, which was circulated by the UNIAN news agency shortly before the vote, he worked as a laborer in a metallurgical factory, a car welder and a mechanic. Later he worked as the general director of a number of enterprises, most of which were somehow connected to the transportation sector. In August 1996 he was appointed as vice-chairman and in September as first vice-chairman of the Donetsk Oblast Administration. On May 14, 1997, President Kuchma appointed him the head of the oblast administration.

Mr. Yanukovich's biography says that he graduated from the Donetsk Polytechnic Institute in 1980. It also mentions in passing that in 1968 he was arrested (the reason is not provided) and sent to a penal institution for minors. In 1970 he was arrested for the second time and found guilty of assault and battery. However, a different version of this second arrest was broadcast on November 18 on ICTV television (a station belonging to Viktor Pynchuk, Kuchma's son-in-law), which reported that he had been charged with manslaughter and theft of state property.

As soon as Mr. Yanukovich's name was announced by the president as his candidate for the prime minister's job, a number of political observers in Kyiv were quick to comment that with his appointment, power in Kyiv would shift to the Donetsk clan. Some believed that the West would not be too happy with Mr. Yanukovich's appointment, given his very close connections with what they claimed to be a criminal and corrupt clan.

The Donetsk clan is not a well-known group, even among Ukrainians. More people tend to know about the large and more prominent Dnipropetrovsk clan, or, as it is often called, "Dnipro." Mr. Kuchma is part of that group, as was Pavlo Lazarenko (presently in a prison cell in California, awaiting the start of his trial in March 2003 and many others in the Ukrainian government. Even members of the opposition, like Yulia Tymoshenko, are also part of the Dnipro group.

The Donetsk clan began its formation in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The first step took place in the settlement of Oktiabrsk in 1988. A local resident, Akhat Bragin, a man of "great authority" in both local official and underworld circles, took control of the local market. At that time, 22-year-old Rynat Akhmetov, a young man of Tatar nationality, was close to Mr. Bragin. Mr. Akhmetov, born in Donetsk in 1966, was noticed by many local men of authority for his quick mind and ability to get things done. Mr. Bragin kept him close and taught him the business of doing business Donetsk-style.

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In the early 1990s two other business enterprises came into being in the region: the Anton company, headed by Yevhen Shcherban, and Delo Vsekh, belonging to Volodymyr Shcherban (the two Shcherbans were not related).

In the early 1990s, men of authority from Donetsk realized that they could influence decisions in Kyiv by the sheer might of their industrial and natural resources. Thus, in 1993, a wave of coal-miners' strikes, organized by their own management, swept the region and forced then-Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma to appoint as his deputy a powerful "coal baron" from Donetsk, Yukhym Zviahliyskyi. Mr. Kuchma left his post soon afterward to concentrate on his presidential campaign, and Mr. Zviahliyskyi became acting prime minister. During his short time in office, Mr. Zviahliyskyi did manage to slow inflation somewhat and arranged for Russian energy supplies to reach Ukraine.

In 1994 Mr. Kuchma was elected to his first term as president, and matters rapidly changed. Mr. Zviahliyskyi soon found himself the object of an investigation into his dealings while acting prime minister – he was accused of having stolen some \$20 million – and he fled to Israel in fear for his life. After some time, Mr. Zviahliyskyi returned to Ukraine; he is presently living in the Donbas region, where he is still very powerful. Being a member of Parliament, he has immunity from prosecution.

While Mr. Zviahliyskyi was hiding in Israel from the wrath of his enemies in 1995, Donetsk came under the control of the two businessmen mentioned earlier: Mr. Bragin, by this time the owner of the local soccer club, Shakhtar, where Mr. Akhmetov was his deputy; and Yevhen Shcherban. They enjoyed the full support of Volodymyr Shcherban, President Kuchma's choice in 1994 to head the Donetsk Oblast Administration.

In December 1995 the Industrial Union of the Donbas was registered as a corporate entity in the city of Donetsk. Its acting director was listed as Serhii Tartyta, and its founding members were the Donetsk regional branch of the Academy of Technical Sciences of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Academy of Economics, the Donetsk Chamber of Trade and Industry, the construction company Azovinteks from the city of Mariupol and the joint-stock company Vyzavi from Donetsk. But most people in Donetsk knew that Mr. Bragin and Mr. Shcherban were the real muscle behind the Industrial Union.

Initially, the corporation stated that its goals were to coordinate the work of different regional enterprises in the new economic situation that arose after the collapse of Soviet communism. But the true original purpose of the Industrial Union of the Donbas was to make a lot of money by supplying natural gas to enterprises in the region and by stripping assets from the companies they acquired during the early period of privatization.

At this time, some people in Donetsk began to show political ambitions, and some were openly predicting that Volodymyr Shcherban would be a presidential candidate in the next election. (The most vocal proponent of this line of thinking was Yevhen Shcherban.) By late 1995 certain events convinced the Donetsk clan that this was in fact a very bad idea. Near the end of that year, Mr. Bragin was gunned down in Donetsk, and his young deputy Mr. Akhmetov, almost immediately took over the soccer club. From that day on he was the most powerful member of the clan.

From January through July 1996, a

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NEWSBRIEFS

Russian language bill is registered

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada has registered a bill amending the Constitution of Ukraine to make Russian an official language. The bill was submitted by Leonid Hrach, a Communist, and signed by 164 deputies representing Communists, Socialists, Social Democrats, the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and also the parliamentary groups Labor Ukraine, Regions of Ukraine and People's Choice. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Hrach founds new Russian association

KYIV – National Deputy Leonid Hrach has founded the public association called Bohdan Khmelnytsky's Successors to protect the rights of ethnic Russians residing in Ukraine, in particular to give Russian a second official language status. "A considerable part of the Ukrainian people, represented by ethnic Russians, whose number is, according to different sources, 10 million to 12 million people, have their problems, in the center of which is the language issue," Mr. Hrach said in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine. In addition, the association will take measures to expedite Ukraine's integration into the Eurasian Economic Community or, at least, to form a union of three states, such as Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Mr. Hrach characterized the current multi-vector foreign policy of Ukraine as a "geopolitical squint." He added that the new association will defend canonical Orthodoxy, showing respect for other religions and without engaging in inter-religious conflicts. Mr. Hrach also told Interfax-Ukraine of his intention to run for president in 2004, but clarified that founding the association is not connected to his political ambitions. "I have founded this movement not to achieve my political ambitions," he said, adding that the association will never be turned into a political party. Mr. Hrach explained that there are many organizations and parties in Ukraine that defend the rights of Russian people, but all of them operate on the regional level. He said he is convinced that his movement will reach the national level. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Russians indignant over census results

DONETSK – The "specified data" of Ukraine's nationwide census conducted on December 5-14, 2001, have evoked the indignation of the Russian organizations of Ukraine. "It looks suspicious that some 3 million Russians happened to be non-existent, judging by the results of the

census," Konstantin Shurov, head of the Russian Community of Ukraine, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS. "It is noteworthy that the overall population of Ukraine was reduced by the same number of people. Now it amounts to 48.24 million." Census takers often put down the information not on special forms, but in notebooks. Now it is evident that the "Russian problem" continues to be resolved by means of forcible Ukrainization, of the dissolving of Russians and Russian-speaking people into "Ukrainian society," which is now being created via bureaucratic methods, he continued. Mr. Shurov said he is positive that the consequences of this anti-Russian process will soon become obvious. "The violation of the rights of a nation is a suicide for any state. The preservation of the Russian language and culture in Ukraine would be a guarantee of national accord, cultural unity and economic prosperity," he stressed. (ITAR-TASS)

Rada questions Kuchma's greeting cards

KYIV – The chairman of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee for Freedom of Speech and Information, Mykola Tomenko, on January 5 requested that the Accounting Chamber help clarify the legality of New Year's greetings distributed on behalf of President Leonid Kuchma, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported, quoting Deutsche Welle's Ukrainian Service. Mr. Tomenko wants to uncover the source of funding for the printing and distribution of the cards, which he claims were delivered to roughly 17 million citizens. Such spending contradicts presidential appeals for increased social-security spending. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kuchma cites transparent government

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said in his New Year's message on December 31, 2002, that for the first time in its independent history, Ukraine has finally gotten a "transparent power system that is comprehensible to everybody," the Ukrainska Pravda website reported. Mr. Kuchma was referring to the parliamentary majority and coalition government of Viktor Yanukovich formed in November-December 2002. The Ukrainian president also suggested a shift in responsibility for state affairs under this new power system. "[Now] the president will interfere [in state affairs] in the event of political necessity, but the primary responsibility will rest

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FOR THE RECORD: Ambassador Pascual's address at European University

Following is the text of an address by Ambassador Carlos Pascual to representatives of non-state educational institutions, rectors of Kyiv universities and faculty and students of the European University delivered on December 12, 2002.

CONCLUSION

The so-called Kolchuha affair has unfortunately arisen in the midst of this complicated domestic climate. It has exacerbated a crisis of confidence at the top between Ukraine and the United States. It caused NATO to act unanimously to downgrade the meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission in Prague from what could have been a triumphant summit to a ministerial gathering. Because of the extensive misinformation about this issue, let me provide a few facts.

In September [2002], the United States government advised the Ukrainian government that it had authenticated a recording of a July 10, 2000, conversation between President [Leonid] Kuchma and Mr. [Valerii] Malev that authorizes the transfer of the Kolchuha passive detection system to Iraq. The Kolchuha issue is important to us because it affects the safety of American and British pilots patrolling the Iraq "no-fly" zones. Just imagine: how could we face the mother of a pilot killed because of this system, and tell her that we never followed up because it was not diplomatically convenient? Moreover, the decision to transfer the system to a country that has consistently violated international law and human rights seems to contradict Ukraine's stated commitment to a "European choice."

Experts at the FBI's Electronic Research Facility conducted a laboratory analysis of the original recording and the original recording device provided by Mykola Melnychenko. The recording was reviewed numerous times using a range of technical and audio techniques that together can determine if a digital recording has been manipulated or distorted. The experts concluded that the recording is genuine and has not been altered. They detected no breaks in the recording, found no manipulation of the digital files and detected no unusual sounds that would have been present if the recording had been tampered with.

Three United States government departments confirmed that the recording includes the voice of President Kuchma. They indicated that it would be implausible that a conversation such as the one examined could be fabricated, even with highly sophisticated electronic equipment.

We are aware that some private groups have conducted analyses of copies of some of Mr. Melnychenko's recordings, but we have not been involved in such analyses and cannot comment on them. The Ukrainian government has told the United States government that it conducted an analysis of a recording of the conversation between President Kuchma and Mr. Malev, but the Ukrainian government admitted that it reproduced this recording from a version that is available on the Internet; that is, it did not examine the original recording. There has also been some confusion in the press about the use of the words "recording" and "tape." Regarding the conversation between President Kuchma and Mr. Malev, the FBI's analysis was done on the original digital "recording" of that conversation, and not on a "tape."

Some have asked why we have not provided the recording to the Ukrainian authorities. First, the Ukrainian authorities knew their analysis of an Internet copy would have no credibility; the fact that it

was done for political purposes underscores that any information we might provide will be manipulated. Second, senior Ukrainian officials have repeatedly suggested that the conversation took place, but the real issue is whether there was a transfer. Hence, senior Ukrainian authorities show little concern over authorizing a military transfer in violation of U.N. sanctions.

Did an actual transfer of the Kolchuha system to Iraq occur? From the beginning of this episode, the United States government has said that, while we are certain of the authenticity of the July 10, 2000, recording, we do not know whether the transfer actually did occur. There is some information available to us that suggests it may have occurred. Ukrainian authorities invited a team of U.S. and British experts to Ukraine to establish that a transfer did not take place.

Faced with incomplete access to important documents and serious gaps in documentation in violation of Ukraine's export control process, the team was unable to rule out the possibility of a transfer of the Kolchuha system to Iraq. In particular, the team was not permitted to see the full investigation reports the gov-

Whatever the eventual resolution of the Kolchuha issue, the main challenge will be to re-establish the trust that is essential to building and sustaining any meaningful, long-term relationship [between the U.S. and Ukraine].

ernment of Ukraine informed us had already been completed by the National Security and Defense Council, the Security Service of Ukraine and the Office of the Procurator General, as well as key contractual documents. Access to these documents, in full, had been promised to the team and was later denied.

The team also found serious flaws in the way that Ukraine's export control system is implemented. While Ukraine's export control system is supposed to have checks and balances, such checks either were not exercised or they were not documented, precluding a reconstruction of the events surrounding the authorization to sell the Kolchuha system in July 2000. Thus, the question of whether a transfer took place must remain open. Moreover, if further investigation by the United Nations is to prove useful, the Ukrainian government must first decide whether it will make available documentation denied to the U.S.-U.K. team. Otherwise, a United Nations team will face the same obstacles in assessing the question of a transfer as were faced by the team from the United States and the United Kingdom.

The way forward

Whatever the eventual resolution of the Kolchuha issue, the main challenge will be to re-establish the trust that is essential to building and sustaining any meaningful, long-term relationship. In principle, there are two choices on how we move forward on U.S.-Ukrainian relations. One is to leave doors open to possibilities for engagement and allow those possibilities to create new dynamics for cooperation. The other option is to say that our views are too divergent and foreclose stronger engagement between our nations.

For the United States, the latter makes no sense for U.S. interests, for Ukraine, or for the kind of Europe that we are hoping

to shape. We will continue to pursue a broad strategy of engagement with Ukraine.

In September, the United States began a broad policy review of its relations with Ukraine. We continued this assessment while I was in Washington last week. In many ways, this review will be ongoing. We need to keep assessing incremental progress or backsliding, and then decide how best to respond. Several key points, however, are already clear.

- First, we must make clear that state-level authorization of military transfers to Iraq will exact a price. Moreover, it is incumbent on all nations to strengthen their export control systems. If Ukraine is willing to renew cooperation with the United States on export controls that work in practice and not just look good on paper, we are prepared.

- Second, we are ready to engage broadly with Ukrainian officials to support the types of reforms that can advance Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration. In October, the United States welcomed, indeed argued for in the face of initial Ukrainian resistance, a meeting between Defense Minister [Oleksander] Shkiddchenko and Defense Secretary

[Donald] Rumsfeld. We are ready to receive First Vice Prime Minister [Mykola] Azarov at senior government levels in January. We have stated our desire to continue our bilateral committees on economics, foreign policy and defense issues. We propose to continue effective trilateral policy meetings with Ukraine and Poland.

- Third, we continue to maintain strong military-to-military engagement. This is reflected in dozens of annual bilateral activities and major exercises such as "Peace Shield," "Sea Breeze" and "Rough and Ready," as well as assistance for Ukraine's participation in "Partnership for Peace." We maintain our support for Ukraine's development of its Rapid Reaction Forces, and for military reforms that will allow interoperability with NATO and European forces.

- Fourth, we will maintain and deepen, as opportunities allow, our support for Ukrainian civil society. Even while we continue to review assistance programs that benefit the central government, we will continue our assistance for local and regional government, small business development, land titling, strengthening civil society, independent media and nonproliferation. On November 8 we announced a new \$300,000 competition for grants to monitor human rights and media freedom. We are willing to do more, but the Ukrainian government must allow it. For example, after a year of negotiation, the Ministry of Economy and European Integration has still not approved the registration of projects with the International Republican Institute and National Democratic Institute to improve openness and competition in the political system. The message this sends to the American Congress is that Ukraine fears transparency.

- Fifth, we will engage Ukraine through multilateral channels to help

Ukraine deepen its ties with Euro-Atlantic and global institutions. At the top of the list are the World Trade Organization and NATO.

Let me say a few words about NATO, because the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan approved at Prague presents a unique opportunity. When you think about NATO, you probably first think of a military alliance, and you would be correct. But it is a military alliance of countries based on a common commitment to shared values. What is NATO defending, if not democracy, freedom, the rule of law and the free market in its member-countries? How can an organization that makes decisions based on consensus function if its members do not share a commitment to the same fundamental principles? It would be contradictory and self-defeating to include members who are not committed to these fundamental values.

The Ukrainian government, well aware of what integration with European structures means, included the following in its core objectives in the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan: strengthen democratic and electoral institutions, strengthen judicial authority and independence, promote the continued development of civil society, fight corruption, money laundering and illegal economic activities. That is the road to NATO and European integration. It is a choice for bold political and economic reform.

If one looks at the history of NATO's enlargement, political issues have been the most fundamental factor in determining a country's ability to accede to membership. This was true in Spain and hinged on Spain's ability to overcome fascism. It was true with Greece and Turkey and the importance of those two countries reaching a political understanding. It was true in Poland, particularly in Poland's taking a strong stand against anti-Semitism. It is true now in the countries invited in Prague to become NATO members, which had to face tough issues such as how they handled minority rights, corruption, and non-proliferation.

And it will be true in Ukraine, as Ukraine contemplates the steps it needs to take toward NATO integration. NATO membership brings promise and privilege. It also means that each member-country accepts the responsibilities of democracy. This mandate includes freedom of speech, the rule of law, a genuinely free and transparent electoral process, and adherence to international non-proliferation standards.

These will be fundamental to the dialogue that will take place between NATO and Ukraine, not because Ukraine is being singled out, but because these are common expectations of all Alliance countries. There is no side door to NATO where shared values do not matter. There are no exceptions, there are no expedient "shortcuts." Ukraine's choice to integrate into Europe is just that – a choice made from the heart, a choice made without conditions or reservations because Ukraine truly believes the West is where it belongs.

The United States supports Ukraine's aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration. When we look at Ukraine, we see its great potential, we see the bright vision many Ukrainians have of Ukraine's future, and we know both rationally and in our hearts that this bright vision is achievable, that Ukrainians deserve nothing less than a democratic, prosperous, sovereign and secure nation fully integrated into Europe. When we see the enormous talent, creativity, tolerance and common sense of the Ukrainian people, we believe in your success. The challenge is getting from the present to that future we all know is possible.

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Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



NEWS AND VIEWS

2002 Palij Lecture at University of Kansas focuses on Yeltsin and Ukraine's independence

by Dr. Michael Palij

LAWRENCE, Kansas – Herbert J. Ellison, professor of Russian history and international studies of the University of Washington, spoke early last year at the University of Kansas on the topic "Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian Independence." His visit was sponsored by the Maria Palij Memorial Fund, established to promote Ukrainian studies. His lecture attracted many students, faculty and the Ukrainian community.

The purpose of the lecture was to compare the Ukrainian struggle for independent statehood during the late tsarist period, the 1917 revolution and the ensuing civil war with the struggle of the Soviet period and the revolutionary transformation of 1991.

While the tsarist policy was repressive of Ukrainian nationhood, both politically and culturally, Prof. Ellison noted that, nonetheless, Ukrainians made considerable advances in the official acceptance of their language and in the development of literature and historical studies that enhanced their consciousness of nationhood. They also developed political groups that undertook discussion of the means of acquiring independent statehood and challenged the Russification of Moscow.

In the wake of the collapse of the Russian monarchy, Ukrainian nationalist leaders encountered a Russian Provisional Government whose leader responded with indifference or hostility to the efforts of Ukrainian political leaders in the Central Rada to define and implement a transition to independent Ukrainian statehood. Ironically, that response weakened the struggle to build a Russian democracy, the lecturer stated. It played into the hands of the Bolsheviks, whose deceptive promise of self-determination for the nations of the Russian Empire facilitated their party's seizure of power and forceful consolidation of a multi-national Soviet empire and totalitarian system.

Though Ukraine gained identity as a Soviet republic with its own Communist leadership, the events of the 1920s would bring a systematic purge of Ukrainian Communist leaders who sought to build an independent brand of communism and an autonomous nationhood and culture that challenged Moscow's control.

The brutal policies of the Stalin years brought a massive slaughter and repression of Ukrainians, especially in the collectivization and purges of the 1930s. It also brought a "cultural revolution" that Ivan Dzyuba has described as including a program of Russification vastly more pervasive, efficient and cruel than anything Ukrainians had witnessed during the imperial period, said the speaker. How the Ukrainians responded was evident in their efforts to remove Russian power from Ukraine in World War II.

The achievement of Ukrainian independence in 1991 – the second occasion in the

20th century when the Russian empire collapsed – is a fascinating story and a remarkable climax of struggle for Ukrainian statehood, continued Prof. Ellison. It was evident from the ample supply of Ukrainian nationalist ideas in the samvydav writings of the Brezhnev era and the rapid emergence of the Ukrainian nationalist organization Rukh that even the totalitarian policies of the Soviet period had not halted that struggle. The collapse of the power of the Communist Party and the authority of the Soviet center opened the way for the successful affirmation and implementation of an independent Ukrainian state.

To what do the Ukrainians owe the final emergence of national independence in late 1991? Despite the negative experiences of the Soviet years, they did acquire a territorial identity as a Soviet republic, Prof. Ellison pointed out. They were also allowed the use of their native language in their daily life, education and publication, though the political control, and the elements of Russification that lay beneath the surface of Soviet "internationalism," sought to contain the political impact of these concessions and block the formation of a movement for national independence.

The success that came in 1991 owed much to the reforms of the Gorbachev era, though to the very end Mikhail Gorbachev remained hostile to the dismantling of the Soviet Union. His memoirs condemn Boris Yeltsin for allowing the secession of the non-Russian nations. Nonetheless, the policy of glasnost and the chance to form elective, representative bodies opened the way to an open and vigorous drive for national independence that was massively affirmed by a national referendum initiated by the Parliament of Ukraine.

Today's independent Ukraine also owes much to Mr. Yeltsin, Prof. Ellison commented. Unlike Mr. Gorbachev, he first envisaged and then vigorously advocated a new union treaty – the implementation of which brought about the August 1991 coup attempt. The organizers of the coup recognized that though the treaty aimed to preserve the union, it was based on the principle of full sovereignty of the republics and a genuinely democratic structure of federal power. They feared that the treaty would end both the Soviet Union and Communist power.

The power collapse that followed Mr. Yeltsin's brave resistance to the coup allowed him to play the key leadership role that proved crucial to the peaceful achievement of Ukrainian independence, Prof. Ellison noted.

The miracle was also the product of the overwhelming Ukrainian vote for independence in December 1991 and the effective cooperation between Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Yeltsin in the replacement of the Soviet center with independent republics voluntarily linked in a loose confederation negotiated in the autumn of 1991. The benefit was reciprocal, since the Russian and Ukrainian leaders had cooperated in destroying the power of the Soviet Communist center that denied the independence of both nations.

As with Russia, the building of workable political, economic and social foundations for the new Ukrainian nation still has a long way to go, but Russian imperialism is no longer an obstacle to that effort, and the end of empire has greatly benefited Russian democracy, a vital guarantee of Ukrainian independence. The peaceful revolution that freed Ukraine was surely an inspiring conclusion to the tragic decades of national martyrdom, Prof. Ellison observed.

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Resolutions for 2003

One of the hazards of authoring a biweekly opinion column is that one occasionally goes someone's ox.

No columnist ever pleases everyone. "Faces and Places" has been around for 22 years and during that time I have been accused of "falsifying Ukrainian history," providing "few facts," being an "arch-Catholic," being "anti-Catholic," being "anti-Orthodox," disrespecting certain Ukrainian families, being "out of touch with the Ukrainian American community" and, of course, of "right-wing rant."

Fortunately, most readers tend to agree with most of my views, either in letters to The Weekly, or by phone, in personal conversation, or by e-mail. Some e-mailers, of course, disagree. If their criticism is civil, I always respond.

Other e-mails, however, condemn what I write in the most vitriolic language. "Limbaughesque race-baiting bombast," wrote one correspondent. "Transparently populist crap," wrote another. "Anti-Jewish whining," suggested a third.

Some readers are upset that I occasionally voice political opinions about developments in the United States. "There is no need to waste The Weekly's space," one disgruntled correspondent suggested. "Let the American media do American politicking. They are quite competent."

A year ago I wrote a New Years' column titled "Predictions, dreams and fears." This really rankled one lady. "We do not need your predictions, dreams and fears," she wrote. "I would suggest that you steer your energy and interest to a real important issue instead." She then suggested that I focus on the 1932-1933 Famine in Ukraine. I informed her that I had developed the first Ukraine Famine curriculum guide in 1980, that I conducted workshops on the famine for teachers in Chicago, Detroit and Newark, that I testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on behalf of the U.S.-funded Ukraine Famine Commission, and that I also served on that commission as a public member.

One young man urged the editor of The Weekly to stop publishing my column immediately because it is "an embarrassment to the entire Ukrainian American community."

An anonymous e-mailer, who called himself "The Hiker," cancelled his subscription to The Weekly because the editor "showcased" my father's 100th birthday. The Hiker argued that the only reason The Weekly wrote anything about "Taras" Kuropas (my dad's name was "Stephen") was in "deference to his son," described by The Hiker as someone who is constantly "whining about everyone who doesn't share his views." People familiar with our community know that my father was one of the most active UNA members ever. He established eight UNA branches, wrote a Svoboda column for 30 years, and served as auditor and vice-president of the UNA for over 40 years. The Hiker was not impressed.

What astounds me about many of the complaints is the seeming lack of thought or corroboration. Many appear to be knee-jerk reactions to a perceived slur. Rather than write a letter, or a commentary even, that rebuts what I write, my detractors resort to an ad hominem attack or to sarcasm. Don't agree with Kuropas? No problem. Label his writing "crap," or "whining," or "offensive," or simply

laughable, or anti-this or anti-that. Then demand that he be censored or exiled.

I have no problem with readers who disagree and put their thoughts to paper. I can deal with thoughts; feelings, however, leave little room for discussion. A lively but intelligent debate is healthy. The best, in my mind, was the months-long, vigorous dispute I had with Eli Rosenbaum, the present director of the Office of Special Investigations.

Some of my detractors believe I should write only about events in the Ukrainian community – as if our community is not an integral part of the United States, as if events in Congress, the White House, the mayor's office, the schools, have absolutely no bearing on our lives.

Having agonized over all of this for quite a while, I have decided to turn over a new leaf beginning this year.

I resolve that I will never again write anything that might, could, or will offend anyone in our community – be they Catholic, Orthodox, Jewish, Democrat, Republican, socialist, American-born, Ukrainian-born, Third Wave, Fourth Wave, young, old, female, male, Banderite, Melnykite, or a UNA executive.

I resolve that I will always take into account the fact that some Ukrainians believe feelings are just as important as facts. Some in our community are ultra-sensitive and bruising their feelings, especially today in multicultural America, even unintentionally, is a grave offense, one that cannot go unnoticed or uncorrected, or even unpunished.

In order to "get a grip," I resolve that I will enroll in a political sensitivity training workshop so that I can become more open to, and appreciative of, icons such as Bill and Hillary Clinton, Al Gore, Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton and, of course, Jane Fonda.

I resolve that I will stop being so judgmental. Judgementalism is out in our society. Just getting along is in.

I resolve that I will write only about apolitical American topics. So what if I have been politically active all of my adult life, worked as a Special White House assistant to President Gerald Ford as well as a legislative assistant to Sen. Bob Dole. My opinions don't count. Fortunately, we have The New York Times and The Washington Post to keep our community informed.

I resolve to always remember that certain groups – Jews in particular – are above reproach. To criticize the Office of Special Investigations or the so-called "Nazi-hunters" in The Ukrainian Weekly runs the risk of being labeled "anti-Semitic." It doesn't matter that I worked with the American Jewish Committee for 15 years, and was honored with an AJC award, before becoming convinced that dialogue with the AJC is counterproductive.

I resolve that I will never again criticize left-wing professors at my or any other university. These are people whose intentions are honorable. The documented fact that most of them are Democrats only makes their pronouncements that much more credible.

That's all the resolutions I can think of, but I'm open to suggestions.

One caution, however. I rarely keep my New Year resolutions.

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Ukraine's foreign affairs: pluses and minuses

Ukraine's foreign affairs this past year, like a potluck dinner, consisted of good and bad moments. At the top of a very uneven year in foreign relations was the Kolchuha affair, which increasingly overshadowed other developments as the year wore on. However, even with accusations of President Leonid Kuchma's involvement in the sale of the air defense systems to Iraq hanging over NATO's Prague Summit in November like a dark cloud, Ukraine claimed success at that very important meeting. During the summit Ukraine and NATO agreed on a new action plan for the country's eventual integration into the defense alliance.

The Kolchuha imbroglio, plus the lack of resolution in several high-profile murders of Ukrainian journalists, including the two-year-old disappearance of Heorhii Gongadze, resulted in a cooling of relations with Washington in 2002. After the Kolchuha issue became a global affair, even Ukraine's close ally Poland voiced concern over actions by some Ukrainian leaders and seemed to politically distance itself from its eastern neighbor, if only slightly. Moscow and Kyiv, on the other hand, became increasingly close with President Kuchma meeting with Russia's President Vladimir Putin more than a half dozen times.

The year began with the development of relations with an unlikely and distant foreign partner. On January 16 Brazil's President Fernando Cardoso visited Kyiv to sign several bilateral agreements for joint oil and gas exploration off the Black Sea coast. He and President Kuchma also made provisions for the joint construction of a space booster rocket. In another deal, Brazil gave Ukraine access to its Alcantar Space Center, while Ukraine allowed Brazilian space researchers to use the Ukrainian-designed Ziklon-4 booster rocket. Mr. Cardoso traveled to Kyiv after spending four days in Moscow.

Ukraine also made a serious foray into the Middle East when President Kuchma made his first tour of that region of the world on April 24-28. It was a trip that mixed economic matters with international politics.

Upon his return to Kyiv he called his visit to Syria, Lebanon and Jordan "fruitful" and underscored that the Palestinian-Israeli issue was potentially the most volatile in the world. He noted that the Ukrainian side was ready to step in as a mediator and had already developed an outline for a program to bring the two sides to peace negotiations.

Closer to home, Kyiv strengthened its already warm relationship with Istanbul after a visit on June 11 to Ukraine by Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem. Both sides belong to the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) organization.

Another economic organization in which Ukraine has taken the initiative, one that neighbors the BSEC, held its annual summit in Yalta on July 19-20. GUUAM is dedicated to developing and maintaining transport corridors between its member-states, Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova along what was once the legendary Silk Road. At their Yalta Summit this year the group signed a free trade agreement among the member-states.

Unfortunately, Uzbekistan suspended its membership a month before the meeting, stating its concern over the lack of progress in developing the GUUAM charter. Although a representative of the Uzbek government was present at the Yalta meeting, he did not sign any of the nine documents ratified by the four other members.

Relations with Ukraine's western neighbor, Poland, also remained warm, notwithstanding concern voiced by Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski in October over Ukraine's involvement in the sale of Kolchugas to Iraq. With Poland scheduled to enter the European Union in 2004, a central issue between Kyiv and Warsaw was possible new barriers between Ukraine and the rest of Europe as visa restrictions were implemented. President Kwasniewski repeatedly assured Ukrainians that he would fight to keep visa requirements and borders between Poland and Ukraine pliable.

A watermark moment in Polish-Ukrainian relations came on April 18 when Mr. Kwasniewski officially expressed regret over Akcja Wisla (Operation Vistula), the forced expulsion by Communist authorities in 1947 of some 140,000 Ukrainians from their native areas in the southeastern part of the country to Poland's newly acquired northern and western territories. His regrets

came in a letter to the National Remembrance Institute, addressed to a conference being held on the matter.

Poland and Ukraine also worked to continue to strengthen economic ties in 2002. Poland's recently elected Prime Minister Leszek Miller made his first visit to Kyiv on February 4 to meet with his Ukrainian counterpart, Anatolii Kinakh, as well as with President Kuchma. Talks centered on the Odesa-Brody-Gdansk oil pipeline. Prime Minister Miller expressed his full support for the plan and Poland's intention to find business partners to complete the pipeline's Polish section through to the Baltic seaport city of Gdansk.

Mr. Miller also said that trade between the two countries, which at that time stood at a paltry \$1.2 billion, had to increase. In addition, he expressed reservations about a Russian plan for moving natural gas around Ukraine in the development of a multibillion-dollar gas pipeline through Belarus.

Ukrtransnafta, a wholly owned subsidiary of Naftohaz Ukrainy, reported on April 13 that oil would enter the Odesa-Brody pipeline in a matter of weeks. However, it would still be several years before the "black gold" would flow regularly to Europe from parts east. The oil, called technical oil, would protect the tube and its components from corrosion and degradation.

Ukrtransnafta also announced that a study released by a U.S. consulting company, Halliburton, Kellogg, Brown and Root, in conjunction with Cambridge Energy Research Associates and commissioned by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, reported that there was a demand in the European market for Caspian Sea oil flowing through Ukraine. It noted the importance, however, of finishing the pipeline through to Gdansk.

Oil and gas remained a central part of Ukraine's relations with Russia, as well. Ukraine's Prime Minister Kinakh said after a meeting with Russia's Prime Minister Mikhail Kasianov on April 10 that the two sides would sign a 10-year gas transit agreement by June. The accord would give Russia secured transit for its natural gas to Europe and would help Ukraine to deal with its thus far unresolved gas debt to its eastern neighbor.

The matter came closer to reality when the presidents of Ukraine and Russia met in Sochi on May 17 and expressed support for the deal their prime ministers were in the process of hammering out.

In Sochi, Messrs. Kuchma and Putin also discussed new developments in NATO, in which Russia was poised to get a seat at the table of 19 North Atlantic Treaty Organization members on certain issues. It was the first indication that Ukraine would make a bid for NATO membership a mere few weeks later.

The gas transit agreement that Russia and Ukraine were discussing took on new impetus and a new dimension on June 10 when the presidents of Ukraine, Russia

and Germany, while meeting in St. Petersburg, signed a statement of understanding and cooperation on the continued use of Ukraine's pipeline for transporting Russian natural gas to Germany.

The document envisaged European participation in a multinational consortium that would guarantee the gas supply. The signing came a day after Presidents Kuchma and Putin signed a separate declaration of strategic cooperation in the natural gas sector, which would give Russia joint management and developmental influence over the Ukrainian tube in return for its agreement to abandon a project to develop the alternative pipeline through Belarus.

Ukraine's First Vice Prime Minister Oleh Dubyna attempted to calm growing fears that the Kuchma administration had outrightly given Moscow the Ukrainian pipeline by emphasizing to journalists on June 10 that the oil tube would never be privatized. He explained that terms of the agreement stipulated that an international consortium would supervise the gas transit tube.

While hope remained until the end that the consortium would include Germany, that option did not materialize, and on October 7 Moscow and Kyiv signed a bilateral deal to create a gas consortium that would manage the Ukrainian pipeline. The move elicited harsh criticism by opposition lawmakers in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, who said the pact was driven by politics and contravened Ukraine's national interests. Under the deal, Russia's Gazprom and Ukraine's Naftohaz Ukrainy would manage and develop the pipeline as equal partners.

Encouraging closer trade relations remained at the heart of the many meetings between Presidents Kuchma and Putin throughout 2002. The Ukrainian president achieved his biggest victory in this area on August 8 when he flew to Moscow to celebrate his 64th birthday at Mr. Putin's invitation. During brief talks, the two presidents agreed to ease a series of trade restrictions that many political experts had predicted could escalate to all-out trade war between the two sides.

While Moscow agreed to lift trade quotas on Ukrainian steel pipes, which Ukraine had vehemently opposed when they were introduced in 2000, Kyiv agreed to suspend restrictions on the importation of 19 Russian commodities. President Kuchma said that while he was not completely satisfied with the agreement, "it is better to have a bad peace [than economic war]."

As Ukraine and Russia grew economically ever closer, there were still certain issues on which they could not find common ground – most of it centered on history, language and culture. A brouhaha developed on June 8 after mid-level Ukrainian and Russian bureaucrats agreed to look into the formation of a committee that was reviewing Ukrainian and Russian school textbooks and would decide on cultural and historical versions



AP/ITAR-TASS/Presidential Press Service

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma (left) walks with Russian President Vladimir Putin during their informal meeting at Mr. Putin's residence on August 9.

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AP/Viktor Pobedinsky

NATO Secretary General George Robertson (right) speaks with Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko during the North Atlantic Council's meeting in Kyiv on July 9.

acceptable to both sides. The agreement in principle brought a deluge of criticism from Ukraine.

The controversy arose after the proposal hit the Internet. Many Ukrainians, including many members of the mass media, immediately interpreted the idea as giving Moscow too much influence over bringing accuracy to a Ukrainian history that has often been falsified and twisted in the past – much of the time by Moscow.

A June 18 report in the government organ *Uriadovyi Kurier* attempted to calm the surging controversy when it wrote that certain facts regarding the initiative had been misconstrued and that Kyiv would never allow any writing of history that did not reflect the national interests of Ukraine, including historical accuracy and expedience.

The flaring of cultural animosities killed that issue rather quickly, only to be followed by another disagreement over cultural differentiation when on October 25 the Russian State Duma voted – and not for the first time – its support for making Russian the official language of Ukraine's Crimean Autonomous Republic. National democrats in Ukraine immediately responded by accusing the Russian Parliament of interfering in Ukraine's internal affairs.

The State Duma had reacted in support of a motion passed on October 18 by the Crimean legislature demanding that the Verkhovna Rada in Kyiv give its autonomous republic the right to determine what language it could use.

National Deputy Pavlo Movchan, the longtime leader of the Ukrainian Prosvita Language Society called it "the most blatant expression of chauvinism that I have seen in all my years" and blamed President Kuchma's recently appointed chief of staff, Viktor Medvedchuk, for initiating the matter to ingratiate himself further with Moscow, where he had plenty of political contacts.

Similar motions for making Russian a second official language came to the floors of oblast legislatures in Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv.

President Kuchma had named Mr. Medvedchuk the new head of his administration on June 12, after the multimillionaire businessman who leads the Social Democratic Party-United brought his parliamentary faction into a pro-presidential coalition in the recently elected Verkhovna Rada.

This year's controversial parliamentary elections brought a whole slew of renowned and respected foreign policy experts to Ukraine, including Madeleine K. Albright, President Bill Clinton's former secretary of state, who stated in Kyiv on February 12 that Ukraine must adhere to democratic norms and values in its election process if it was serious about its move to the West. Canada's Secretary of State for Central and Eastern Europe Gar Knutson followed her to Ukraine on February 18. He took a more neutral, wait-and-see

stance regarding allegations that Ukraine's parliamentary elections were being manipulated. Meanwhile Javier Solana, European Union foreign affairs representative, expressed a bit more concern during his February 21 visit to Kyiv when he noted that in a truly free and fair election everybody must have the ability to express an opinion and have access to the political process.

It was Mr. Solana's fifth visit to Ukraine during his term in office, which showed the extent to which relations between Kyiv and Brussels had warmed. President Kuchma stated throughout the year that Ukraine had made its "European choice," and would stick to it, a decision that Europe applauded. Yet the EU in Brussels and the Council of Europe in Strasbourg continued to chastise Kyiv for much rhetoric and little action throughout the year.

Ukraine's parliamentary elections complete, President Kuchma made his first trip to the West in 2002 when he spent two days in Copenhagen at the European Union summit. The president returned to Kyiv on July 5, waxing optimistically that he had moved relations with the EU forward and laid the groundwork for EU membership for his country. In fact, however, he had left Copenhagen with little tangible results. Ukraine did not receive the market economy status it had sought, which Russia had obtained the prior month. Nor did the EU hold out a timetable for extending associate membership to Ukraine, which Mr. Kuchma has set as one of his primary goals before he steps down from office in 2004.

However, the joint statement signed by the two sides for the first time did not include criticism from the EU on the slow pace of economic reforms in the country or on dubious press freedoms.

Relations between Ukraine and the U.S., on a downhill slide ever since U.S. President George W. Bush came to office in January 2001, continued to erode this past year.

The year began on a sour note when Washington imposed long-threatened trade sanctions on Ukraine for its inability to stop CD and audio piracy and to legislate law that would halt such activity and assure intellectual rights (see story in economic section).

Then, in response to new demands and requirements determined as essential by the U.S. after the September 11 World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks, the U.S. Embassy announced on January 30 that it would tighten visa procedures that already made it nearly impossible for an average Ukrainian to travel to the United States. An Embassy spokesman underscored in making the announcement that the new requirements were set to "keep terrorists out" [of the U.S.].

A piece of good news came on March 13 when Rep. Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.), who is a co-chairman of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, introduced legislation in the House of Representatives to permanently lift

U.S. government trade restrictions against Ukraine based on provisions in the old Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which restricted trade with countries that did not allow free emigration. The law, a vestige of the Cold War, has yet to be retracted in the case of Ukraine, even though it is commonly agreed that no such restrictions, including discrimination against Jews, exist in the country today.

Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), another member of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, introduced another resolution to get the Schaffer bill through the Congress quickly when he asked that the House of Representatives on May 14 agree to relieve Ukraine from the required evaluation process.

More good news came on June 10 when the U.S. agreed to restructure a \$179 million Ukrainian debt on the more advantageous terms of the Paris Club of creditors. Ukraine's Minister of the Economy Ivan Yushko said he was extremely pleased with the agreement because it sent "a positive signal to other countries and the international financial community," that Ukraine was financially stable.

"A Requiem Concert in Memory of the Events of September 11" was held on September 13 at the National Opera House in Kyiv. The concert brought together some 200 singers and musicians from around the world. Volodymyr Spivakov, conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra of Russia, led the musical tribute with the Academic Chorus of the National Opera of Ukraine under the direction of Lev Venediktov, with soloists Janice Chandier (U.S.), Elsa Maurus (France), Robert Lee (South Korea) and Desmonde Byrne (Canada).

The second part of the concert was opened by U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual. Former President Bill Clinton and Michael Bloomberg, mayor of New York, offered their appreciation via video, on behalf of the American people and the people of New York City. On the occasion, President Kuchma presented a gift to the people of America, a mural titled "Eyes of Christ" by artist Aleksander Postupnyi.

What seemed like the beginning of a thaw in relationships between Washington and Kyiv once again went frigid on September 25 when Washington announced it had information that state leaders in Kyiv had negotiated the transfer of Kolchuha anti-aircraft defense systems to Baghdad. At the time Washington announced it had frozen a \$54 million program of direct assistance to the central government in response to evidence it had obtained in the form of digitally recorded conversations between President Kuchma ordering the sale of a Kolchuha to Iraq through a Jordanian intermediary.

Further bad news came on December 19 when the U.S. Treasury Department announced it had singled Ukraine out as one of two countries that had failed to develop anti-money laundering legislation and would implement sanctions against the country in response.

Amnesty International kept the bad news rolling Ukraine's way in 2002 when it issued its annual report in May, criticizing Ukraine's human rights record in four areas: ill treatment in the armed forces, inhuman prison conditions, the unsolved disappearance of Heorhii Gongadze and lack of freedom of expression.

A perception that the Ukrainian leadership was reflexively reasserting authoritarian rule as political controversies kept popping up like mushrooms and moving away from its initial thrust towards democracy kept most leaders away from Kyiv in 2002. However, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan made the trek to Kyiv on June 3-4 to praise Ukraine's peacekeeping role in the world as part of several U.N. operations and to commend the country for closing the Chernobyl nuclear reactor complex on time.

Ukraine did an about-face of sorts when it declared on May 29, after years of maintaining neutrality, that it would make a bid to join NATO. The announcement was not totally unexpected only because it came a day after NATO had accepted Russia into a special 19+1 regime with the North Atlantic defense alliance. Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatolii Zlenko conveyed Ukraine's intention to NATO Secretary General George Robertson during a two-day working meeting with NATO leaders in Brussels.

Ukraine's Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council Yevhen Marchuk had given the first indication that Kyiv was about to redirect its foreign policy a week earlier, after a special meeting of his agency in which President Kuchma participated. Many had expected an announcement of a new NATO-Ukraine arrangement, but not before a scheduled July 9 visit to Kyiv by Mr. Robertson.

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As Ukrainians began to adjust to the proposition of Ukraine in NATO, the ramifications for the country were discussed at several conferences in Kyiv over the next weeks. At one such conference held on June 24 Prof. Michael McFaul of Stanford University expressed the opinion that Ukraine would receive little attention during NATO's Prague Summit, during which seven of the country's neighbors would become members, because several important NATO members – including the U.S. – were not interested in seeing a Kuchma-led Ukraine in the North Atlantic defense club. Other experts warned that the Russian Black Sea Fleet would have to leave Sevastopol in order for Ukraine to qualify for NATO membership.

NATO Secretary General Robertson and ambassadors of the 19-member countries went about separating fact from rumor when they held the second Ukraine-NATO conference in Kyiv on July 9-10. NATO used the meeting – held on the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Distinctive Partnership between Ukraine and NATO – to assure the country that it was wanted in the international security alliance and to encourage Kyiv to take the needed practical steps towards membership.

Mr. Robertson repeatedly told Ukrainian state leaders and journalists that “NATO is willing to go as far as Ukraine is willing to go.” However, he also underscored that moving towards membership in NATO meant more than incorporating defense systems. It also meant that Ukraine needed to complete economic reforms, as well as attain rule of law, freedom of the press and a civil society.

The momentum that seemed to be building on a new Ukraine-NATO relationship came crashing down, if only momentarily, when the U.S. announced on September 25 that it would place sanctions on Ukraine for what it believed to be the illegal transfer of Kolchugas to Iraq by the state leadership in Kyiv. While NATO did not condemn Ukraine for any illegal actions, Secretary General Robertson voiced concern about grave consequences should Washington's allegations prove true.

Nonetheless, on October 30 the North Atlantic Council of NATO in effect informed Ukraine that none of the leaders of the 19 member-states would meet with President Kuchma after it downgraded the Ukraine-NATO conference, scheduled for the second day of the Prague Summit, to a meeting of foreign ministers. The reason NATO gave was Ukraine's inability to convincingly prove that it was not complicit in arms transfers to Baghdad.

Kyiv immediately stated that while it needed to consider the new situation, it reserved the right to refuse to participate in the Prague Summit given the new circumstances. It also announced that the country's National Security and Defense Council would ultimately decide the manner of the country's participation.

In the end, not only did Minister of Foreign Affairs Zlenko attend, but President Kuchma did as well—even though NATO spokespersons insisted even days before the beginning of the Prague Summit that the Ukrainian president's attendance would only upset matters at the meeting.

If nothing else, Mr. Kuchma's presence upset the seating arrangement of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, which is the organization of all the countries that are part of the NATO-sponsored Partnership for Peace Program. Because Ukraine's delegation, including Mr. Kuchma, was to sit next to the U.S. delegation and President Bush if an English-language alphabetical seating assignment were used, NATO decided to utilize French, which is NATO's second official language, and which put Ukraine alphabetically at the other end of the table from the United States.

While President Kuchma even made a short statement before the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council during the November 21-22 NATO affair, Minister of Foreign Affairs Zlenko signed documents that gave Ukraine reason to believe it could eventually become a NATO member-state. The accords included an overall action plan for Ukrainian membership to precede the formal membership action plan, as well as a specific objective plan for 2003.

After all the controversy, Ukraine's leadership expressed satisfaction with the conference and with its future relationship with NATO. Mr. Zlenko even said that he was now more optimistic about future relations between Ukraine and NATO than he had expected to be.

“We adopted what are new basic documents opening a new strategy of Ukraine-NATO relations. With these documents in mind, Ukraine can now begin practical preparations for NATO membership,” explained Mr. Zlenko in Prague.

At home: maintaining steady policy is difficult

Maintaining a steady domestic policy proved to be very difficult for the Ukrainian government and state administration in 2002. As in years past, the effort to steer policy was too often a matter of reacting to unexpected developments and veering around unforeseen obstacles as Ukraine bounded from one crisis to another.

Elections dominated much of the first half of the year. In the three months to the March 31 parliamentary elections, the various political interests formed political blocs to consolidate their energies. Throughout the period, government and state leaders defended themselves from allegations that they were unfairly and even illegally swaying the political balance in favor of pro-presidential candidates and political blocs by utilizing state administrative and financial resources at their disposal.

Nonetheless, nearly a quarter of the voting population supported the Our Ukraine Bloc – headed by former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko and outside the influence of the ruling elites – in the March 31 vote (see separate story). But its fortune turned into another domestic political crisis when it became apparent that through political arm twisting – at times done in an allegedly dubious legal manner – the For a United Ukraine Bloc of pro-presidential forces ended up with the most seats in the new Parliament.

That crisis still simmering, Ukraine headed into the usually peaceful summertime vacation lull only to be racked by several man-made disasters that took much human life, including several mining accidents and the crash of a military jet into a crowd of onlookers at an air show near Lviv (see separate story).

After the summer recess, political turmoil again took center stage with demonstrations by anti-presidential forces, partly in response to the post-election political maneuvering in the Verkhovna Rada, but also as a continuation of the Gongadze affair.

Matters finally settled down after the Verkhovna Rada formed a politically fragile parliamentary majority that eventually succeeded in forming a new government, as President Leonid Kuchma had promised it could during an unexpected Independence Day address in which he called for a dramatic change in the country's political system.

The year began with the Parliament's Accounting Chamber announcing that audits of the work of several government institutions during the last five years showed financial irregularities by the government in the amount of \$357 million (U.S.). Overall, it found more than \$2.2 billion in misused funds in the nearly 2,000 state institutions it reviewed. Among the government institutions charged with the most widespread financial abuse: the Ministry of Industrial Policy and the Ministry of Fuel and Energy.

The matter of the disappearance and apparent murder of Ukrainian journalist Heorhii Gongadze in September 2000 remained just below the surface of Ukrainian politics throughout the year, re-emerging intermittently. By year's end the body that was found outside Kyiv near the town of Tarascha two months after Mr. Gongadze's disappearance remained unclaimed by his mother and unburied.

On January 27 Reporters Without Borders, an international human rights organization that had become interested in the case, said that, contrary to indications by Ukraine's Procurator General's Office, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was still considering the formation of an independent European commission of inquiry to look into the matter of the Ukrainian journalist's disappearance and death. Earlier, Ukraine's prosecutors had announced that PACE had rejected the idea of a special investigative commission.

Ukrainian prosecutors also announced they would turn to a German firm to do a third examination of the Tarascha corpse for yet another determination of whether the remains belonged to the journalist. By the end of the year no such examination had taken place.

The FBI said after a visit to Kyiv on April 8-15 that it had been stymied in its efforts to assist the Gongadze investigation when Ukrainian investigators refused to share information other than what already was in the public domain. Ukrainian investigators also refused to share evidence or conduct a joint site inspection in the forest near Tarascha where the body was discovered.

Several weeks after the visit, Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko resigned his post to enter parliamentary politics as a newly elected national deputy of the Communist faction. He was replaced by Sviatoslav Piskun, whom President Kuchma nominated on June 29 and the Verkhovna Rada approved on July 5. Mr. Piskun, previously the No. 2 person in the State Tax Administration, quickly became part of the quagmire called the Gongadze affair, after stating upon his confirmation by the Parliament that his first priority was to solve the crime.

On July 12 he announced the formation of a special task force dedicated to solving the mystery of the disappearance of Mr. Gongadze. The announcement came days after the new Parliament had agreed to continue the work of the ad hoc investigative committee formed by its predecessor, to be chaired by National Deputy Hryhorii Omelchenko, a former general in the Security Service of Ukraine and a prominent member of the anti-Kuchma political bloc.

Just days before the second anniversary of Mr. Gongadze's disappearance, Mr. Piskun announced that his office had determined the Tarascha corpse to be the remains of the Ukrainian journalist. Mr. Piskun said that a top-notch panel of Ukrainian medical examiners had reviewed the medical evidence related to the corpse. They had concluded that, “the body belongs to Heorhii Gongadze 100 percent,” said Mr. Piskun. He also noted that, contrary to previous conclusions, these experts had said the cause of death was decapitation.

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual said the same day, when queried by The Weekly, that the U.S. supported the conclusion that the Tarascha body belonged to Mr. Gongadze based on an earlier FBI analysis of the DNA. However, the Ukrainian journalist's mother said she would make a statement only after she personally had reviewed the report. A few weeks later Rober Menard, director of Reporters Without Borders, appearing together with Mrs. Gongadze, told a press conference in Kyiv they would request the services of a French-based forensic expert for a third-party evaluation.

National Deputy Omelchenko announced the same day that his commission had filed a request with the Procurator General's Office that it open a formal investigation into the complicity of President Kuchma and three close political associates on four criminal matters, including the disappearance of Mr. Gongadze.

When the Procurator General's Office failed to act on the matter, a member of the Kyiv Appeals Court, Judge Yurii Vasylenko filed 11 criminal charges on October 15 against the Ukrainian president in regard to the Gongadze case, along with additional allegations of blackmail and corruption. Procurator General Piskun retaliated by filing a complaint with Ukraine's Supreme Court in which he declared the charges “mistaken,” but Ukraine's highest criminal court only remanded the case back to Mr. Vasylenko's court to correct procedural errors.

In November Judge Vasylenko repeated his charges and ordered the Procurator General's Office to immediately begin an investigation, an authorization the Appeals Court judge claimed only his court or the Supreme Court could override.

National Deputy Yulia Tymoshenko, who spent part of 2001 behind bars and under constant threat of reincarceration, obtained new political life after her eponymous political bloc did better than expected in the March parliamentary elections. With 7.4 percent of Ukraine's electorate backing her, Ms. Tymoshenko reinvigorated her anti-Kuchma campaign.

Six weeks after the elections she called a press conference to announce that a judge had cleared her of any wrongdoing related to charges of illegal money operations and bribery, which had brought her imprisonment the previous year.

She explained on May 8 that a Kyiv district court, after reviewing all the charges against her and her husband in regard to their work as owners and chief executives of United Energy Systems, had exonerated both of them fully. In the mid-1990s UES had been Ukraine's largest energy trading company and very close to Pavlo Lazarenko, a discredited former Ukrainian prime minister who today sits in a U.S. jail awaiting trial on charges of money laundering.

Not two months later, however, the Procurator General's Office announced it had opened a new criminal investigation into embezzlement charges in the purchase of Russian natural gas, conspiracy to defraud and abuse of public office. Ms. Tymoshenko quickly responded that the new charges, which she said were

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Kyrylo Horiszny

“Kuchma out” reads a banner held aloft at an anti-Kuchma demonstration in Lviv on September 16.

simply based on the earlier ones, carried political motivation and were a response to her leading role in organizing new demonstrations against President Kuchma, which were planned for the fall.

The first of those demonstrations, held on September 17, the day after the second anniversary of the disappearance of journalist Gongadze, turned into a larger affair than most disinterested observers had expected. The Kyiv protest was part of a series of international protests held across Ukraine, as well as in Prague, Budapest, Paris, London, Chicago, Washington and New York.

In Kyiv, an unexpectedly large crowd of 25,000 gathered on European Square to listen to the anti-Kuchma leadership – Ms. Tymoshenko, Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz, Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko – along with Mr. Yushchenko, who had tried unsuccessfully to reach a political agreement on sharing power in the Verkhovna Rada with the pro-presidential forces before becoming part of this protest action. The demonstration, which proceeded under the slogan “Arise, Ukraine,” called for the resignation of President Kuchma for a variety of alleged crimes, including complicity in the disappearance of Mr. Gongadze. It ended before the Presidential Administration Building, where a tent city was erected.

That evening, state militia officers clad in riot gear and brandishing billy clubs swept away the tent city, while beating protesters. Law enforcement officials arrested 51 individuals, while protest leaders said some 125 others had gone missing.

Undeterred, some 10,000 anti-Kuchma forces gathered again on September 24 on European Square in Kyiv to continue to push for the president’s resignation. The accent at this rally was the allegedly underhanded way in which the pro-presidential parliamentary forces had achieved a majority in the Verkhovna Rada, even while they took only 12 percent of the popular vote. Before the protest, during the morning session of the Verkhovna Rada, opposition leaders called for the president’s impeachment and announced they would paralyze the work of the Parliament by not taking part in any legislative votes.

The evening before, the three leaders of the opposition, Messrs. Moroz and Symonenko and Ms. Tymoshenko, had forcefully entered the television studio of the government channel UT-1 and had demanded airtime on the evening news program to air their allegations against state authorities. Their refusal to leave the studio resulted in the cancellation of that day’s news program.

During the protest the next day, Mr. Yushchenko told the gathering that the new political crisis in Ukraine had developed because, “The nation votes for one set of lawmakers, while another set takes power.”

Afterwards, demonstrators marched to the

Presidential Administration Building only to be confronted by some 400 helmeted, shield-wielding militia officers who blocked their path. A group of some 50 national deputies used their status to obtain access to the building, where they demanded a meeting with President Kuchma. After being held at gunpoint, they staged a sit-in that lasted all night. They finally were allowed to meet with Mr. Kuchma in the morning.

Two other protests followed. On October 12, 25,000 demonstrators assembled again to hear the leaders of the anti-Kuchma movement read a litany of specific charges against Ukraine’s president. However, only days later, on October 21, only some 5,000 turned out to take part in a candlelight vigil to “commemorate” 10 years since President Kuchma took his first government position as prime minister.

Press censorship also came to the fore again in 2002, when several journalists quit their positions in protest over the appearance of anonymous directives, labeled “temnyky” from what were generally considered presidential sources. After a new director at the independent UNIAN news agency began heavily editing material critical of presidential policy, the staff went on strike.

In the ensuing days Kyiv journalists announced they had formed a strike committee as a first step towards the development of an independent trade union. They also published a manifesto demanding that the state stop manipulating and intimidating the mass media.

On December 4 the journalists succeeding in obtaining a hearing on press censorship and freedoms during a special session of the Verkhovna Rada, during which various journalists accused government and state leaders of not allowing them to work freely and openly, while authorities defended themselves by saying that a sufficient amount of legislation was on the books to prevent censorship and that any such cases were independent acts by bad bureaucrats.

While the Gongadze affair continued to be the central focus of the opposition movement, his death merely represented the fate of a dozen other journalists over the last decade. On May 23 a Donetsk Appeals Court overturned a guilty verdict against Yurii Verediuk, who had been convicted in the murder of another journalist, Ihor Aleksandrov. Mr. Aleksandrov was beaten to death with a baseball bat before the TOR television studio of which he was general manager on July 3 of last year. He had been broadcasting a series of stories on police corruption in his raion at the time of his demise. Mr. Verediuk was a homeless alcoholic who many doubt from the outset was capable of the killing. Mr. Verediuk died not long after his release from jail.

The Melnychenko “tapes” – the digital recordings that were at the center of the Gongadze controversy on which Mr. Kuchma is allegedly heard planning the young journalist’s disappearance – continued to remain in the news. On February 7 Oleksander Zhyr, the head of the ad hoc parliamentary committee investigating the Gongadze affair, said that an independent U.S. expert, considered at the top of his field, had analyzed the recordings and concluded they were authentic. The announcement was made in Washington in an interview with Radio Liberty, at which Mr. Melnychenko was present.

Mr. Melnychenko was a member of Mr. Kuchma’s security detail before requesting and receiving asylum in the U.S. after he announced the existence of his recordings in December 2000.

On May 21 Mr. Melnychenko announced from Washington that he had testified before a U.S. grand jury, although he did not disclose the subject matter involved. He did, however, emphasize that the testimony did not involve Mr. Lazarenko, the former prime minister being held in a U.S. prison in the San Francisco area for the third year now as the investigation into money-laundering charges continues.

While Mr. Melnychenko would not state the reason for his testimony, he repeated a charge that would explode into a major international controversy several months later: President Kuchma had ordered the sale of a Kolchuha anti-aircraft defense system to Iraq. Mr. Melnychenko said he had recorded the Ukrainian president giving authorization for the military transfer in a conversation with his chief military export official.

Mr. Lazarenko remained in the news as well, although his case continued to move at snail’s pace in the U.S. On February 7 Ukraine’s Procurator General’s Office charged the former prime minister with the murder of National Deputy Yevhen Scherban of Donetsk, who was assassinated in 1996, and Vadym Hetman, former chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, who was found dead in his apartment building in a gangland-style slaying in 1998.

Mr. Lazarenko was accused of ordering the murders through a group of professional assassins. That group had been disassembled and its members arrested, which led to the revelation of Mr. Lazarenko’s involvement, according to the Procurator General’s Office.

There was also relatively more mundane political activity and news in Ukraine in 2002. Perhaps the most unexpected development occurred on Ukrainian Independence Day, when President Kuchma addressed a national television audience to announce he was proposing to shift the country from a presidential political system to a parliamentary system. In essence, such a move meant that the legislature, not the executive, would carry ultimate authority in the country if the proposed changes became law.

Outlining his proposal the president said he would allow a parliamentary majority, if one were successfully formed in the Verkhovna Rada, to form the next government and appoint its prime minister. He also said he was ready to move to a strictly proportional electoral system, in which lawmakers would be elected based on electoral support for political parties. Mr. Kuchma also said he would agree to constitutional changes to make the system permanent.

While many politicians expressed surprise at the move, those in opposition to Mr. Kuchma called it an attempt by the president to cast himself in the role of democratic reformer and seize the initiative from the opposition, which had announced mass demonstrations in response to his alleged autocratic rule.

Lawmakers like Ms. Tymoshenko reminded the public that for several years now they had been pushing for a parliamentary democracy, in which the prime minister and his Cabinet are chosen from among legislators, as is the case in Germany and Great Britain.

President Kuchma also emphasized repeatedly during the year that Ukraine would continue to move Westward and that its “European choice,” was irreversible. During his annual state of the state address, held this past year on June 11, the Ukrainian president said he would like to see associate membership in the European Union by 2004, with full membership sometime after 2011. He also emphasized the need to get membership in the World Trade Organization.

The president derided the Parliament, telling deputies to stop bickering and get to work, specifically to finally approve a new tax code. Mr. Kuchma also said once again that he would consider allowing the Parliament to help him form a new government, if it could form and maintain a majority.

A day later, the president appointed the leader of the SDPU and one of the richest and most influential men in Ukraine, National Deputy Viktor Medvedchuk, as his new chief of staff, a sign that he would make the effort needed to find political agreement on a parliamentary majority.

As he strode to the podium to deliver his annual address, Mr. Kuchma was met with catcalls from the opposition and a pair of slippers tossed his way. The footwear was meant to symbolize that the president



AP/Victor Pobedinsky

“Freedom is our right” is the message at an October 12 protest in Kyiv calling for President Leonid Kuchma’s ouster.

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would soon be "walking" after anti-Kuchma forces succeeded in forcing his resignation (which ultimately did not happen). Ironically, the president voiced support for a new impeachment law in his statement to the Ukrainian legislature.

The Verkhovna Rada began its work after the March 31 parliamentary elections in chaos and confusion. Assertions by the Our Ukraine political bloc, led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, that pro-presidential forces had stolen the parliamentary elections by coercing newly elected independent lawmakers to join their For a United Ukraine faction in the new legislative assembly caused political turmoil and paralysis.

While the leaders of For a United Ukraine expressed confidence they would quickly elect a new Verkhovna Rada leadership and then move to formalize a parliamentary majority, it became evident from the outset that the process would take time and political compromise.

After two weeks and the rejection of more than half a dozen possibilities, a bare majority of lawmakers (226 votes) agreed to give the chairmanship of the Verkhovna Rada to Volodymyr Lytvyn, who only recently had been elected. Mr. Lytvyn, 46, who became the favorite after the first week of debates and closed-door meetings, formerly had served as President Kuchma's chief of staff.

Hennadii Vasyliiev, a member of the Donetsk-based Regions of Ukraine Party, and Oleksander Zinchenko of the Social Democratic Party-United took the posts of first vice-chair and second vice-chair, respectively. Nor was the apportionment of committees achieved without a struggle, with Mr. Yushchenko insisting that his faction should get the majority of the committee chairmanships because the faction had 110 seats in the Verkhovna Rada – the largest number held by a single bloc. Finally, the lawmakers agreed to divvy up the chairs roughly in proportion to the number of seats the six winning political blocs had taken in the elections.

The election of the parliamentary leadership crystallized the political split within the ranks of the lawmakers – between nine pro-presidential parties and the three anti-presidential forces: the Socialists, the Communists and the Tymoshenko bloc. Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine at first tried to maintain a position somewhere in the gulf between the two sides, but soon found itself in the opposition camp for all practical purposes.

Giving credence to claims by the opposition that For a United Ukraine was artificially constructed for the sole purpose of talking the parliamentary leadership posts, within days of completion of the process it had fragmented into nine separate factions.

While it had taken more than two months of political maneuvering and negotiating to settle on the leadership of the Verkhovna Rada, it would take an additional four months to develop a parliamentary majority. However, on September 30, Parliament Chairman Lytvyn told journalists that he had received unofficial agreement from a majority of national deputies that they were ready to form a majority and take responsibility for the legislative process. On October 8, 231 lawmakers, including one who had been with the Our Ukraine bloc, signed a pact formalizing the parliamentary majority.

Both opposition members and political pundits both expressed doubt that such a conflagration of various political and business interests could hold, and in fact in the first official vote after the majority was formed, the group failed to garner the required 226 votes to support a proposal to discuss the creation of an ad hoc commission on the Kolchuha scandal. However, on November 21 they succeeded in putting one of their own candidates in the prime minister's seat.

Anatolii Kinakh, who had been prime minister since May 2001 and had been considered one of four finalists to retain the position by the new parliamentary majority, was removed by President Kuchma on November 5. While a knowledgeable political leader, Mr. Kinakh proved ineffective in moving through the jungle of Ukrainian politics. He had put together a 2002 national budget that was roundly criticized and had trouble obtaining consensus on a 2003 budget. Also, he had not been able to move privatization forward and had failed to get a new tax code enacted.

Viktor Yanukovich, Donetsk Oblast chairman, emerged victorious after weeks of political pondering and negotiations among the nine factions of the Verkhovna Rada majority and President Kuchma. He was ratified as Ukraine's 10th prime minister by the Ukrainian Parliament on November 21. The 52-year-old crony of President Kuchma said he would concentrate on building Ukraine's economy and increasing

foreign trade and investment. Many in Ukraine, including political experts, expressed skepticism that he would do more than continue to assure the president's hold over the government and influence among the various political/business clans.

Mr. Yanukovich, like his first vice prime minister Mykola Azarov, formerly the head of the State Tax Administration, is not a native Ukrainian speaker and rarely uses the state language, which did not bode well for those who continued to fight for supremacy of Ukrainian in schools and public institutions.

The Verkhovna Rada made some headway in acknowledging the historical reality of the existence of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) as Ukrainian freedom fighters, when National Deputy Yaroslav Kendzior told journalists that he and his National Rukh of Ukraine Party, had finally succeeded in getting the issue of the status of the UPA put on the Verkhovna Rada agenda. Rukh, which is part of the Our Ukraine faction, had fought for years to have the UPA recognized as World War II combatants, which would give its veterans the benefits and subsidies accorded to Soviet Army veterans.

The issue of the status of the UPA and its political arm, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, has stirred emotions for years in Ukraine. Even when the Ukrainian government submitted a bill to the Parliament for consideration in July, the announcement on July 12 that a provision of the bill would require each UPA veteran to be scrutinized to determine whether he could have possibly committed "crimes against humanity," brought a tirade of criticism from national democratic forces.

Earlier in the year another storm resulted from a decision by the city council of Ivano-Frankivsk to recognize members of the Galicia Division as World War II veterans. The resolution, passed on March 19, brought the ire of Moscow, which blasted the decision as "regretful" and "shameful." Jewish leaders both in Ukraine and the U.S. also lambasted the resolution.

While minorities continued to receive equal treatment in Ukraine, a rock-throwing incident by a marauding group of unruly soccer hooligans upset members of Kyiv's Central Synagogue, the Jewish community of Kyiv and residents in general. The incident, which occurred on April 13 after a Kyiv Dynamo soccer match, began when some 200 drunken teenagers and young adults began throwing bottles and rocks at storefronts along one of Kyiv's main thoroughfares. As the hooliganism intensified, state militia began to make arrests, but not before a group of about 50 thugs began to throw stones at children leaving Saturday services at the Central Synagogue.

While some Jewish leaders warned that the incident was the beginning of a rise in anti-Semitic activity, state militia asserted that the rock and bottle-throwing melee was an isolated and unfortunate series of events.

While closed forever, Chernobyl also stayed in the headlines in 2002. On the 16th anniversary of the largest nuclear accident ever, work continued on mothballing the now-idle plant and on reinforcing and rebuilding the "sarcophagus," the concrete casing that covered the ill-fated fourth reactor. The city of Slavutych, which housed the workers, also remained in transition, with half of the population relocated, but some 10,000 residents still working and living there.

President Kuchma, however, expressed his dissatisfaction with the progress being made and chastised his Cabinet for an insufficient allocation of funds for Chernobyl expenses in the 2002 budget. His remarks came on May 16, after he had met with European Commission Chairman Romano Prodi.

While Chernobyl will always remain a sad commemoration, Ukraine also commemorated happy moments in its national life in 2002, most notably the 11th anniversary of independence. The size and enthusiasm of the crowds on the Kreshchatyk, Kyiv's main thoroughfare, for the 2002 Independence Day Parade mirrored those of years past, but it was a relatively subdued celebration. But then it would have been all but impossible to better the 10th anniversary bash Ukraine threw the year before.

Yet, Ukraine spared nothing in 2002 as well, with small celebrations, marching bands and fireworks displays in towns and cities all across the country. However, the place that had the most fun, or so it seemed, on August 24 and in the two weeks leading up to the holiday was a scouting camp set up near the town of Svirzh, in the Lviv Oblast. There, more than 1,500 members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization held their first International Jamboree in Ukraine.

Ukraine's Census: a look at the numbers

The following table presents the distribution of population among Ukraine's administrative-territorial units, as reflected in the 2001 nationwide census. The population of Ukraine as of December 5, 2001, stood at 48,416,000 people.

Autonomous Republic of Crimea	2,031,000
Cherkasy Oblast	1,402,000
Chernihiv Oblast	1,236,000
Chernivtsi Oblast	923,000
Dnipropetrovsk Oblast	3,560,000
Donetsk Oblast	4,843,000
Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast	1,409,000
Kharkiv Oblast	2,910,000
Kherson Oblast	1,174,000
Khmelnitskyi Oblast	1,431,000
Kirovohrad Oblast	1,129,000
Kyiv Oblast	1,828,000
Luhansk Oblast	2,546,000
Lviv Oblast	2,626,000
Mykolaiv Oblast	1,264,000
Odesa Oblast	2,468,000
Poltava Oblast	1,630,000
Rivne Oblast	1,173,000
Sumy Oblast	1,300,000
Ternopil Oblast	1,142,000
Vinnitsia Oblast	1,772,000
Volyn Oblast	1,061,000
Zakarpatia Oblast	1,258,000
Zaporizhia Oblast	1,926,000
Zhytomyr Oblast	1,389,000
City of Kyiv*	2,607,000
City of Sevastopol*	378,000

*Including population centers under the jurisdiction of the city council.

The total number of cities in Ukraine on the day of the 2001 nationwide census was 454. Of these, 37 had populations ranging from 100,000 to 500,000 people, nine cities counted more than half a million residents, and five of the latter had more than 1 million. The population of the city of Kyiv was 2.6 million. Cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants are presented in the following table, listed in alphabetical order.

Alchevsk	119,000
Antratsyt	64,000
Artemivsk	83,000
Berdiansk	121,000
Berdychiv	88,000
Bila Tserkva	200,000
Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi	52,000
Boryspil	54,000
Brianka	55,000
Brovary	87,000
Cherkasy	295,000
Chernihiv	301,000
Chernivtsi	240,000
Chervonohrad	71,000
Dniprodzerzhynsk	256,000
Dnipropetrovsk	1,064,000
Donetsk	1,016,000
Drohobych	79,000
Druzhkivka	65,000
Dymytrov	54,000
Fastiv	52,000
Feodosia	74,000
Horlivka	292,000
Illichivsk	54,000
Ivano-Frankivsk	218,000
Izium	56,000
Izmail	84,000
Kalush	68,000
Kamianets-Podilskyi	100,000
Kerch	157,000
Kharkiv	1,470,000
Khartsyzk	64,000
Kherson	328,000
Khmelnitskyi	254,000
Kirovohrad	253,000
Kovel	66,000
Kolomyia	61,000

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Komsomolsk	52,000
Konotop	93,000
Korosten	67,000
Kostiantynivka	95,000
Kramatorsk	181,000
Krasnyi Luch	95,000
Krasnoarmiisk	69,000
Krasnodon	51,000
Kremenchuk	234,000
Kryvyi Rih	667,000
Kyiv*	2,602,000
Lozova	63,000
Lubny	53,000
Luhansk	463,000
Lutsk	209,000
Lviv	732,000
Lysychansk	115,000
Makiyivka	390,000
Marhanets	50,000
Mariupol	492,000
Melitopol	160,000
Mukachiv	82,000
Mykolaiv	514,000
Nikopol	135,000
Nizhyn	76,000
Nova Kakhovka	52,000
Novovolynsk	54,000
Novohrad-Volynskyi	56,000
Novomoskovsk	72,000
Odesa	1,029,000
Oleksandria	94,000
Okhtyrka	50,000
Pavlohrad	119,000
Pervomaisk	
(Mykolaiv Oblast)	70,000
Poltava	318,000
Pryluky	65,000
Rivne	249,000
Romny	50,000
Rovenky	54,000
Rubizhne	65,000
Sevastopol*	341,000
Sieverodonetsk	120,000
Shakhtarsk	60,000
Shostka	87,000
Sloviansk	125,000
Smila	70,000
Snizhne	59,000
Stakhanov	90,000
Stryi	62,000
Sumy	293,000
Sverdlovsk	73,000
Symferopol	343,000
Ternopil	228,000
Torez	73,000
Uman	89,000
Uzhhorod	118,000
Vinnitsia	357,000
Yalta	81,000
Yenakiyev	104,000
Yevpatoria	106,000
Zaporizhia	814,000
Zhovti Vody	52,000
Zhytomyr	284,000

in the economic infrastructure, on January 8, J.P. Morgan Bank and Moody's announced that they had raised Ukraine's investment rating to make it one of the most investment-attractive global economies. In fact, in the CIS zone, only Kazakhstan, with GDP growth of 12 percent in the past year surpassed Ukraine's strong showing. Russia saw stable growth at 6 percent.

On January 18, Vice Prime Minister of the Economy Vasyl Rohovyi added to the good economic news when he said that the income of Ukrainians after inflation had increased in real terms by about 18 percent. The average government wage had increased about 25 percent, finally giving the people real additional spending power.

Foreign investments also were up for the year, by 28.6 percent; nonetheless this still added up to a meager \$4.9 billion total during the country's 11 years of independence. The largest foreign investors in Ukraine were from the United States, Cyprus, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Russia, the Virgin Islands and Germany, in that order.

While, at first glance, large investments from Cyprus and the Virgin Islands seemed incongruous, economic experts explained that they were investment savings originally transferred out of the country to these offshore havens and now returning to Ukraine.

While the year witnessed continued economic expansion, it was not controversy-free. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank continued to prod Kyiv to move more quickly on economic reforms, especially in the spheres of privatization, bank reform and a new tax code, with many experts concluding that Ukraine continued to move too slowly. Ukraine failed to gain access to the World Trade Organization, a goal it had set for 2002. And, Washington upset Ukraine's drive for more open access to U.S. markets when it leveled economic sanctions to push Kyiv to bring CD and recording piracy under control.

The year began on a downbeat after President Leonid Kuchma authorized the dismissal of longtime Minister of Finance Ihor Mitiukov in favor of Ihor Yushko, a banker from the Donetsk Oblast. Mr. Mitiukov was dismissed on December 27, 2001, ostensibly due to "ministerial reorganization." While some right-center politicians, including Valerii Asadchev of the Our Ukraine political bloc, alluded to Mr. Mitiukov's failure to develop a budget that could have been utilized by pro-presidential forces for the upcoming elections as a reason for his dismissal, the conventional wisdom was that his inability to once again push a realistic national budget through the Verkhovna Rada had sealed his fate.

Mr. Mitiukov was replaced by a relatively unknown, but well-respected banker; Mr. Yushko lasted only until the end of November, when President Kuchma fired the government of Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh.

Economic relations with the U.S. took a dive on January 23 when Washington announced it had placed economic sanctions on Ukraine in response to Kyiv's failure to enforce intellectual property rights and stop CD and software piracy. The action came after the Verkhovna Rada failed to pass an effective piece of legislation in support of CD licensing by rejecting a bill the U.S. preferred in favor of a less stringent one.

U.S. and industry experts had repeatedly warned Ukraine about its continued non-enforcement of international intellectual property rights standards in the months before the sanctions were announced. The bill banned Ukrainian imports of steel, textile and chemical products worth about \$75 million annually to Ukraine's economy.

Ukraine reacted on January 18 by placing sanctions on U.S. poultry. Kyiv said it had long warned the U.S. about its inability to give assurances that only antibiotic-free birds would enter the Ukrainian market.

Ukraine continued an international dialogue on its aim to become part of the World Trade Organization. The country's movement towards that goal was slow, impeded by failure to gain free market economy status from the United States and other countries. About a third of the way through 2002 it pushed back its goal for entry into the WTO from the end of the year to the end of 2003.

The dialogue on WTO membership was a central part of Ukraine's activity at the World Economic Forum, an annual gathering of leaders of the business and economic spheres held this year in New York on February 1-4. Finance Minister Yushko and Vice Prime Minister of the Economy Rohovyi led a Ukrainian delegation that set itself the goal of getting the word out that Ukraine, with its economy on fire and reforms moving apace, was ready for foreign investment and full economic integration into the world economy.

The IMF cooled Ukraine's heels on February 22 when it told Kyiv it must return more than \$1 billion in value-added taxes it had improperly collected from Ukrainian exporters, or else fail to qualify for additional credits the international financial organization had proposed.

President Kuchma responded by suggesting that it was time to curtail the country's reliance on the IMF, whose loans had been used to shore up annual budget deficits. The president said that IMF demands were too often not in line with Ukrainian policy. Government officials supported the idea and said that Ukraine's balance of payments had been in the black for three years running, which indicated that IMF credits were no longer needed. However, Minister Rohovyi noted that Ukraine still needed a non-credit consultative arrangement with the IMF and reinforced the notion that Ukraine needed continued IMF relations to maintain credibility among global economic powers.

In May, after IMF and World Bank officials visited the country, relations improved as both international financial institutions took care to praise Ukraine's ascendant economy. The World Bank said it would soon be ready to extend another credit line of \$250 million to Ukraine, while the IMF said Ukraine would probably qualify for a final \$550 million tranche of the Extended Fund Facility program, which would expire in September.

However, the IMF continued to press Ukraine on bank and tax reform, as well as increased privatization efforts. In the end, Kyiv never received the final IMF installment, but maintained that it did not need it.

Ukraine received a boost to its financial health in general and in its efforts to join the WTO when Finance Minister Yushko announced on June 10 that the U.S. had agreed to restructure \$179 million in Ukrainian debt on terms of the Paris Club of creditors. The deal was important because it was a signal of confidence to the international financial community on Ukraine's ability to repay its debt to the U.S., which totaled \$286 million at the time. Later that year Ukraine reached agreement with Italy and Japan on similar restructuring on terms more advantageous to Ukraine.

While multinational corporations remained leery about entering the Ukrainian market with its lack of tax reform and stable legislative policies, one corporate giant, Microsoft, pushed forward on its commitment to the country by introducing a new Ukrainian-language software program for business. While Microsoft officially noted that it was responding to specific market demands in developing its "Office XP" product in the Ukrainian language, it downplayed the fact that the Ministry of Education had exerted pressure on it to develop a Ukrainian version of its basic software programs for use in schools. The Ukrainian government action, in turn, came only after the Shevchenko Scientific Society had used its influence to put the heat on them.

Nonetheless Microsoft's move gave the world the first computer programs exclusively in the Ukrainian language, which had the effect of adding computer commands to the Ukrainian lexicon.

Ukraine continued to strengthen economic relations with its closest neighbors in 2002, first during the annual Poland-Ukraine Economic Forum, held this year in Rzeszow, Poland, in mid-June. The main topics of conversation between government leaders who attended, among them Ukraine's President Kuchma and Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, included how relations might change between the two neighbors after Poland enters the European Union in 2004. Among the items discussed were: a new visa regime and problems with the transport of people and goods; customs issues; increased cooperation in finance and banking; expanded bilateral trade; and, of course, European integration.

President Kwasniewski said he would do all he could to "minimize the consequences of the introduction of visas."

The Ukrainian economic sector that has seen the most changes in the last years – since President Kuchma's agricultural reform decree in December 1999 – continued to develop strongly. In 2002 the farming sector enjoyed another strong grain harvest of nearly 36 million tons. While the numbers did not quite reach the 39-million-ton level reached the previous year, they were still encouraging.

While the number of private farmers in Ukraine continued to increase in 2002, affordable loans and credit terms, as well as legalized land transactions, remained at the top of their list of needs.

A limited opportunity to overcome high interest rates

Ukraine's economy marked by growth

Amid the several natural and man-made catastrophes and the continued political turmoil that dominated the headlines on Ukraine in 2002, the economy was the one area where the country experienced relative calm and continued growth.

Ukraine's economy again expanded in 2002, albeit a bit more slowly than it had in the previous two years. By year's end, the gross domestic product (GDP) was reported at 4.1 percent for the first 10 months of the year, which guaranteed that Ukraine would end the year with strong numbers. Inflation, which had begun the year at a stable 6.1 percent had fallen even further, to a deflationary state of -1.1 percent. This was the third consecutive year the Ukrainian economy had expanded after a decadelong downturn. In 2001 Ukraine had recorded 9 percent GDP growth, while in 2000 it was 6 percent.

As a result of continued growth and positive changes

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and a lack of collateral in developing the farming business came on September 29 when the U.S. Agency for International Development announced it would provide loan guarantees on certain loans to Ukrainian farmers and agricultural suppliers who qualified for a new program.

USAID said it would guarantee 720 loans made through the Nadra Bank, a Ukrainian commercial financial institution, which offered to provide the equivalent of \$6 million in credits to allow Ukrainian farmers to develop various segments of their business. U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual called the program a pilot project.

As the year came to an end, the Kherson Oblast, the land of the Ukrainian steppe, could claim it had the most private farmers, with about 4,800 individuals using their own and borrowed capital to raise Ukraine's agricultural sector from the depths to which it had plunged in the 1990s. The region had already seen tangible improvements in the rural economy. Agricultural workers hired to work the fields were receiving steady pay, and villagers who leased out their portions of privatized lands were getting higher rent payments. As one local Kherson farmer said in the first part of November, "In the village, life is percolating."

Elections: how to win, and then lose

Electoral victory for the political organization called Our Ukraine seemed solid as the 2002 parliamentary elections in Ukraine in 2002 concluded. The new coalition and the successful effort it had produced resulted from the efforts of Ukraine's politically charismatic former prime minister, Viktor Yushchenko. It was the first time the national democratic front stood united going into high political season.

Yet, in the end, political intrigue and legally questionable political maneuvering by pro-presidential forces denied power to the Our Ukraine faction, which, by winning a majority of seats in this newly elected convocation of the Verkhovna Rada ostensibly had the right to form the parliamentary leadership.

The campaign period, which in effect had begun at least six months before January 1, 2002, increased in intensity with the onset of the New Year, which also marked the beginning of a phase of mud-slinging that would continue through the last days of the parliamentary campaign season.

On January 9 Mr. Yushchenko was accused of unethical conspiring with Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko to oust National Deputy Viktor Medvedchuk from his seat as second vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada. Mr. Medvedchuk was dismissed the same day as an alleged cellphone conversation between the two political leaders took place in which Mr. Omelchenko chastised Mr. Yushchenko for not being present during the vote, but which allegedly also contained information on how they had plotted Mr. Medvedchuk's removal.

During a speech on January 16 Mr. Yushchenko disavowed any inappropriate actions, called the attack a smear campaign and underscored that the point of his campaign was to bring transparent and ethical politics to Ukraine along with the completion of economic reforms.

The first half of the first month of the New Year saw various party congresses choose their party candidate lists and consolidate into political blocs. In addition to Our Ukraine, the For a United Ukraine Bloc, consisting of the nine political parties that support and benefit from the policies of President Leonid Kuchma, announced it had affirmed its political slate. A congress of Women for the Future, which would make a strong showing in polls leading up to election day before fading just before the vote, elected a slate composed of a majority of men.

Other groups deciding on their candidate lists were the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the Tymoshenko Bloc, led by the ubiquitous and fiercely anti-Kuchma politician Yulia Tymoshenko, the Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU) and the Progressive Socialist Party of Natalia Vitrenko.

A Razumkov Center poll released on January 12 revealed that only 19.8 percent of Ukrainians believed the upcoming elections would be more "democratic and transparent" than in previous years.

Ukraine's Central Election Commission (CEC) reported on January 30 that 13 political blocs and 23 parties had managed to register for the March 31 elections before the January 29 deadline date. In addition 1,160 individuals had

July: a month marked by disasters

For Ukraine, perhaps the most difficult and even chilling moments of the year came in July, generally a leisurely time for the country as people take vacations in the Crimea or relax at their dachas or farmhouses. This year the seventh month of the year proved a tragic and deadly time for many Ukrainians, especially for those living in the western city of Lviv or in the eastern mining regions.

The first indication that a calamitous month had begun for Ukraine's mining regions came on July 7 when 35 miners lost their lives as a fire swept through a colliery of the Ukraina mine in the small town of Ukraina, Donetsk Oblast.

Most of the 114 miners working in the shafts in the wee hours of the morning escaped, but flames shooting up from the lower shafts as they tried vainly to make their way to freedom engulfed the luckless 35.

The mine's director and several lower-level managers were arrested on charges of negligent homicide. First Vice Prime Minister Oleh Dubyna visited the mine on July 10 and blamed terrible work conditions and shoddy discipline for the fatalities.

Two weeks later, a methane explosion rocked the Yuvileina mine in the Dnipropetrovsk region, 100 kilometers to the west of the Ukraina mine, killing six more miners. Nineteen workers were hospitalized, seven of them critically. The local procurator's office announced that it was investigating "violations of safety rules in a very dangerous work environment which resulted in death." The director of the mine was arrested on charges of negligent homicide. And again First Vice Prime Minister Dubyna arrived on the scene, where he was told that the cause of the explosion was improper use of electronic devices and violations of procedures during blasting operations.

The month ended just as it had begun for the mineworkers of the Donbas when the infamous Zasiadko mine took more victims on July 31. Twenty miners died as a result of an explosion, which many experts believed could have been prevented. The mine, owned by former Prime Minister Yukhym Zviatkovskiy, pays the best wages and is considered the most productive mine in the country, but it has also seen the most fatal disasters during its years of operation.

This time a build-up of coal dust about a kilometer below the surface ignited, killing all but one of the 21 workers present. Minister Dubyna visited the site of this latest mining tragedy. Officials charged a deputy director and the chief of blasting operations with criminal negligence. As families grieved and buried their loved ones, President Leonid Kuchma ordered a thorough check of mining safety standards and procedures.

"Ukraine does not need coal at such a cost," said Mr. Kuchma.

Even so, less than a month later, on August 20, another fire swept through the Zasiadko mine. Of the 1,680 miners in the various shafts at the time, 21 were

hospitalized. There were no fatalities this time.

Another tragedy, one that had occurred years earlier only to be discovered now, came to light when monks renovating the 400-year-old Basilian Monastery in Zhovka, Lviv Oblast, unearthed scores of human bones buried in the monastery's basement. The bodies, except for several exceptions, had no obvious marks of violence. Also strange, they all lacked clothing and jewelry.

While the local procurator's office refused to draw conclusions until the 228 sets of human remains had been analyzed, local officials of the Memorial Society, dedicated to investigating and bringing to light Soviet crimes and atrocities, laid the blame squarely on the shoulders of the Soviet system. They showed evidence that the deaths had occurred in the immediate years after World War II.

The society said that the bodies, mostly women and children, were either the remains of Ukrainian victims who had resisted resettlement under Akcja Wisla and had returned, or had refused to become local spies for Soviet authorities. Another theory held that perhaps they were unfortunates who successfully escaped round-ups of alleged "anti-Soviet agents" for deportation to the East, only to be found later and eliminated.

However, some experts maintained that these could also have been Jews who were killed as part of the Nazi extermination process.

Yet, the most tragic event in a month filled with grief was the air disaster at the Sknyliv air base outside Lviv. On July 27, as some 8,000 parents and children watched a thrilling airshow commemorating the 60th anniversary of the local Lviv air force command, a Sukhoi-27 jet aircraft lost control as it did a dive toward the crowd and crashed into a sea of onlookers, tumbling along the tarmac before exploding into a ball of flame. As a result, 76 people died, among them 27 children. Another 241 people, including 83 children, were hospitalized. Thirteen children lost at least one parent, while three kids lost both.

The two pilots of the Soviet-era jet were arrested on various charges, including failure to properly prepare for the event with a practice drill at the Sknyliv site and for performing their stunts over the crowd, which is expressly prohibited by law.

Several high-ranking Ukrainian navy generals were relieved of command as well. Minister of Defense Oleksander Shkidchenko also submitted his resignation, which President Kuchma did not accept.

One of the young kids who survived the Sknyliv air disaster would have to live through another calamity later in the year. Kyrylo Holovenko, 13, after having survived the Sknyliv disaster perhaps only because he had gotten there late, just happened to be in Moscow on October 23 with his mother, who made what would be a bad decision to go see the play "Nord-Ost."

Young Kyrylo and his mother became one of some 800 hostages taken by Chechen terrorists and held in the theater for days before a Russian special forces operation used gas and extreme methods to obtain the release of the hostages. While the action took some 120 lives, the young Mr. Holovenko, a survivor in the true meaning of the word, was not among them.



An SU-27 fighter plane crashes into a crowd of spectators at an air show in Lviv on July 27.

AP/Oleksi Shinkarenko

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AP/Efrem Lukatsky

Workers of a polling station in Kyiv empty ballot boxes as they prepare to count votes cast in the March 31 parliamentary elections.

registered to run in separate districts. The registration procedure was the first step in the process to pick the 450 lawmakers to the next Verkhovna Rada. The next official date of importance was February 9 when campaigning was officially allowed.

The new election law, which was finally passed at the end of last year after President Kuchma four times vetoed parliamentary bills he did not agree with, again gave Ukrainians two votes in what is called a mixed electoral system. On March 31, they would first choose from a list of political organizations on the ballot; then they would pick a representative on the ballot from their electoral district.

The composition of the Verkhovna Rada would consist of half the elected lawmakers seated as individual winners from the 225 electoral districts in Ukraine, while the other 225 votes would be apportioned from among the various political parties based on the percentage of the electoral vote that supported them. The key to the proportional by-party voting was that a political organization needed to get at least 4 percent electoral support to obtain any seats.

Widespread allegations that government and state officials were intruding into the campaign process by utilizing the materials at their official disposal – whether financial, manpower or otherwise – raised fears among the anti-Kuchma forces, particularly Our Ukraine and the Tymoshenko bloc, that the elections threatened to become a campaign of intimidation tactics and voter manipulation that would not allow for a democratic outcome.

To make its own viewpoint on the matter known, the U.S. sent Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky on a visit to Kyiv on February 5-6 to assess the election situation and to emphasize their significance in Washington's eyes. She acknowledged that in meetings with political leaders, representatives of the press and civic organizations monitoring the elections she had heard of campaign violations and what she termed "aberrations." She underscored, however, that it was far too early to condemn the elections and called on state and government leaders to allow for free and open elections.

Former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and Javier Solana, the foreign affairs secretary of the European Union, echoed similar thoughts during their visits in the weeks that followed.

Nevertheless, pre-election maneuvering continued, most notably on February 11 when President Kuchma ordered Kyiv Mayor Omelchenko to resign as the head of the state administration for the city of Kyiv with the explanation that all government officials running for the Parliament must step down. Most of Mr. Kuchma's detractors, however, saw it simply as a politically motivated move to counter efforts by Mr. Omelchenko to form a strong Yednist Bloc, which he said would cooperate with Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine. Those same presidential critics said that people close to the president had not been given the same walking papers.

After a series of meetings with the president Mr. Omelchenko was returned to his post as representative to the state government. Coincidentally or not, he remained

off the political radar screen for the rest of the campaign period.

On March 4 Mr. Yushchenko said during a press conference, after a just-completed swing through the eastern and central oblasts of Ukraine, that local and regional government leaders were impeding his efforts to get his message to the voters. Two days later, in the southeastern city of Berdiansk, he said that many local officials had simply and overtly become campaign workers for the pro-presidential candidates. The allegations included refusal by local and regional officials to allow public buildings to be used for public rallies and denial of broadcast time for interviews and paid political announcements on local and regional television stations.

On March 11, less than three weeks before Election Day, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe filed a breach of election law complaint with Ukraine's CEC, charging the government's main television station with giving advertising access exclusively to the pro-presidential For a United Ukraine Bloc. Adrian Severin of the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly warned state and government leaders that his organization had "heard serious allegations and had legitimate concerns about whether the March 31 elections to Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada would be free and fair."

Other international election monitoring organizations, including the Helsinki Commission, the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute issued similar appraisals.

When the final pre-election political surveys were released on March 14 – two weeks before Election Day, as allowed by law – Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine nonetheless continued to gather steam and move ahead of its nearest competitor, the Communist Party.

A Razumkov Center study showed that 23.9 percent of the 2,010 respondents it questioned supported Our Ukraine. The Communists had the support of 16.8 percent of those questioned, while For a United Ukraine had a mere 7 percent support, according to the survey.

A week before the elections, with intense international pressure on Ukraine, including resolutions by both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate on March 20 and March 21, respectively, calling for free and fair elections, several leading elements within Ukraine's political establishment lashed out at what they considered undue and illegal foreign influence over Ukraine's internal matters.

President Kuchma described the U.S. congressional resolutions as "unprecedented." But he showed little displeasure with comments and suggestions made by Russia's Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin, who had not shied away from commenting on the election on several occasions. The envoy also decided that he had a right to criticize the U.S. congressional resolutions.

At one point Mr. Chernomyrdin had said that the political structure of the Our Ukraine Bloc "worried us," which led the Russian newspaper Segodnia to call the Russian ambassador "the biggest expert on the elections."

In a final exclamation point to a very controversial and

dirty campaign period, a candidate from an electoral district just outside the city of Ivano-Frankivsk was found shot to death less than two days before the elections in what law enforcement officials termed a "political assassination."

Late on March 29 an unidentified assailant shot Mykola Shkribliak, a candidate from the SDPU. Attempts were made to link his opponent, National Deputy Roman Zvarych – a member of the Our Ukraine bloc and a former U.S. citizen – who was leading in the polls, to the murder, but no strong causal relationships were ever established and the incumbent never became a serious suspect in the case. The killers of Mr. Shkribliak have yet to be found.

Two days later, nearly 65 percent of Ukrainians – less than usual for Ukraine, but much higher than by Western standards – turned out for the controversial elections. Voters gave Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine a resounding victory in the parliamentary elections with 23.6 percent of them supporting the national democratic political force.

The Communist Party came next with 20 percent, followed by For a United Ukraine with 11.8 percent and the Tymoshenko Bloc with 7.24 percent.

The other political groups to break the 4 percent barrier needed by law to gain seats in the Parliament were the Socialist Party, with an unexpectedly high 6.88 percent, and the SDPU with a very surprisingly anemic 6.27 percent of the electoral vote.

The Green Party, the Democratic Union, the Yabluko Party and the Yednist Party failed to make it past the mark. Both the Green Party, which ironically had always been aligned with pro-presidential forces, and the Yabluko Party claimed vote-counting fraud as a reason for their defeat.

Also notable was the election of Ukrainian National Assembly leader Andrii Shkil to the Verkhovna Rada as part of the Tymoshenko Bloc. Mr. Shkil had spent more than a year in jail on unsubstantiated charges that he had led the uprising that led to the March 9 confrontation with law enforcement officials before the Presidential Administration Building. He was freed from jail because as an elected lawmaker he now had immunity from criminal prosecution.

Observer groups from both the United States and Europe graded the third elections to the Verkhovna Rada as free, but not altogether fair. Domestic observers also reported widespread accusations of voter intimidation, lack of access to the media for some candidates and the use of government resources to support favored candidates.

The U.S. State Department emphasized that "important flaws persist."

Among the very few positive conclusions was one noted by the State Department that, in general, these elections were an improvement over past polls; the other was that Election Day itself went much more smoothly than in past years.

In the first days after the election, Our Ukraine felt comfortable that it would claim a minimum of 112 seats, which it believed would give it sufficient weight to lead a parliamentary majority. Within a week, however, it became apparent that the bloc had erred seriously in not recruiting independents to its side and, even more importantly, that it had not pressed for credible assurances of support from winners in the single-mandate districts. On April 9, President Kuchma's chief of staff, who had led the For a United Ukraine bloc, announced that he had obtained commitments from 145 of the country's 225 single-mandate representatives to join his pro-presidential faction in the Verkhovna Rada. That number added to the 35 seats his bloc had taken with its 12 percent of the electoral vote would give it a whopping 180 seats – just 45 seats short of a majority.

Our Ukraine initially said little about the sudden turn of events. However, one respected political scientist, Volodymyr Polokhalo, could not remain silent. He called the underhanded way in which For a United Ukraine had cajoled and threatened lawmakers to come over to its side, "a slap in the face of the electorate, which voted very differently from the way in which power is developing in the Verkhovna Rada."

At first, Our Ukraine remained optimistic that it could find a middle ground with some of the political parties within Mr. Lytvyn's mega-faction and draw them over. But soon – and too late – they, too, began crying foul play.

In the end, Mr. Lytvyn became the new chairman of Parliament and the SDPU, which had the poorest results of the political groups that had surpassed the 4 percent threshold, had become part of the new pro-presidential coalition, while also obtaining a seat on the parliamentary presidium.

When a pro-presidential parliamentary majority became reality a few months later, the electoral mandate that Mr. Yushchenko and Our Ukraine had achieved became no more than a footnote for the history books.

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Our Churches: active in Ukraine and abroad

Major developments in the life of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church were reported during 2002. Among them were the inauguration of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, the convening of a Patriarchal Sobor near Lviv and the blessing of the cornerstone of the patriarchal sobor in Kyiv.

At year's end there was renewed talk of a patriarchate for the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, as the Catholic News Service reported that Cardinal Lubomyr Husar said the Vatican was studying practical steps that would have to be taken in order to proclaim the primate of the UGCC a patriarch.

"I think something is moving," Cardinal Husar told CNS on November 20, while attending a meeting of the Congregation for Eastern Churches at the Vatican. "Studies are being made because it is a very delicate question," one that could provoke strong negative reactions from Orthodox Churches if not explained and discussed with them, he explained to the news service.

The UGCC primate went on to say that he believes Pope John Paul II would like to give the Ukrainian Church the patriarchal status enjoyed by most other Eastern Catholic Churches, but due to "ecumenical commitments and sensitivity, the Vatican wants to make sure that such a move is "supported and accepted by the Eastern Churches – both Catholic and Orthodox."

The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church also gained several new bishops. On January 11 Pope John Paul II gave his assent to the provisions made by the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church for the establishment of an exarchate in Donetsk-Kharkiv and the appointment of two auxiliary bishops for Lviv. An official Vatican release reported the creation of the archiepiscopal exarchate of Donetsk-Kharkiv, and the election of the Rev. Stepan Meniok, CSsR, superior of the monastery of St. Alfonso of Lviv, as hierarch of the new exarchate, as well as the election of the Rev. Ihor Vozniak, CSsR, master of novices for the Lviv province of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, and the Rev. Hlib Lonchyna, MSU (Monk of the Studite Order), collaborator at the apostolic nunciature in Kyiv, as auxiliaries for the Lviv Eparchy.

The Revs. Meniok and Vozniak, both members of the Redemptorist order, were born in Ukraine and studied during the Soviet era in the underground seminary in Lviv. They were ordained to the episcopacy on February 15 and 17, respectively; both ceremonies took place in St. George Cathedral in Lviv.

On May 13 in Donetsk, Bishop Meniok was installed as head of the Donetsk-Kharkiv Exarchate, the second exarchate of the UGCC established in Ukraine. (An exarchate is a church administrative structure headed by a bishop, but considered an organizational notch below the level of a full eparchy because of a more limited number of faithful and clergy.) During his sermon, newly installed Bishop Meniok said the UGCC does not want other religious confessions in eastern Ukraine to feel threatened by the new official presence of the Catholic Church there. "Our Church moves eastward with love, peace and God's blessings," said the new bishop.

The American-born Bishop Lonchyna's episcopal ordination took place in Lviv on February 27; on March 1 Bishop Lonchyna served his first episcopal liturgy at the Lviv Theological Academy, where he had previously been a teacher.

The Ukrainian Catholic University was formally opened on June 29. With a crowd of more than 3,000 Lviv residents watching, UCU Vice-Rector Myroslav Marynovych, acting as master of ceremonies, read the proclamation that announced the inauguration of the UGCC's new university in Ukraine.

The founding documents of the UCU had been signed by the St. Clement Fund at the Metropolitan's Palace in Lviv on February 22, in fulfillment of the decision of the Synod of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in 2000 that recommended the foundation of the UCU in Lviv. Thus began the process of juridical registration and state accreditation of the UCU.

At the UCU's opening ceremony, seated on the stage erected before the famous Lviv Opera House on Lviv's Freedom Square were Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, UGCC archbishop major and the head of the Church who is also UCU chancellor; the newly appointed UCU rector,

the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak; Archbishop Vsevolod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.; the Vatican's papal nuncio to Ukraine, Archbishop Mykola Eterovic; ambassadors from Great Britain, Germany and France; as well as Lviv Mayor Lubomyr Buniak and rectors of several prominent Ukrainian universities.

In his address, Cardinal Husar emphasized the need for a Christian university in Ukraine as a center for Christian thought and of Christian values. He called this the unique aspect of the new institution's work. "If a university is supposed to seek truth, beauty and goodness beyond the façade of the obvious, then the university that is being born today must uphold this standard as well and search for these eternal values, but in addition it must do so through the eyes of a Christian," he stated.

The head of the UGCC presented Rector Gudziak with a scholar's toga, which the late Patriarch Josyf Slipyj, the founder of St. Clement's Ukrainian Catholic University, located in Rome, had ordered made even before the doors of that institution opened. As Cardinal Husar explained, it was symbolic of the patriarch's inability to see anything but success in his endeavors.

The Rev. Gudziak, who had been unanimously elected to lead the new university by the St. Clement Fund that oversees the educational institution, reviewed the century-long effort to establish a Ukrainian Catholic university in Lviv, and the vision of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and determination of Patriarch Slipyj that led to its realization. He noted that seven of the Ukrainian martyrs for the faith that Pope John Paul II beatified last year had attended the Lviv Theological Academy, the UCU's predecessor. He also underscored the leading role the UCU must play in uniting Ukrainians through knowledge, understanding and tolerance.

The inauguration of the UCU was preceded by a conference on "The Identity and the Mission of the Ukrainian Catholic University," which reviewed the effort to establish a Catholic university in Ukraine and the history of the UGCC's higher educational institutions and looked ahead at the future of the new Lviv school.

The final session of a Patriarchal Sobor (council) met on June 30-July 4 in Rudno, some 30 kilometers outside of Lviv. Representatives of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church called on the Vatican to recognize its status as a patriarchal Church in a letter drawn up at the conclusion of the final session of a special convocation of the UGCC laity and leadership. The meeting, the final session of the three-part Patriarchal Sobor held over the course of six years (two earlier sessions were held in October 1996 and August 1998), approved a total of four documents, including an ethical code of social responsibility and two addresses, one to the primate and the other to the Church's faithful.

During a press conference after the conclusion of the Patriarchal Sobor, Cardinal Husar – whom many UGCC faithful already refer to as "patriarch," even while the Vatican officially refers to him as archbishop major – expressed confidence that the wishes of the UGCC will be acknowledged by the Mother Church.

"We are taking appropriate measures to come to an understanding with the holy father and Vatican authorities," explained Cardinal Husar, according to a UGCC press release. "In the last year this matter has gathered new momentum. It has become clear to all that we have a living Church, and in accord with the tradition of the Eastern Churches it should have the structure of a patriarchate."

The UGCC primate also stated his satisfaction with the sobor and the recommendations it had made to the UGCC leadership. He said that its most important characteristic was the expression of unity within the Church. "The sobor was seriously disposed to the problems of the Church, not only in Ukraine but in the diaspora. The whole Church felt the importance of the sobor," said Cardinal Husar.

On October 27, the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church moved yet another step closer in its quest to set up a center in the capital of Ukraine. With more than 300 faithful in attendance at the future site of the religious center of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Cardinal Husar marked the beginning of construction of the UGCC patriarchal sobor as he blessed the building's cornerstone.

Nearly a dozen UGCC bishops and priests joined in the ceremony, which included encasing a commemorative plaque within the cornerstone as a time capsule.

The text engraved on the black marble slab documented for posterity the date that construction on the patriarchal sobor began, and identified the religious leaders of both the ecumenical Catholic Church and the UGCC, as well as the political leaders of both Ukraine and Kyiv, the architect and the builder.

Construction of the church is the first phase of a plan that will eventually turn the site into the UGCC's new home and administrative headquarters. The initial stage also includes the building of the patriarchal residence and administrative office. Eventually a religious/cultural center and a school are envisioned for the complex on another two-hectare plot that the city has given UGCC officials an option to take.

Bishop Vasylyi Medvit of the Kyiv-Vyshhorod Eparchy said it was a historic moment for the UGCC. "This church, this building is being built for the ages," explained Bishop Vasylyi, who added that, "when that day finally arrives when our various Churches are united into one all-Ukrainian Church, this house of worship will then belong to it." The completion date for the construction of the sobor is autumn 2004.

The reaction of the Moscow Patriarchate was no surprise. When contacted by The Weekly for its stand on the construction of the cathedral, a spokesman expressed reservations about a UGCC religious complex in Kyiv: "Who needs a giant sobor that holds 5,000 people?" The spokesman for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, the Rev. Heorhii Kovalenko, added: "But it is clear from this that the Greek-Catholic Church has placed before itself the aim of filling the church with those christened in the Orthodox faith. In Church language, this is called proselytization."

Even prior to the cornerstone blessing, when the UGCC first announced its intention of moving its center from Lviv to Kyiv, the UOC-MP had expressed its vehement opposition. "Moving the office of the head of the UGCC from Lviv to Kyiv and creating Catholic eparchies in Russia show that the masks have been finally thrown off. This means returning to the East, about which the Roman Catholics have always spoken," declared UOC-MP Archbishop Auhustyn of Lviv and Halych back in March. "They do not consider us true Christians and perceive the world as their canonical territory."

The year 2002 was proclaimed as the Year of Cardinal Josyf Slipyj by Cardinal Husar to mark the 110th anniversary of the late primate's birthday. The Lviv Theological Academy (LTA) hosted an evening of remembrance on February 18. Among those who shared their memories of Patriarch Josyf were Bishop-elect Father Hlib Lonchyna; Father Mykhailo Dymyd, director of the academy's Institute of Canon Law; Father Roman Mirchuk, vice-rector of Holy Spirit Seminary (Lviv-Rudno) in the 1990s; and Father Myron Pidlisetskyi, a priest active during the underground period of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church. "It is providential that the formal arrangement of the documents establishing the Ukrainian Catholic University will take place this year, the year of Patriarch Josyf Slipyj," commented the Rev. Dr. Gudziak, LTA rector, who was a student of Patriarch Josyf at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome.

The Ukrainian World Congress also paid tribute to Patriarch Slipyj, issuing a statement calling on all people of good will to honor this heroic pastor who endured 18 years of imprisonment and suffering for his Church and his faith. The statement was signed by UWC President Askold Lozynskyj and Bishop Cornelius Pasichny, eparch of Toronto and head of the UWC Church Council. The UWC also disseminated the "Prayer for the Beatification of Confessor Patriarch Josyf Slipyj."

Later in the year came the debut of a full-length documentary film, "Patriarch." The film on the heroic life of Cardinal Slipyj, the first leader of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church to have been commonly referred to by the designation "patriarch," premiered on June 29 – only hours before one of his most precious dreams, a Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, became a reality. It was the third premiere for the film, after an initial showing in Kyiv on June 21 to a packed house, and one in April in Chicago, at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church, whose parishioners financed much of the project.

The movie developed from an idea by ex-journalist Marta Kolomayets and her husband, Danylo Yanevsky, a Kyiv television host. The two decided to move forward on the project after a lively night of conversation with their friend, the Rev. Myron

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Roman Woronowycz

Cardinal Lubomyr Husar blesses the cornerstone for the patriarchal sobor in Kyiv on October 27.



Patriarch Filaret (left) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate with newly enthroned Bishop Stephan Bilak on May 19 in Cooper City, Fla.

Panchuk, pastor of Ss. Volodymyr and Olha, about great men in Ukrainian history, during which the name of the patriarch cropped up in conversation. "It particularly affected me because I knew Patriarch Slipyj from my time at the summer courses of the UCU," said Ms. Kolomayets. Less than four months after the night of conversation that sparked the idea, a contract was signed with Kontakt Film Studio in Kyiv and noted Ukrainian television director Oleksander Frolov. Ms. Kolomayets became the film's executive producer and chief interviewer.

Another film project was initiated during 2002, as the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and Oles Yanchuk from the Dovzhenko Film Studio announced their collaboration on a film about Metropolitan Sheptytsky. As of mid-2002, fund-raising in support of the project had begun, and a screenplay for the full-length feature film was being solicited.

To record the history of Ukraine's "Church of the Catacombs," as the underground Ukrainian Catholic Church was referred to, the Institute of Church History at the Lviv Theological Academy has begun videotaping the testimonies of 50 of the oldest surviving members from the underground of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC). The accounts of these survivors, all over 70 years old, will be included in a documentary film about the UGCC's illegal existence in Ukraine from 1946 to 1989. This news was reported by the newspaper Postup (Progress) on June 4. Bishops, priests, priests' widows, religious men and laity talk about important events in their lives and the ordeals they had to undergo, professing Christian values in defiance of Soviet ideology. "These people are gradually passing away," noted Iryna Kolomyiets, head of the institute's pastoral department. "So we are simply obliged to leave their recollections, emotions and worldviews on film, to show future generations the right way to go. It is our duty to show and to preserve the faces of these everyday heroes."

In addition to the video project, the Institute of Church History since its founding in 1992 has been compiling a "living history" archive of the underground UGCC. This archive is a collection of texts, audio files, authentic documents and photographs. It was announced in June that the archive would soon be available not only to scholars and researchers, but

would also be accessible via the Internet.

Other news related to the history of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church came in early 2002, when the Religious Information Service of Ukraine reported on a sensational discovery presented at Lviv's Museum of Ethnography and Art: the miter of Metropolitan Sheptytsky, head of the UGCC from 1900 to 1944. Andrii Yurash, lecturer at Lviv's Ivan Franko National University and at the Lviv Theological Academy, was the first to examine the relic and to theorize that this was the metropolitan's miter. The miter was part of a private collection belonging to Mykola Rohutskyi, president of the Artor company.

Meanwhile, in Canada, faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Church marked another milestone: the creation of a shrine to a bishop who is one step from sainthood. In mid-September thousands in Winnipeg escorted the relics of the Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky from Ss. Vladimir and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, where they were in storage after being disinterred from a cemetery earlier in the week. The remains of Bishop Velychkovsky, who was persecuted, tortured and imprisoned by the Soviets, were enshrined in a small chapel-like structure inside St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Bishop Velychkovsky, who survived Soviet mistreatment for nearly 30 years, arrived in Winnipeg in June 1972 and died a year later. He was beatified in 2001, along with other martyrs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, by Pope John Paul II. The Winnipeg Free Press reported that, according to Andre Lalach, program director for the Redemptorist Provincial House, the shrine to Bishop Velychkovsky is only the second one to martyrs in Canada. (The other is in Midland, Ontario dedicated to French missionaries who worked with the Huron people.) "It's probably once in a lifetime for most of us," said Mr. Lalach of the Winnipeg ceremony.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. celebrated two major anniversaries during 2002.

First came the 30th jubilee of the consecration of Metropolitan Constantine, the Church's primate, as bishop, an event that took place on May 7, 1972, in Philadelphia. Thirty years later, on May 18, hundreds of faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., and representatives of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Byzantine Catholic Church,

Carpatho-Russian Church and the Ukrainian government gathered for the jubilee divine liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Parma, Ohio. An agape meal followed the religious services.

On September 28 the UOC-U.S.A. celebrated the 50th anniversary of the consecration of its Metropolia Grounds in South Bound Brook, N.J. Metropolitan Constantine could not participate as he was recuperating from surgery; his words of greeting were read at the liturgy by the Protopresbyter Frank Estocin. Hierarchs, clergy and faithful paid homage to the vision and the dedication of the UOC's spiritual fathers, Metropolitan John Theodorovich and Patriarch Mstyslav Skrypnyk, for realizing the necessity of having a diocesan center, museum and cultural center as an anchor for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States and in the Ukrainian diaspora.

Archbishop Antony, ruling archbishop of the Eastern Eparchy and president of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.; Archbishop Vsevelod, ruling bishop of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.; Archbishop Yuriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada; and Bishop Dimitrios of the Greek Orthodox Church of America; were greeted at the door to St. Andrew's Memorial Church. Also concelebrating were 47 priests and three deacons.

Following the liturgy, all the bishops, priests, deacons and faithful participated in the blessing of the Apostolic Prayer Trail, which comprises 15 icons placed on wooden crosses along the path between the memorial church and the cemetery. The icons depict the 12 Apostles, St. Paul, St. Volodymyr the Great and St. Olha, and the icon of the Transfiguration.

The year 2002 was notable also for the UOC-U.S.A. as the Church was involved with the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund in helping the children of the Zaluchia orphanage, located in a remote village of that name in the Sniatyn district of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. On October 23 Archbishop Antony led a 40-member delegation from the UOC-U.S.A. on a visit to the institution, which had been notorious for its poor conditions. It was through the efforts of CCRF that the deplorable conditions in which the children lived became known, and many improvements have since been made thanks to the generosity of benefactors from

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the United States.

The guiding force behind the establishment of the Ukrainian Orthodox Center in South Bound Brook, Metropolitan Mstyslav, who later became patriarch of Kyiv and all Ukraine was recalled on the ninth anniversary of his death on June 11, 1993, with a panakhyda (memorial service).

In remarks delivered at the crypt where the Church leader is buried, Protopresbyter Estocin noted: When Metropolitan Mstyslav became patriarch of Kyiv and All Ukraine, he devoted all of his experience and strength to the cause of fortifying and establishing an independent Ukrainian Church. His vision was one of undivided unity based on prayer, love and mutual forgiveness. Today, nine years after his repose, his vision is still struggling in independent Ukraine; his spirit of love for freedom and unity seems to disappear among the various jurisdictions of the Orthodoxy in Ukraine and the diaspora.

Another Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the UOC-Kyiv Patriarchate expanded its presence in the United States with the enthronement of a new bishop. On May 19, the Very Rev. Stephen Bilak, 83, was ordained a bishop during a pastoral visit to the United States of Patriarch Filaret of Kyiv and All Rus'-Ukraine, the UOC-KP's primate. Present at the ceremony, in addition to Patriarch Filaret, were Bishops Dymytrii and Alexander (Bykovetz). The Rev. Bilak is a former pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Cooper City, Fla.

The website of the Vicary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate in the USA notes that Bishop Bilak, former president of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. (headquartered in South Bound Brook, N.J.), was a long-time member of the hierarchy of UOC-USA. However, after the UOC-USA leadership decided to come under the omophorion of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople, the Rev. Bilak opted for the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate.

The vicary's website also said of Bishop Bilak's enthronement: "This is a momentous occasion, for it firmly establishes the Kyiv Patriarchate within the borders of the United States and Canada and unites all parishes which have declared their allegiance to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, under one central leadership." The site went on to explain that Patriarch Filaret had formally established a Vicary of UOC-KP for the United States and Canada headquartered in Cooper City, Fla., with Bishop Stephan as its spiritual leader. On May 20, a Vicary Constitution was reviewed and formally adopted, and a Bishop's Council, consisting of four clergy and four laypersons, was elected.

In late December, Patriarch Filaret again journeyed to the United States, this time on what Ukraine's diplomats in the United States told *The Weekly* was a private visit.

Back in Ukraine, by year's end a fourth Ukrainian Orthodox Church had appeared on the scene: the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church Sobornopravna, led by Metropolitan Moisei. Speaking on November 27 after the Church's establishment was announced, the church's primate emphasized that his goal is to bring unity to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

"I believe that a new leader, a new spiritual leader, can show a new way, give a fresh perspective. The opportunity for unification exists," said Metropolitan Moisei, who also went on to criticize the leaders of the three existing Orthodox Churches in Ukraine: the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

Ukraine's Muslims also were in the news during 2002 when Ukraine joined most of the world in commemorating the first anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. A special conference hosted by Islamic Ukrainians on September 9 kicked off a week-long series of memorial events in Kyiv. At the conference, organized by the regional branch of the Ukrainian Islamic organization, Arraid, at the Islamic Community Center in Kyiv, Ukrainian Islamic political and religious leaders, as well as government representatives, discussed Ukraine's reaction to the September 11 terrorist attacks and how the events affected Muslims in Ukraine.

From the outset, participants made it clear that no one was going to excuse the action of the Al Qaeda terrorists who organized and carried out the attacks. "We, the Muslims of Ukraine, condemn the terrorist acts and we

also condemn extremism in the name of Islamic principles," said Mufti Suleiman Mukhamedzianov, the spiritual head of Kyiv's Muslims in opening the conference.

Yurii Kochubiyi, head of the Ukrainian Organization of Foreign Affairs and editor-in-chief of the magazine *Eastern World*, who once was a diplomat to the Middle East, explained that, counter to the pronouncements by many experts and academics after the calamitous events of September 11, a "clash of civilizations," did not begin, as some were quick to label a new era they said would ensue. Instead, the result was more understanding and more cooperation than was evident earlier.

About 2 million members of the Islamic faith live in Ukraine, constituting some 4 percent of the population.

Other Church news during 2002 included the following.

- Canada's Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (SSMI) marked the centennial of their mission in 2002. The order held eparchial celebrations on October 6, with a divine liturgy of thanksgiving at Winnipeg's St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, the first Ukrainian apostolic congregation of women, were founded in 1892 in Zhuzhel, western Ukraine, by the Rev. Kyrylo Seletsky, a parish priest, under the spiritual guidance of Y. Lomnytsky of the Basilian order. The first charter was approved by Metropolitan Sylvester Sembratovych in May 1892, and the first prioress of the Sisters Servants was Sister Josaphata Hordashevka. In 1902, in response to a request by the Canadian Roman Catholic hierarchy, Metropolitan Sheptytsky sent a group comprising three Basilian priests, a lay brother and four Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, to minister to the new Ukrainian immigrants in Canada. Celebrations of the centenary will continue in 2003.

- A jubilee was celebrated also by Bishop Basil Losten who on December 7 marked the 25th anniversary of his installation as the third bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, Conn. Among the hundreds who attended the celebration that day, which began with a pontifical divine liturgy of thanksgiving and ended with a dinner reception, were cardinals and bishops of the Catholic Church, as well as the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the United States, hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., faithful and friends of Bishop Losten.

- A U.S. landmark also marked an anniversary during 2002. St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Jewett, N.Y., recognized by local newspapers when it was first built as a unique and significant piece of wooden architecture, is a distinctive example of Ukrainian culture. Dr. Ivan and Natalia Makarewycz, donated the land and initiated the project, and the church was built by master craftsman Jurij Kostiw, based on artist Jaroslaw Paladij's preliminary scale model and architect Ivan Zhukowsky's construction drawings. Inside the church are an iconostasis and other woodcarved works by sculptor Mychailo Czereshniowskyj, as well as icons by Petro Cholodny. The church and its "Grazhda" building are also the focal point of the Hunter area Ukrainian community and serve as the venue for many concerts and art exhibits. Parishioners and friends marked the church's 40th anniversary on August 4 with a liturgy and festive luncheon.

- Stritennia, or Presentation, the choir of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, wowed audiences in the greater Toronto area this past July when they came to sing for the 2002 World Youth Day held on July 23-28. But they also sang for divine liturgies at local Ukrainian Catholic parishes, performed concerts of sacred music and even appeared on a broadcast of a nationwide Christian television channel in Canada. The choir comprises students and staff of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

- In April it was reported that after a 20-year hiatus, the Alumni Association of the Lviv Theological Academy (LTA) has been revived. The LTA graduated its first post-war class in 1999, so there are now three years of fresh graduates to give the association vigor, and there are more graduates to come. The sterling example of numerous pre-war graduates and the active assistance of a remaining few are an inspiration for 200 new active members. The academy's pre-war alumni list is composed of such distinguished figures as the late Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky and Fathers Roman Lysko and Oleksii Zarytskyi, two of the new Ukrainian martyrs beatified by Pope John Paul II in Lviv last June. The last meeting of pre-war alumni was held in Toronto in May 1980.

Diaspora demonstrates multifaceted activity

The Ukrainian World Congress was particularly active in diaspora circles in 2002. On January 27, *The Weekly* printed a letter by UWC President Askold Lozynskyj which introduced the Election Fund 2002. The fund's sole purpose was preparing programming and arranging airtime on local television stations before the parliamentary elections in regions of Ukraine that were still susceptible to Communist propaganda. The letter asked Ukrainians in the diaspora to support the UWC effort by "offering suggestions, materials and donations."

Two months later, on March 31, the UWC joined the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in proclaiming 2002 as the Year of Patriarch Joseph Slypyj, noting the 11th anniversary of his birth. The statement called for all people of good will to "honor this heroic pastor who endured 18 years of imprisonment and suffering for his Church and his faith."

On April 17 and April 25 Mr. Lozynskyj met with Oleksander Moroz, Yulia Tymoshenko, Volodymyr Lytvyn and Viktor Yushchenko, four of Ukraine's bloc leaders in Kyiv. The meeting focused on issues important to the Ukrainian diaspora to be considered by the next parliamentary session, including: government support of Ukrainian national Churches; the popularization of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine; recognition of Ukrainian freedom fighters and affording them certain economic privileges; condemnation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; the return of repressed Ukrainians and their descendants to Ukraine; safeguarding national and religious rights of Ukrainians living in the Russian Federation; and adoption of a new law on rights and privileges of Ukrainians living outside Ukraine. Mr. Yushchenko, Mr. Lytvyn and Ms. Tymoshenko agreed to all the proposals of the UWC; Mr. Moroz expressed reservations, but said he was willing to work with the UWC.

In May another UWC statement appeared on the pages of the *Weekly*, this one on the October 2002 census in the Russian Federation. The last census conducted in 1989 found 4.6 million Ukrainians residing there. However, there was suspicion that this last census had severely undercounted the Ukrainian population. In its statement, the UWC urged its brothers and sisters in the Russian Federation "to recognize that they are an integral part of the world Ukrainian diaspora, and that their emotions and loyalties dare run to both countries, the one where they reside and raise their families and the one which is their ancestral homeland and which is now free and independent."

In August, an analytical essay by Mr. Lozynsky titled "The Ukrainian diaspora, East and West" appeared in *The Weekly*, defining more clearly diaspora issues of national awareness, cultural deficiencies and the indigenous versus émigré phenomenon relevant not only to the Russian Federation, but to the Ukrainian diaspora worldwide.

In June, *The Weekly* printed the text of the UWC's declaration on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of Akcja Wisla in Poland, which deported over 140,000 Ukrainian men, women and children from the ethnically Ukrainian territories of eastern and southeastern Poland.

In August, the UWC president traveled to Australia in response to an invitation from the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations. Mr. Lozynsky's visit addressed the current Ukrainian political situation and its implications for Australia-Ukraine relations, issues of cultural and linguistic preservation, and other matters. Two issues seemed paramount in Ukrainian and Australian politics. The first, due to the mortality of the older generation and an unequal replacement by its progeny, is a striking need for a supplemental immigration. Secondly, Australia has not yet opened any new diplomatic missions in the countries that were once in the USSR.

These issues were discussed with both Ukrainian community leaders and Australian government representatives. Although the results of the meeting remained unclear, a news release noted that "the thrust of the argument was that the Australian states seek trade relations with Ukraine and, thus, all of Australia would benefit economically. Also, the Ukrainian American exemplary record of hard work and loyalty was offered as a major argument for Australia's inclusion of Ukraine and new Ukrainian immigrants."

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Finally, in November, the UWC marked the solemn 69th anniversary of the Famine of 1932-1933 with an informative statement that called upon "the government of Ukraine and other governments worldwide to recognize the Famine in Ukraine as a genocide against the Ukrainian people and to condemn the perpetrators." Also, meeting in a limited session, on September 21, the UWC discussed its program for observing the upcoming 70th anniversary of the famine, "suggesting most significantly the need for a suitable monument in Kyiv from the Ukrainian diaspora honoring the memory of the victims." By October 30, Kyiv's City Council and the Office of the Mayor gave the go-ahead for the erection of a diaspora-funded memorial.

Also, preparing for the 70th anniversary was the Hollywood Trident Foundation, which on June 16 called for the Ukrainian community's help in contacting survivors of the famine in order to record their recollections on videotape. The oral histories will be recorded and distributed to educational and media venues worldwide.

This year also marked the 90th anniversary of the founding of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. The celebration of this momentous event actually began on December 26, 2001, in Adelaide, Australia where over 160 "plastuny" gathered for a nine-day jamboree. Participants hailed from most major urban centers of Australia, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Geelong, Adelaide and Brisbane, as well as from North America. At the Plast Open Day 20 members from the Ukrainian Youth Association (SUM) and about 200 members of the Melbourne Ukrainian community joined the Plast members in celebration of their jubilee.

In May National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko, an honorary Plast member, addressed members of the youth organization, "stressing the responsibilities of Ukraine's youth to continue the fledgling democratic tradition established in Ukraine and voicing the expectation that members of the scouting organization would take the lead in ensuring a free and open Ukrainian society."

Finally, on August 11-24, more than 1,700 Plast members gathered in Lviv for the first International Plast Jamboree to be held in Ukraine. The 14-day jamboree, proceeding under the slogan "Discovering the Ukrainian Planet," was divided into two significant parts. During the first week, the participants were divided into 22 camps dedicated to various aspects of the scouting experience. During the second week, the campers gathered at a main camp outside of Lviv near the ancient feudal castle of the town of Svirzh for more jamboree activities, including bonfires, sports competitions, traditional Ukrainian arts and crafts, as well as

tours of Lviv and nearby sites.

On August 24 members of Plast not only commemorated the 11th anniversary of Ukraine's independence and the culmination of their jamboree, but also took part in the reburial of the remains of their organization's founder, Dr. Oleksander Tysovsky from Vienna to Lviv's Lychakiv Cemetery. Plast members solemnly filed onto the site of the burial as the words to the Plast oath resounded throughout the cemetery.

In addition to hosting the Plast jamboree and a visit by the UWC president, Australia witnessed other noteworthy events. On February 2, Australian Football League legends Alex Jesaulenko and Ron Barrassi traveled to Kyiv to hand over \$250,000 worth of aid to children affected by the Chernobyl disaster. The aid was spearheaded by the Sunday Herald Sun and was flown by Lauda Air free of charge. Mr. Jesaulenko, who traces his roots to the Luhansk region of Ukraine was also to be inducted into the Ukrainian Museum of Sports in recognition of his achievements as an AFL player. He is the first Australian sportsman of Ukrainian descent to be afforded the honor.

Also in February, The Weekly reported about a visit to Ukraine by the chairman of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations, Stefan Romaniw. He participated in a series of meetings to promote Australia as a business, investment, tourist and migration destination. A further reason for the visit was to call on the Australian government to show a greater interest in Australian-Ukrainian relations.

Back in Washington, on February 16 the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council reaffirmed its recognition of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council in Kyiv as the main non-governmental organization representing Ukrainians in Ukraine and abroad, and established a separate fund in support of the UWCC. The UACC called upon the central organizations in the United States, Canada and Western Europe to give their full support, both financial and moral, to the UWCC.

On March 4-5 in the United Nations, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), met and considered two issues: eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world; and environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters. Oksana Sokolyk, president of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO) was present at this 46th session of the CSW.

The session produced documented recommendations to be submitted to ECOSOC, which included proposals to "ensure the full participation of women in sustainable development decision-making and disaster reduction management at all levels." It also noted that "in order to eradicate poverty and promote gender equality and democracy, and strengthen the rule of law, both women and men are involved in decision-making, political agenda-setting and in allocation of resources."

The diaspora circles of Eastern Europe also were active in 2002. On April 22, a statue of Taras Shevchenko by sculptor Viktor Lypovka was unveiled in the Belarusian capital of Miensk in a park located near the Embassy of Ukraine. The unveiling marked the formal opening of a series of cultural events organized as part of a Days of Kyiv festival in the Belarusian capital and what has been declared as the Year of Taras Shevchenko in Belarus. It was a memorable week in the life of Ukrainians in Belarus and attested to an upturn in relations between the two neighboring Slavic countries. Also announced was a Days of Miensk festival in Kyiv scheduled for next year.

On July 28 The Weekly printed a feature about the Ukrainian community in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Ukrainian Community Center is located in an outlying area of the capital on the second floor of a dilapidated building. The center hosts dance classes, a youth band and children's choir. Most of the Ukrainians in Georgia are people who resettled during Soviet times, and were sent there to work in factories or to serve in armed forces. Because there are not enough people for a congregation, there are no Ukrainian churches or parishes in Georgia. Ukrainian Churches, however are reexamining the possibility of providing clergymen for the congregations there. The author of the article, Theodora Turula of the Chicago area, noted that the Georgian Ukrainian Community Center resembles our own diaspora centers in the United States.

In April The Weekly reported that Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski had expressed regret over Akcja Wisla. He stated: "On behalf of the Polish Republic, I would like to express regret to all those who

were wronged by Akcja Wisla ... The infamous Akcja Wisla is a symbol of the abominable deeds perpetrated by the Communist authorities against Polish citizens of Ukrainian origin ... It was believed for years that Akcja Wisla was the revenge for the slaughter of Poles by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in the east in 1943-1944. Such reasoning is fallacious and ethically inadmissible. It [invokes] a principle of group accountability, with which we cannot agree. The slaughter of Poles cannot serve as an excuse for the brutal pacification of Ukrainian villages and the expulsion of populace. Akcja Wisla should be condemned."

In November, The Weekly published a position paper released in Warsaw on October 12 by the board of the Union of Ukrainians in Poland concerning the elimination of the consequences of Akcja Wisla. The union stated that, "in the last decade, both the Polish administration and political elites not only failed to commit themselves to the eradication of those consequences, but also to carry an unequivocal assessment of the causes and effects of the deportation, whose impact on the situation of Polish citizens of Ukrainian nationality is evident to the present day." The statement continued by providing evidence for that conclusion in the realms of the law, historical studies and public rights, and pointed to the present consequences of Akcja Wisla.

U.S.-Ukraine relations on a downward spiral

Relations between the United States and Ukraine, which had worsened in 2001, continued on a downward spiral in 2002. As some of the previous year's irritants – such as high-level corruption, the pirating of entertainment and computer recorded media and the unsolved murder of the journalist Heorhii Gongadze – continued to fester, new, more serious problems for the relationship, came to the fore.

There were a few signs of a continuing normal bilateral relationship – the opening of a consulate here and the announcement of a small aid program there – and some efforts to improve relations – proposals in Congress to remove the Soviet-era Jackson-Vanik Amendment restrictions – but, for the most part, the news was negative, and it centered on an anti-aircraft detection system that Ukraine was suspected of selling to Iraq. And, by year's end, Ukraine was hit by two punitive actions: a cutback on U.S. aid in response to the Iraqi sale and threatened limitations on financial transactions for money laundering.

As the new year began in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist airliner attack on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and new alliances were being formed in the resulting U.S. war on terrorism, the U.S. and Russian press began reporting about an emerging new U.S. policy that seemed not to be concerned about developing closer relations between Kyiv and Moscow, as in the past. Indeed, as The New York Times reported, Washington now was encouraging them. Earlier, the Russian newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta called the change in policy the "Rice Doctrine," after its supposed author, President George W. Bush's national security advisor, Condoleezza Rice. According to this leading Russian paper, the new doctrine provided that "Russia has a right to special interests outside its borders and, consequently, to the special handling of Ukraine."

These newspaper accounts about what would amount to a major shift in U.S. foreign policy went unchallenged by the administration. The U.S. ambassador in Kyiv, Carlos Pascual, however, discounted the suggestion that Washington was ceding Ukraine to Moscow's sphere of influence.

"Absolutely not," he told The Weekly in an interview. "The U.S. policy on Ukraine has always been that we support a sovereign, independent, democratic, market-oriented Ukraine – and you have heard us say it for the last 10 years. As neighbors, Russia and Ukraine are going to have a relationship, Ambassador Pascual said. "And it's better for that relationship to be a good relationship rather than a bad relationship."

Ukraine's ambassador in Washington, Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, in a separate interview, also stressed the positive nature of improving relations both between Washington and Moscow, and between Moscow and Kyiv.

"We have always adhered to the position that, in gen-



The Taras Shevchenko monument unveiled on April 22 in Miensk, capital of Belarus.

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Yaro Bihun

Madeleine K. Albright visited Ukraine to urge free and fair elections.

eral, Russia and the United States should maintain the best possible relations. We believe that this helps create a better condition for Ukraine's own development," he said, adding that "the absence of conflict with Russia should not be seen as a negative factor in determining the level of the dialogue between the United States and Ukraine."

Ambassador Gryshchenko indicated that one of the ways U.S.-Ukrainian relations could be improved would be to get rid of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Imposed on the Soviet Union to pressure Moscow on Jewish emigration, the law's restrictions on economic relations continue to this day, despite the breakup of the USSR and the fact that emigration no longer is an issue.

To this end, U.S. Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Sander Levin (D-Mich.) and Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.) introduced bills in the House in 2002, and Ukrainian American diaspora leaders discussed the issue with Jewish leaders in Washington. The bills never made it to the floor for a vote, however, and died in the last session of Congress.

The predominant subject in the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship during the first quarter of 2002 was the election of deputies to the Verkhovna Rada. Ukrainian and foreign human rights and democratic action groups that monitored the pre-election campaigns in Ukraine reported government intrusion and coercion with the intent of influencing election results.

Citing these disturbing reports, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution urging the Ukrainian government "to enforce impartially" Ukraine's new election law and "meet its commitments on democratic elections" agreed to with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Meanwhile, the Helsinki Commission on February 27 held a public briefing to examine the parliamentary elections scheduled for March 31.

One of the pre-election observers was former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, who later indicated that the resolution made the Ukrainian government sit up and notice. She said she was surprised during a meeting with President Leonid Kuchma at how "very concerned" he was about it. "He does think – at least that's the way I read it – that what Washington thinks about him is important to him," she said during a briefing about her visit which was organized by the National Democratic Institute, which she chairs.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller, who accompanied Dr. Albright to Ukraine, was a bit more skeptical. While President Kuchma understood the value of how he and Ukraine are perceived internationally, he said, "the difficulty is that he is in the middle of a power struggle, in which his interests may require – in his own mind – the kind of actions that are taking place in this election."

Similar actions were to follow in the recent shake-up of the government and the leadership in the Verkhovna Rada, which also raised some eyebrows internationally about President Kuchma's political intentions.

Also visiting Ukraine in February was Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky, who, during a two-day stay in Kyiv, underscored the importance Washington attached to the bilateral relationship and to the elections.

As the election issues died down, the secret recordings of President Kuchma's discussions made by a member of his security detachment, Mykola Melnychenko, kept re-



Yaro Bihun

Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko urged Washington to scrap the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

emerging with new revelations and allegations of high-level wrongdoing. The Gongadze murder case, which emerged from those recordings, dominated in the previous year, but re-surfaced on occasion, such as June 18, when the BBC documentary "Killing the Story" was screened in the Dirksen Senate Auditorium of the U.S. Congress, and on September 15-16, when protesters in Washington and New York gathered to draw attention to the cases of Mr. Gongadze and other journalists and political activists who died under mysterious circumstances in Ukraine.

In 2002, however, it was the Melnychenko tapes' references to the Kolchuha that took center stage. During his numerous meetings with U.S. government officials, and later with the press in May, Mr. Melnychenko disclosed that one of his recordings show that President Kuchma actually gave his consent to the sale of the Ukrainian-built Kolchuha air defense system to Iraq in July 2000. If so, the sale would have been in violation of United Nations Security Council sanctions.

Mr. Melnychenko also disclosed in May that he had testified before a U.S. grand jury in California in connection with an investigation into organized crime. He declined to reveal the specific case – though he did say it was not the case of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko (whose case, at last report, was scheduled to begin on March 24, 2003).

As the Kolchuha issue continued to ferment through the summer months, in September the State Department announced that the United States analyzed the Melnychenko tape and concluded that it was authentic. This, a State Department spokesman said, "has led us to re-examine our policy toward Ukraine, in particular toward President Kuchma" and to initiate "a temporary pause" in providing \$54 million in Freedom Support Act assistance to Ukraine.

The Ukrainian government denied the allegations, but allowed U.S. and British technical experts to inspect several sites in Ukraine connected to the development and production of the Kolchuha air defense system. The resulting report of the Anglo-American inspection team released in November neither proved nor disproved that Ukraine sold the Kolchuha system to Baghdad.

Later, the State Department expressed disappointment that the inspectors "did not meet with the cooperation and openness promised by the Ukrainian authorities" and warned that Kyiv's failure to fully respond with the information and documents requested in the report could further damage Ukraine's relations with the United States and with NATO.

The highest U.S. official to visit Ukraine in 2002 was Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill (who was replaced late in the year in a shakeout of the Bush administration economic team). During his three-day stay there in mid-July, he spoke with Ukrainian political and business leaders about the need to make their economy attractive to foreign investment.

"Capital is a coward," he said in a speech to a business group. "Money is more likely to go where it is treated well." When he was the chief executive officer at Alcoa Aluminum, he said, he didn't bother to even consider investing in countries where the rule of law, good corporate governance and enforcement of contracts were doubtful. "Frankly, I did not spend much time looking at places where this did not exist," he said.



Yaro Bihun

Mykola Melnychenko's clandestine recordings yielded new revelations of high-level wrongdoing in Ukraine.

Another noteworthy visit, this one to the United States from Ukraine, came in September as the chairman of the Donetsk Oblast Administration, Viktor Yanukovich, led a delegation on a visit to Baltimore, where issues of mutual interest to the United States and Ukraine, especially the Donetsk region, were discussed. What was most notable about the visit was Mr. Yanukovich himself – exactly two months later he emerged as the new prime minister of Ukraine.

In an effort to improve bilateral economic relations, the Washington-based U.S.-Ukraine Foundation got together with the Embassy of Ukraine in conducting two business roundtable discussions in October for representatives of government, industry and non-profit development organizations.

Among the leading reasons generally mentioned for worsening U.S.-Ukrainian economic relations have been high-level corruption and the absence of adequate laws governing such corrupt business practices as intellectual property piracy and money laundering. In both cases, Ukraine had passed laws that were judged by Washington to be inadequate and resulted in the U.S. Trade Representative announcing trade sanctions for piracy on December 20, 2001, and on that very same day one year later, the U.S. Treasury Department threatened to impose various restrictions on American financial institutions in their dealings with Ukrainian entities because of Ukraine's lax attitude toward money laundering.

Although overshadowed by the negative, there were some positive entries in the 2002 bilateral relations ledger:

- Ukraine opened a new consulate at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, Mich., in March, and appointed the center's president, Bohdan Fedorak, as honorary consul.

- An American Studies and Language Center was opened at Odesa National Mechnikov University in November. Funded by the English Language Fellow program of the U.S. State Department, it is one of the few lending centers in Ukraine that offers books and materials that are specifically designed to meet the needs of English language teachers.

- The U.S. Agency for International Development announced a new program in September which, in cooperation with the Nadra Bank, will provide U.S. guarantees against default by farmers for 50 percent of the worth of each loan. Nadra Bank, a Ukrainian commercial financial institution, said it would provide the equivalent of \$6 million in credits to allow Ukrainian farmers to develop various segments of their business.

- On December 20 the State Department presented the Embassy of Ukraine copies of the Ukrainian-language documents taken by the Nazis from the All-Union Communist Party archive in Smolensk, which came into possession of the United States at the end of the World War II. The original documents from the archive were turned over to Russia a week earlier.

- And, as the year was coming to a close, the State Department on December 24 announced an agreement on future cooperation between the United States and GUUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Moldova). It calls for a number of U.S.-funded projects designed to achieve "a new level of cooperation on the facilitation of trade and transport, the improvement of border and customs services, and the fight against terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking."

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News from Canada: redress and celebrations

Redress was the key issue, it seemed, for Ukrainian Canadians during the year 2002. 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, 1914-1920. More than 8,000 men, and some women and children, were labeled "enemy aliens," herded into Canadian concentration camps and forced to do heavy labor. There were 24 such internment camps throughout Canada, and the UCCLA has been placing markers at the sites. Over 80,000 more were forced to report to the police like common criminals and lost the right to vote; some were deported. The enemy aliens' assets were confiscated, and they were subjected to various other state-sanctioned censures.

As a result of the efforts of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, supported by the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko and the Ukrainian Canadian community of British Columbia, a trilingual historical marker was unveiled at the original site of one of the Monashee-Mara Lake camps, at Two Mile, near Sicamous, on Saturday, June 8.

"This unhappy episode in Canadian history must be recalled if we are to ensure that what happened to Ukrainian Canadians in the first world war period, and to our fellow Japanese Canadians in the second world war, and to some citizens of Quebec in 1970, does not happen again," stated the UCCLA's local representative, Andrea Malysh. Tying such remembrances to current events, she added: "This is particularly important in the wake of the horrors that befell our society on September 11. While we must remain vigilant as we prosecute our war against terrorism, we can not allow our societies to become vigilantes when dealing with Canadians of other ethnic and religious backgrounds. Canada is an inclusive society and must remain that way. Recalling this tragic past is a step we can all take to ensure that wrongs done in the past are not repeated in our future." The plaque in Mara Lake was the 18th placed by the UCCLA and its supporters since 1994.

On August 5, another plaque recalling the internment operations was placed near a camp once located in the Eaton-Munson-Drumheller region of southern Alberta.

Those held around Drumheller worked in the nearby coal mines and were also deployed to assist local farmers in collecting their harvests.

On August 11, the festivities at the annual Ukrainian Day celebrations at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village were interrupted to unveil a trilingual memorial plaque commemorating the internment operations. The Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, located in Alberta, 30 miles from Edmonton, Alberta, is an open-air museum replicating the pioneer experience of Ukrainians in Canada. It houses the original homestead buildings of several pioneer families, including the Slemkos, who just a few years after their homestead had been cleared and the buildings erected, had three family members unjustly interned at concentration camps in western Canada.

While the markers were being placed at sites around the country, the UCCLA and the Ukrainian Canadian Committee were meeting in an effort to issue a joint position on redress for World War I internment. It was at its annual meeting in Winnipeg on June 22 that the UCC agreed to refine a joint position in cooperation with the UCCLA regarding redress for the World War I period internment operations.

The cooperative effort is being led by attorney Andrew Hladyshevsky, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko. For several months, the director of research for the UCCLA, Dr. Luciuk, and Paul Grod, first vice-president of the UCC, had worked with Mr. Hladyshevsky to ensure that a thorough and comprehensive redress package would be ready for presentation to the government of Canada in the fall.

Mr. Hladyshevsky, who also serves as chair of the Internment Committee of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress; Dr. Luciuk, and Alexandra Chyczij, a member of the Justice Committee of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and a local constituent; met on August 23 with Member of Parliament Jean Augustine, secretary of state for multiculturalism, and three senior members of the departments of Canadian Heritage and Justice, to begin the process of resolving the community's call for the recognition of Canada's first national internment operations and their impact on Canadians of Ukrainian and other East

European origins.

During an hourlong meeting, the minister indicated a willingness to move the issue forward within her own ministry, Canadian Heritage, and others, including Parks Canada, Veterans' Affairs, Justice and to do so in the near future. Although Minister Augustine did not specify a timeline, she did pledge to meet with key ministers in September and to initiate consultations as soon as possible. The minister reaffirmed, in principle, her support for elements of Bill C-331, the Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act authored by Member of Parliament Inky Mark, who represents the Dauphin-Swan River riding (district) in Manitoba.

A major step toward raising awareness of the redress issue and securing restitution came during the launch of Project Roll Call. The National Press Gallery in Ottawa was the venue on November 5 of the launch of the project, described by MP Mark as "a continuation of the fight to get justice for all the internee Canadians that were put into 24 prison camps across this country between 1914 and 1920."

The gathering also aimed to drum up support for a bill to recognize the injustice inflicted decades ago upon persons of Ukrainian descent and other Europeans – including Croats, Serbs, Poles, Turks, Slovenians, Slovaks, Hungarians, Germans and Austrians – who were interned at the time of World War I.

The joint press conference by Mr. Mark and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) announced the beginning of the Roll Call program that will mail more than 37,000 postcards to Canadian households that have been identified as having the same or similar surnames to those of the World War I internees. Among other political leaders present were Sen. Raynell Andreychuk and MP Joe Clark.

Dr. Luciuk stated: "Project Roll Call is a search for survivors of Canada's first national internment operations in 1914 to 1920. It is not only for survivors, actual internees, but for their descendants."

He explained how the UCCLA began this project: "Several years ago, working with the few remaining government documents that refer to the internment operations, volunteers right across Canada pulled together a list of some 5,000 civilian internees in the first world war period. Over the last year, working with volunteers across Canada, we have ... put together a master list, of just over 37,000 Canadian families who may be in some way or another related to a person who was interned during the First World War."

"The postcard has two objectives," explained Mr. Mark. "First, it asks that Canadians whose family members were or may have been interned to contact the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association. Second, it urges all Canadians to support Private Member's Bill C-331 that I introduced in the last session of Parliament and will be re-introducing shortly."

Mr. Mark reminded his listeners that: "For almost two decades, Canadians of Ukrainian descent, and there are

almost a million of them in this country, have been looking for justice from this Liberal government and I just want to remind Canadians that in 1993 Mr. [Jean] Chrétien wrote a letter as leader of the Official Opposition saying that he would deal with the redress issue when he became prime minister. Well, we have been waiting for almost 10 years."

Mr. Mark's fellow Progressive Conservative, Mr. Clark, speaking in English and French, noted that Bill C-331 "urges the government to act on an undertaking that the prime minister made in 1993." He noted that "the principle of redress has been established in our law," referring to the redress sought and gained by Japanese Canadians for mistreatment during World War II.

"Thousands ... were unjustly interned in Canadian concentration camps during the first world war period, not because of anything they had done but only because of where they had come from," Dr. Luciuk explained. "They had been lured to Canada with promises of freedom and free land, and yet suddenly found themselves branded as enemy aliens, herded into 24 Canadian concentration camps, forced to do heavy labor, their valuables and property confiscated."

"Ironically, this happened against the background of some 10,000 Ukrainian Canadians volunteering to serve with Canadian Expeditionary Forces overseas, one of whom as you may know, Philip Konowal, won the Victoria Cross," Dr. Luciuk added.

Mr. Mark said he had met recently with Mr. Chrétien and urged him to honor his decade-old promise before he leaves office in early 2004. "A legacy of broken promises should not be the legacy of a prime minister," Mr. Mark concluded.

Dr. Luciuk emphasized that "there are still some survivors of Canada's first national internment operations alive, and we would like to resolve this matter within their lifetimes. That is all that we want."

During the latter part of 2002, working with the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the UCCLA 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 they tabled the proposal with Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps.

The proposal calls for, among other things, 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 – which would be committed to the proposed Ukrainian Canadian Reconciliation Fund, to be administered by the Shevchenko Foundation – will be determined after negoti-



Members of Parliament Inky Mark (left) and Joe Clark (right), and Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk (second from right) of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association at the November 5 launch of Project Roll Call.

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ations with the federal government have arrived at an agreed-upon 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."

In other news, in July the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association called for an official commission of inquiry on Soviet and Communist war criminals in Canada, and, if the evidence merits it, for the denaturalization and deportation of those who lied about their criminal activities upon entering Canada. The request came in light of recent evidence of individuals now living in Canada who were members of SMERSH, a Soviet formation responsible for the executions of Red Army soldiers and of thousands of anti-Communist civilians in Eastern Europe. One of the most well-known victims of SMERSH was Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved Hungarian Jews during World War II.

"We are calling on the Canadian government to determine how many of these alleged Soviet war criminals and collaborators are in Canada, how they came to be here and why they continue to enjoy the privileges of Canadian citizenship," said Dr. Luciuk. "We are also calling for their denaturalization and deportation, if the evidence warrants it. There are people in Canada today who have publicly admitted to having committed atrocities while serving with SMERSH and the murderous Soviet secret police, the NKVD. Some have even written books, in English, boasting of their roles in liquidating anti-Soviet Lithuanians and Ukrainians," he added.

Canada's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Section has not taken any known action against alleged Communist war criminals in Canada, despite several requests by UCCLA.

Ukrainians in Canada were closely watching the case of Wasył Odynsky, a displaced person who arrived in Canada in 1949. Back in March 2001, Justice W. Andrew MacKay of the Federal Court of Canada found that Mr. Odynsky was innocent of any war crimes. However, he did find him guilty of probably not truthfully answering questions asked by Canada's immigration authorities when he entered the country 53 years ago. In his decision Justice MacKay wrote, "After careful consideration of the evidence presented, on a balance of probabilities it is more probable than not Mr. Odynsky did not truthfully answer questions that were put to him concerning his wartime experience." As a result, during 2002 Mr. Odynsky was awaiting a decision of the federal Cabinet on whether he should be deported from Canada. Deported – not for war crimes – but for probably lying.

In a commentary titled "Who needs evidence?" in Report Newsmagazine on July 8, Kevin Michael Grace got to the heart of the matter, describing the government's argument: "Immigration officials must have asked Mr. Odynsky and the others about Nazi associations (because that was government policy), and they must have lied (because they would not have been admitted otherwise)." For the record, Mr. Odynsky said under oath that he was not asked what he did in the war. According to Dr. Luciuk, "No specific documentary evidence refutes his testimony. Ottawa destroyed those files years ago. But, on 'a balance of probabilities,' the judge ruled Mr. Odynsky secured citizenship under false pretenses."

In a June 14 column titled "This is justice?" Peter Worthington of the Toronto Sun wrote: "The case against Odynsky – conscripted by the Nazis at age 19 on pain of death and/or reprisals to his family – is so tenuous, vindictive and unjust it should be dismissed out of hand. ... By any objective standard, Odynsky was more a victim of Nazism than a perpetrator. ... Odynsky, 19, with a Grade 5 education, was conscripted into an SS auxiliary unit as a perimeter guard at a concentration camp. He ran away to avoid conscription, but returned when the Nazis threatened his family."

The Ukrainian Weekly weighed in with its editorial on the case, arguing that: "The only just decision at this point in this case would be for the Cabinet of Canada to allow Mr. Odynsky to remain in that country. But justice would be best served if Canada went back to the drawing board, trashed the new Citizenship Act that permits naturalized citizens to be deported without appeal (in effect creating a lower class of citizens) and reverted to the made-in-Canada solution to war crimes: i.e., prosecuting suspected war criminals for war crimes – not some lesser violation –

in accordance with Canadian criminal law and the concomitant higher standards of evidence.

The year 2002 began with Canada marking a decade of relations with Ukraine. Canadians and Ukrainians on January 30 celebrated that anniversary at a special gathering in Ottawa, as more than 300 people crowded into the National Archives down the street from the National Parliament in the Canadian capital to mark the occasion.

Canada was the first country in the Western hemisphere to recognize independent Ukraine, extending diplomatic recognition one day after Ukrainians voted on December 1, 1991, in a national referendum to break away from the Soviet Union. By January 27, 1992, Canada's secretary of state for external affairs at the time, Barbara McDougall, was in Kyiv to open the Canadian Embassy.

"As Canada's [representative] at that historic moment a decade ago, I am proud that our country was the first to extend diplomatic recognition to Ukraine," said Ms. McDougall in a speech read by Ian Wilson of the National Archives. (Ms. McDougall was unable to attend the January 30 event due to a prior commitment.) "Canadians with Ukrainian roots were among those who were bursting with pride in their former homeland," she said. "And many, indeed, have since returned to help shape democracy and free markets as the country has developed. ... That period of development has not been without missteps and indeed, sometimes, mischief." But there is no turning back, and we must never forget that momentous change is hard work."

In a letter to Canada's head of state, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine wrote that Canada will always be "a close friend" to Ukraine. "Without exaggeration, [Canada's acknowledgment] paved the way for our state into the international community," said Mr. Kuchma. "It accelerated democratic reforms and the formation of a civil society in Ukraine."

Ukraine's independence was first recognized by its Western neighbor, Poland. But as Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, was quick to point out, Poland, located in almost the same time zone as Ukraine at the time, had the advantage of time in extending its acknowledgment. Ottawa was only eight hours behind, he argued, and its early recognition must not go unnoticed.

A month after the celebration of the decade of bilateral relations, Ambassador Shcherbak on February 22 convened a meeting at his residence with prominent members of the Ukrainian Canadian community, to discuss the state of affairs and future directions of Canada-Ukraine relations. Members shared their views on the contributions of the Ukrainian Canadian community to the relationship between both countries. The outcome of the discussion was the establishment of a Canada-Ukraine Advisory Committee to the ambassador of Ukraine. The main goal of this committee is to contribute to the strengthening of bilateral Canada-Ukraine relations in all spheres of cooperation, including supporting Ukraine's initiatives in the democratization of society, economic development and integration into the European Community; partnering in the organization of a wide range of the educational, scientific, cultural and economic workshops, conferences and other events related to current and future Canada-Ukraine relations; promoting Ukrainian masterpieces of tangible and intangible heritage; and informing Canadians about these activities.

Members of the Canada-Ukraine Advisory Committee encompass persons from diverse fields. They include: James C. Temerty, president of Northland Power Inc. (tapped by committee participants as coordinator); Erast Huculak, president and chairman of the board, Medical Pharmacies Group Inc.; Orest V. Nowakiwsky, executive director, Canadian Bank Note Co. Ltd.; Mary Szkambara, president, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Toronto Branch; Rostyslav Kysil, president Meest Corp. Inc.; Orest Dubas, director, Ukraine-Canada Policy and Trade Center; Oksana Bashuk-Hepburn, president, Ukraine-Canada Relations Inc.; Prof. Ostap Hawaleshka, president, Canada-Ukraine Foundation; Prof. Orest Subtelny, York University; Dmytro Cipywnyk, chair, Advisory Committee on Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations; Viktor Pedenko, secretary-general, Ukrainian World Congress; Bud Convey, representative of the Alberta-Ukraine Council; and John Woychshyn, president, Oleh Olzhych World Foundation, Canadian Branch.

The Advisory Committee decided to hold its meetings twice a year, alternately in Ottawa and Toronto, and to include as members not only Ukrainian Canadians but also prominent representatives of Canadian society.

In other developments in Canada, the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union, now in its 50th year, announced that during 2002 that it was entering a rebuilding phase. After a productive but poorly attended national congress

A look at Canada's new Ukrainians

The focus in late January of 2002 was on immigration to Canada, as Prof. Vsevolod Isajiw, a prominent Ukrainian Canadian sociologist, revealed some preliminary findings from a groundbreaking study of the latest wave of Ukrainian immigrants to Canada. Speaking at the University of Toronto on January 28 at a seminar co-sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the Peter Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine, Prof. Isajiw highlighted the so-called "Fourth Wave" – those Ukrainians who came to North America from 1991 to 2001, and continue to arrive even today – estimating their number to be approximately 18,000 to 20,000 in Canada and at least 100,000 in the United States. He added that, "technically," he would call this a "Fifth Wave" of Ukrainian immigration, as it was preceded by Ukrainian immigrants from Poland in the 1980s, but was amenable to considering it as the second phase of a "Fourth Wave."

Prof. Isajiw provided a basic profile of the immigrants. Ninety percent were born in Ukraine, and 90 percent came as independent immigrants (the remaining 10 percent arrived sponsored). Just over one-quarter (26 percent) have taken Canadian citizenship. They are divided almost equally between males and females. Most (78.6 percent) are married, while 11 percent are single and 9 percent divorced or separated. Their average age upon arrival was 35.4, while their average age at the time of being interviewed was 39, indicating that they had been in Canada, on average, for just over 3.5 years. Twenty-two percent are homeowners. Seventeen percent have no children, while 31.9 percent had one and 45 percent have two. Eighty-nine percent are working full-time, although only 43 percent use specific skills acquired in Ukraine in their work.

The principal area from which they emigrated was "Greater" Ukraine (i.e., Central and Eastern Ukraine, 50 percent), with western Ukraine (Halychyna and Bukovyna) following at 41 percent, and southern Ukraine (and "other" regions) coming in at 9 percent. Significantly, 26 percent of all those who emigrated from Ukraine to Canada came from Kyiv and 24 percent from Lviv.

Prof. Isajiw noted the high educational achievement of the immigrants: 12.8 percent had degrees from an "uchylische," or a "tekhnikum," 37 percent from an "instytut" and 36.1 percent from a university. As well, he noted their religious affiliation (at the time of emigration) as being split among Ukrainian Orthodox (37 percent), Russian Orthodox (16 percent), Catholics (27 percent) and non-believers (11 percent). Prof. Isajiw noted that while Ukrainian immigrants are fairly well integrated into the Canadian economy, they generally tended to be overqualified for the work they were doing. As such, Canada has done very well by Ukrainian immigration.

Prof. Isajiw then turned to the integration of the new immigrants into the Ukrainian community, the other major question addressed by the study. The conclusion was unequivocal: new arrivals have not linked up with the "hromada" in any significant way. Their active participation in existing Ukrainian organizations stood at 9 percent and in Ukrainian organizations for new arrivals at 4 percent. Their attendance of activities sponsored by Ukrainian organizations was 8.0 percent "very often"; 23.7 percent "time to time"; 20.1 percent "rarely"; and 48.2 percent "never."

Even informally the new immigrants have maintained a certain social distance from local Ukrainian Canadians: less than 27 percent agreed or strongly agreed that it was "easy to make friends with Ukrainian Canadians" (compared to just over 41 percent for making friends with non-Ukrainian Canadians).

Nevertheless, the new arrivals by and large are interested in Ukrainian matters. A full 92.3 percent indicated that they feel it is important to pass on a sense of Ukrainian culture to their children, 50 percent send their children to a Ukrainian school, and 24 percent send their children to dance lessons. Almost 82 percent read Ukrainian Canadian newspapers often or from time to time, while 66.8 maintain a strong interest in Ukrainian politics.

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held in Ottawa in July, the union will be concentrating on re-establishing links with its members and narrowing down a focus.

"We're an umbrella body for Ukrainian student clubs across Canada," said the new vice-president (internal), Jenn Kehoe. "Some of these clubs are faring extremely well, while others are faltering. All we can do as their national representatives is help them out if they need it," she explained.

Windsor, Calgary and Ottawa universities were represented at the three-day gathering, which is held annually. Lower-than-expected turnout was the result of a number of factors, explained outgoing President Pavlo Horbal. "Since the congress this year was pushed to the summer instead of the usual February, many students couldn't get away because of summer job commitments," Mr. Horbal noted. "Being peak travel season, and understanding the rising costs of tuition here in Canada, we realized that many students probably couldn't afford to make the trip to Ottawa. We may have to look more towards fund-raising in the future." It is expected that the SUSK conclave will return to February next year in Toronto, which is hosting the 50th anniversary congress.

In Winnipeg, the Osvita Foundation on June 12 hosted a reception at Oseredok, as the Ukrainian Cultural and Education Center there is known, to celebrate 20 fruitful years of support for Ukrainian education in Canada. Osvita lapel pins were presented to outstanding individual donors, past Osvita testimonial banquet honorees and past members of the board of trustees.

Meanwhile, in Toronto, North America's largest Ukrainian street festival, the Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival attracted well over 100,000 visitors in the period beginning on Friday evening, September 13, and continuing all day Saturday. The seven-block festival features a 40-square-foot stage that presents an all-day concert featuring pop stars from Ukraine and Canada, and numerous dance ensembles, among other performers. The festival, presented by Kontakt Television, is to be even larger in 2003 with plans calling for outdoor structures to represent Ukrainian community life, and even a scale model of the world's largest cargo plane, Ukraine's own Antonov-225, the Mria.

Ukrainians in the U.S.: active on many fronts

Ukrainians in America this past year were active on many fronts. Among the different diaspora groups making news this year, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Ukrainian National Information Service with a benefit banquet at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Chicago on May 1.

Two of America's largest Ukrainian financial institutions, 1st Security Federal Savings Bank and Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union joined forces to co-sponsor the banquet, which launched a yearlong celebration and fund-raising effort to support the Washington-based UNIS office.

According to Julian E. Kulas, president of 1st Security, who served as the master of ceremonies for the banquet, UNIS provides timely information about Ukraine to the media and academia through policy papers and backgrounders, and produces newsletters and action items to inform and rally the community's support on important issues.

The banquet included speeches by Steven Pifer, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine (1998-2000) and currently the assistant secretary for the European Bureau at the State Department, specializing in Ukrainian, Belarusian, Moldovan and Russian affairs; as well as remarks by Michael Sawkiw Jr., UCCA president and UNIS director.

Key issues reviewed by the UNIS director included: U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine and its necessity to continue reforms in the economic and political spheres; the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, which maintains bilateral relations with the Ukrainian Parliament; Permanent Normal Trade Relations for Ukraine, as UNIS is actively pursuing a bill in Congress that would eliminate the Jackson-Vanik Amendment for Ukraine; the Ukrainian American Veterans' federal charter; and a Ukrainian leadership program that would bring young talented parliamentarians, regional leaders and political party workers to the United States to experience first-hand how civic society interacts with various forms of American government



Guests at the reception celebrating UNIS's 25th anniversary on October 8 included Rep. Danny Davis (far left), and leaders of Ukrainian community institutions, such as credit unions and the Ukrainian National Association.

Later in the year Ukrainian and U.S. politicians and diplomats, as well as a smattering of journalists from Ukraine, continued to mark UNIS's milestone 25th anniversary with a jubilee celebration in Washington. The jubilee party, held at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center on October 8, was held in conjunction with an international conference organized by UCCA and included State Secretary for European Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Oleksander Chalii, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, along with former Minister of Foreign Affairs for Ukraine Borys Tarasyuk and former Ambassador to the U.S. Oleh Bilorus, both of whom today are national deputies in Kyiv. U.S. Reps. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio and Danny Davis of Illinois both praised the office for giving voice to the demands and desires of the Ukrainian community.

"UNIS has not only been the voice of the Ukrainian community, it has been the voice of justice and freedom," said Askold Lozynskyj, the president of the Ukrainian World Congress and a former longtime president of the UCCA, during the celebration.

Mr. Kulas, who later that evening received the Friend of UNIS Award for 25 years of dedicated financial support, in his introductory remarks listed UNIS's most recent successes, which included providing stimulus for the formation of the Ukrainian caucus in the U.S. Congress; taking part in a successful lobbying effort to have the first visit to Washington by President Leonid Kuchma upgraded from a working visit to a state visit; and lobbying the U.S. Congress on maintaining a certain level of foreign aid for Ukraine.

Mr. Sawkiw acknowledged several individuals who played key roles in keeping the fledgling information service on its feet during the first few years of its existence, including Bohdan Denysyk, George Nesterzuk, Andriy Bilyk, Vitaliy Garber, Eugene Iwanciw and George Woloshyn, and presented the six individuals with UNIS Co-Founder Awards.

Mr. Sawkiw also announced that the Selfreliance (New York) Federal Credit Union had donated \$15,000 in commemoration of the UNIS jubilee, while the Self Reliance (New Jersey) Federal Credit Union had pledged \$7,500.

With the help of two donations totaling \$45,000 the UCCA also moved forward on a decision made during a regular board meeting on December 16, 2001, to create a bureau in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv. The benefactors, responding to a UCCA appeal, included Arkadi Mulak-Yatzkivsky of Los Angeles, who donated \$20,000, and an anonymous donor who contributed \$25,000. These donations covered the operating costs for the newly opened Kyiv Office, which is staffed by a citizen of Ukraine, for at least a two-year period, the UCCA announced on March 10.

The UCCA also announced that the Kyiv Office's immediate responsibility would be to carry out "The Power of One" civic education program, which had as

its goal to promote greater citizen involvement in civic decision-making by encouraging voter participation in the March 2002 parliamentary elections, and to educate the people about their inalienable rights as citizens of a democratic country. Following the elections, the bureau, located at Myzeinyi Provulok No. 8, would function similarly to the UNIS office in Washington by monitoring and disseminating information and by serving as the UCCA's voice in Kyiv. Additionally, the Kyiv office would assist the UCCA's Council on Aid to Ukrainians, which conducts humanitarian aid projects.

The new UCCA Kyiv Office then grabbed a headline by hosting an informational seminar for their parliamentary election monitors at the Taras Shevchenko National Museum in Ukraine on March 29. According to the Central Election Commission, the UCCA's 46-member delegation was the largest non-governmental organization and the fourth largest team overall registered to monitor Ukraine's March parliamentary elections. The seminar, which was divided into two sections, was dedicated to acquainting the election monitors with the various political parties and blocs vying for seats in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada and providing practical information on how best to serve as international election monitors.

The UCCA invited all 33 registered political parties and blocs in Ukraine to the briefing and asked them to outline their respective political platforms and to provide insight on the pre-election atmosphere. The seminar attracted leaders of parties and blocs from across the political spectrum including: the Party of Greens, Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Reformed Communist Party, Socialist Party, Our Ukraine, Yabluko, Liberal Party, Social Democratic Party of Ukraine-United, ZUBR (For Ukraine, Belarus and Russia), For a United Ukraine, All-Ukrainian Christian Party and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists.

The second half of the seminar concentrated on providing practical information about how best to serve as international election observers. During this portion of the briefing, UCCA election monitors were able to obtain first-hand knowledge and recommendations from several local non-governmental organizations that have experience in monitoring Ukraine's elections. Ultimately, the UCCA monitors observed the elections in various oblasts of Ukraine, including, Cherkasy, Zhytomyr, Ivano-Frankivsk, Khmelnytskyi, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Luhansk and Lviv. Additionally, several UCCA international election observers monitored elections in the United States at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, and at the New York and Chicago Consulates.

Aided in part by a \$500 grant from the One City Awards Program, announced on February 7, the UCCA also opened an information center for the newest Ukrainian immigrants in New York City on May 11. The grant was given in support of civic education courses, which would be held in the newly remodeled Fourth Wave Information Center, located in the UCCA's head-

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quarters in New York City. The idea for the Information Center came from an action plan developed by the UCCA's Fourth Wave Committee and presented during the organization's first executive board meeting of 2002.

Clergy from the Ukrainian Catholic Church, members of the UCCA executive and national boards, representatives from various Ukrainian organizations and financial institutions, as well as many of Ukraine's newest immigrants gathered at the entrance of the UCCA's building in lower Manhattan to dedicate the UCCA Information Center for New Immigrants on May 11. As in traditional Ukrainian ceremonies, members of the ensemble Ukrainian Family, under the direction of Oksana Lykhovyd, welcomed the public to the new premises with bread and salt, followed by the singing of the Ukrainian national anthem.

UCCA President Michael Sawkiw Jr. introduced Ms. Lykhovyd, director of the UCCA's Information Center for New Immigrants, who described the opening of the center as a truly "historic and timely event for Ukrainians in the United States," as it gives new immigrants the means to use the services available at the center such as English-as-a-Second Language (ESL), computer training, and even citizenship courses. "This will help the new immigrants integrate themselves into American society and be a part of the greater Ukrainian community," Ms. Lykhovyd added.

Members of UCCA's Fourth Wave Committee added that the center would be used to provide valuable resources and information for the newest Ukrainian arrivals to the United States, such as computer training, courses for citizenship, and legal and medical advice, as well as a job training and apartment databank.

UCCA President Sawkiw on May 9 also submitted testimony to the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee regarding foreign assistance to Ukraine for Fiscal Year 2003. Mr. Sawkiw's testimony before Congress included statements on the importance of U.S. funding to Ukraine, although it comprises only 1 percent of the total U.S. federal budget. "U.S. foreign assistance is critical to promoting expansion of democracy and building lasting peace throughout the world," Mr. Sawkiw said.

Construction of a long-anticipated new home for The Ukrainian Museum in New York City officially began in early February 2002 with scaffolding surrounding the existing structure located at 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues in the East Village section of Manhattan. Architects of the new building said it would have 75 square feet of frontage and offer 25,000 square feet of space and would be constructed at a cost of \$7.6 million. The Ukrainian Museum, which has been in operation at its present location, 203 Second Ave., for 25 years, has been conducting a capital fund-raising campaign for more than a decade in support of this project.

On Sunday, December 8, The Ukrainian Museum celebrated the completed construction of the building's steel frame with a "topping out" ceremony; the placing of the final and highest beam, which links the infrastructure of a new building. The ceremony 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, received a Ukrainian embroidered handkerchief instead of the traditional silk one. A "palanytsia," a flat bread, was also shared with the participants during the event to express a traditional thank you to all who helped in the 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 was destined to remain on the beam atop the infrastructure until the roof would cap the building.

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, recalled the \$500,000 donation from Self Reliance (New York) Federal Credit Union and the princely gift of \$2.5 million, plus an additional challenge grant of \$1 million, from entrepreneur Eugene Shklar and his wife, Daymel.

The Ukrainian Museum also gained the support of Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, and Serhiy Pohoreltzev, the consul general of Ukraine in New York City, who both offered to help the museum's future projects that promote involvement with museums and the arts community in Ukraine. The suggestions of cooperation

were made during a special visit to the museum in late February 2002 by the ambassador and the consul general, as well as the Mission's Second Secretary Danylo Lubkivsky.

Speaking to an attentive audience, Ambassador Kuchinsky said it is important for the Ukrainian diplomats posted in New York City to develop a working relationship with the museum. For example, he said they can be instrumental in facilitating the loan process for exhibitions from museums in Ukraine and assist, through The Ukrainian Museum, with helping young artists from Ukraine to explore and take advantage of career-building opportunities in the United States.

The ambassador emphasized that the Ukrainian diplomats will treat cooperative projects with the museum as matters of great importance. "Our meeting today reflects not only our concern. It is a testimony of our readiness to help the museum staff in any way possible," he said. "For each Ukrainian heart there can be no choice whether to support or not to support the museum, for it is through this sanctuary of Ukrainian presence in the United States that our nation speaks to the world."

In July came word that the Manhattan Borough President's Office had awarded the museum \$125,000 in capital funds to support its new building project. The award was announced in a letter from Borough President C. Virginia Fields. The museum also received a \$12,000 grant during 2002 from the New York State Council on the Arts for the planning of an inaugural exhibit planned for the new building's opening in the summer of 2003.

Over in New Jersey Ukrainians came out for a historic flag-raising ceremony at the governor's mansion, Drumthwacket, in Princeton, N.J., to celebrate the 11th anniversary of Ukrainian independence. Officials at Gov. James E. McGreevey's office counted approximately 1,300 guests at the event and said the attendance made a significant impact on the governor's awareness of the Ukrainian community in New Jersey.

During the program the governor noted Ukraine's long struggle for freedom and self-determination, and commended its citizens and the diaspora for upholding that fight for so many years. "We must remember to support a free and independent Ukraine," the governor said. "The battle for Ukrainian independence will not end on this anniversary celebration or any future anniversary celebration. That battle will always be there."

Ukrainians of New York City continued their opposition to the Large Scale Development Plan proposed by The Cooper Union to expand buildings which the school owns in the East Village. Ukrainian residents, many of whom have lived in the neighborhood for over 50 years, argue that much of the school's plan, centered on increasing the retail and commercial space in order to ease the school's financial burden, would create a corporate environment that would push longtime residents out of the area.

The New York City Planning Commission approved the controversial development plan on September 3. The plan the city passed would replace a six-story engineering building, located at 51 Astor Place, with a 212-foot office

tower. It would also raise the Hewitt Building – the largest bone of contention with the Ukrainian community in the school's plan – from its current two-story level to a nine-story academic building with retail planned for the bottom floor.

Ukrainian residents in the East Village argued that enlarging the Hewitt Building, which sits between Sixth and Seventh streets on Taras Shevchenko Place, would adversely affect St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church – located opposite the Hewitt Building, also on Taras Shevchenko Place. In an effort to halt the development process, a lawsuit was filed on July 24 with the State Supreme Court in Manhattan by four individuals from the community against the City's Planning Commission and Cooper Union. The plaintiffs charged the city and college with violating land-use procedures and contend that the school does not own all of the properties on which it plans to develop and that significant amenities for the community have not been included in the plan.

The newly renamed Mountain View Resort Verkhovyna also made news in 2002. Since the resort was sold by the Ukrainian Fraternal Association in early June 2001 questions arose regarding how funds donated to the Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation – the organization that now controls the resort – have been used. There were questions, too, about organizational details of the UACF. These and other questions have quietly surfaced within the Ukrainian American community and, to date, remain unanswered.

In response to those concerns, The Ukrainian Weekly spent over a year working to clarify the many questions surrounding Verkhovyna and the issue of how the UACF board is constituted. After The Weekly's attempts to provide space for both sides of the UACF dispute to tell their stories were unsuccessful, The Weekly decided to publish what was known.

Additionally, members of the UACF's current board of directors were hit with a lawsuit, not yet resolved, that challenges the authority of board members. The lawsuit, according to one of the plaintiffs, lists four individuals who contend that members of the current UACF board initiated a clandestine takeover of the UACF in contravention of the foundation's by-laws.

Current members of the UACF board of directors, including its chief executive officer, Stephen Kapczak, said, however, that the board members were elected according to the rules of the organization. According to the organization, the UACF is officially managed by its board of directors, which meets annually to elect board members and officers of the foundation and continually asserts that it is a public organization.

Mr. Kapczak said the lawsuit is nothing more than a group of individuals – some who left the UACF when the resort's future looked uncertain – now trying to get back in.

Questions regarding donations made to the UACF in 2001 and 2002 also arose and, to date, the UACF has not made those records public. Current executives of the foundation say that a detailed breakdown of donations will be made public by the beginning of 2003.



Board members, staff and friends of The Ukrainian Museum gathered at the construction site of the new building during the topping out ceremony on December 8. At the microphone is Olha Hnateyko, president of the museum's board of trustees.

B. Yaremko

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Mr. Kapczak said the foundation has spent \$304,000 to rebuild the resort's guest house, bring all past violations to code and upgrade facilities. He said the UACF has resumed hosting summer camps and the largely successful annual Ukrainian Festival, adding that the foundation is actively interested in attracting new business.

According to the UACF website, the Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation is a charitable not-for-profit foundation and is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(A) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described under section 501(c)(3).

Current UACF officers include: Mr. Kapczak, CEO; Iwan Nazarkewycz, president; Oleh Kolodiy, vice-president of activities; Oleh Dekajlo, legal counsel; Walter Klokiw, auditor; Christine Smetaniuk, treasurer; Zenon Holubec, community liaison; Andrew Rakowsky, vice-president of activities; Wasyl Kinach, technical support; and Jerry Sus, technical support. The UACF board of directors includes: Mr. Kapczak, Mr. Nazarkewycz, Mr. Kolodiy, Mr. Dekajlo, Sonya Blanarovich, Mr. Holubec, Olena Kolodiy and Alison Kapczak.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed against current board members of the UACF include Anton Filimonchuk and his wife, Father Nestor Kowal and Stephan Palylyk.

The Ukrainian American Veterans got some help in their efforts to get a national charter for their organization when, on July 8 Reps. David Bonior (D-Mich.) and Jack Quinn (R-N.Y.) sent a "Dear Colleague" letter to fellow members of Congress asking for support of a bill to grant a federal charter to the Ukrainian American Veterans.

The letter read in part: "This act is an important step to recognize the American veterans of foreign wars of Ukrainian descent. Like many other servicemen, they have sworn allegiance to the United States of America and risked and sacrificed their lives to protect the strategic interests and democratic values of the United States all over the world. With their roots in a country that was

A new U.S. project focusing on Ukraine

Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization announced a new project modeled after the U.S. Peace Corps called Project PAX. The project's goal is to help the people of Ukraine by providing direct technical assistance in various social programs. The project will send highly trained Plast scouts age 18 to 35 into Ukraine to provide expertise in child care, education, the environment and health in order to contribute to the betterment of Ukrainian society. The project would donate the skills and knowledge acquired by Plast scouts in the U.S. to Ukrainians, while simultaneously giving American scouts an opportunity to rediscover their Ukrainian roots and would also help to preserve their unique cultural heritage.

In an interview conducted by the Voice of America radio program on October 5, Ihor Mykyta, president of the U.S. National Plast Command, said that participants in the project would travel to Ukraine for six to eight weeks, from the middle of May to the end of August. To date, the Plast U.S.A. website has eight specific projects listed, all sponsored by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

Other suggested topics include: the restoration of memorials, the renovation of an orphanage, work with the physically handicapped at an orphanage, development of public relations for a museum, as well as projects that seek to improve the way hospitals and orphanages use technology to keep track of patient records still other suggestions listed on the Plast U.S.A. website, include work with children, the environment and medical and educational institutions.

The initiative for different projects, Mr. Mykyta said, would come from interested scouts but an application must be accompanied by the support of a sponsor and would need to be approved by the U.S. National Plast Command. Additionally, the sponsor must secure room and board for a Project PAX participant. Any individual who is interested in Project PAX or would like more information should contact the U.S. National Plast Command by writing to Plast KPS - Project PAX, 144 Second Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003; calling, (212) 533-8991; visiting the website <http://www.plastusa.org/kps/paks.php>; or e-mailing holova@plastusa.org.



Andrew Nynka

UCCA President Michael Sawkiw Jr. speaks during the November 16 requiem service at St. Patrick's Cathedral for victims of the 1932-1933 Great Famine. Seated are (from left) Bishop Basil Losten, Archbishop Antony and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar.

suffering under the yoke of communism for most of the last century, Ukrainian American veterans knew the real value of democracy and the free market, and bravely protected and advanced them in all conflicts along with American soldiers of other ethnic backgrounds."

"In the past, the United States Congress has granted federal charters to Italian American, Jewish American, Polish American, as well as other ethnic veterans' organizations. The Ukrainian American Veterans Inc. deserves the same recognition. I urge you to sign onto H.R. 818 and support its passing," the letter concluded.

The UAV, meeting in Independence, Ohio, on September 12-15 for its 55th national convention. The convention focused on the ongoing UAV Registration Project that would document the contributions of Ukrainian Americans to America's military history. Another concern of the convention, at which Mathew Koziak was elected national commander, was the Veterans History Project initiated by the United States Library of Congress and the American Folklife Center where the UAV is an official sponsor. The mission of the Veterans History Project, which was inaugurated on June 6 aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid, is to collect the memories, accounts and documents of veterans of World War I, World War II and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars, and to preserve these stories of experience and service for future generations.

Ukrainians in the United States also held a summit that looked at the topic of youth involvement in Ukrainian American organizations. Held on March 15-17 at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort, the inaugural Summit of Ukrainian American Organizations was an informal discussion that attracted over 60 leading diaspora representatives and activists. The summit concluded without a new initiative or distinct solution regarding the topic of engaging today's "youth" but seemed to stimulate many ideas and much candid discussion. Andriy Wowk, national president of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) and event co-organizer, called it "completely satisfying" and said the event "should be repeated in other major diaspora hotbeds such as Detroit and Cleveland."

The executive committee of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, the other umbrella organization of Ukrainians in the U.S., at its quarterly meeting on February 16, reaffirmed its recognition of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council in Kyiv as the main non-governmental organization representing Ukrainians in Ukraine and abroad and established a separate fund in support of the UWCC. The UACC executive committee voted to send \$1,500 to the UWCC as its initial contribution to the fund. The executive committee also approved other donations totaling \$1,550 for various educational and charitable organizations in Ukraine and a \$300 contribution for the Ukrainian teachers' committee responsible for developing Ukrainian language tests for secondary school students in the state of New York.

The Palatine, Ill., branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association received a \$100,000 state grant on February 23 during a social evening at the Ukrainian

Cultural Center in Palatine. The money came from the Illinois First Member Initiative Fund, an initiative by Gov. George Ryan which puts funds into the hands of legislators to disburse to worthy causes in their communities as they see fit. Illinois State Sens. Walter Dudyycz and Wendell Jones each sponsored \$50,000 to go to the building fund of the Cultural Center.

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) completed celebrations of its 75th anniversary during its 26th convention on May 24-27 at the Hyatt Hotel in Sarasota, Fla. The diamond jubilee, whose celebrations began in 2000, culminated with a special program at the convention during which each former president of the respected women's organization was honored for her achievements and work.

During the banquet that evening, Honorary President Anna Krawczuk officially recognized the new national board, headed by Iryna Kurowyckyj, who was re-elected to a second term as president, and administered the oath of office. She also led the assembly in toasting the 75th anniversary of the UNWLA and the 26th UNWLA Convention. Congratulatory letters from dignitaries across the country and around the world were read, including letters from President Leonid Kuchma, President George W. Bush, Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Cardinal Lubomyr Husar and Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate. A congratulatory statement from the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations was personally delivered by President Oksana Sokolyk and Svitlana Kocherha, representing Soyuz Ukrainok of Ukraine, read a warm message from Ukraine's former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko.

On September 27-29 Ukrainian American Bar Association members gathered at the Sheraton Rittenhouse Square Hotel in Philadelphia to celebrate the UABA's 25th anniversary to participate in a professional conference and to honor a select group of individuals for their special achievements.

During the UABA's gala banquet on Saturday evening, Rep. Bob Schaffer of Colorado was presented with the UABA's first Rule of Law Award in recognition of his outstanding work in supporting an independent Ukraine. Bohdan Futey, a federally appointed judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims received the UABA's second Rule of Law Award.

Awards were also presented to attorneys who, according to the UABA, have changed in a significant way the lives of Ukrainian Americans burdened by labels rooted in Soviet propaganda and in the turbulent struggles of World War II. Thus, Arthur Belendiuk, Bohdanna Pochoday-Stelmach and Askold S. Lozynskyj received the Litigation Award for their work in winning a court action against CBS for a 1994 broadcast called "The Ugly Face of Freedom."

The UABA was in the news in 2002 also after the organization filed an amicus curiae brief to challenge a U.S. immigration court's characterization of the Popular Movement of Ukraine (Rukh) as an anti-Semitic, persecutory organization. The author of the brief, which was

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filed on April 22, was Andre Michniak, president of the UABA, who explained that the UABA became involved because the decision characterizing Rukh as an anti-Semitic organization is considered legal precedent. As it stands today, a court or the INS can deny not only asylum but also residence in the United States to applicants based solely on membership in Rukh.

The UABA's "friend of the court brief" has provided accurate information on Rukh to the Board of Immigration Appeals, which might be utilized in future decisions. Mr. Michniak said the UABA also hopes to limit what it considers an inaccurate characterization of Rukh to the facts of the case in which the characterization was originally made. If the BIA agrees with the UABA, the characterization of Rukh as anti-Semitic might become limited to a certain time and place, and to specific events; it would not be applicable to every member of Rukh. In other words, even if some Rukh members might have used the organization for isolated anti-Semitic actions, the organization itself would be considered neither anti-Semitic nor persecutory. As a result, in order to deny asylum to members of Rukh on the basis of participation in the commission of persecutory acts, INS attorneys would need to show that the person applying for asylum actually participated in persecutory acts rather than relying simply on the applicant's membership in Rukh.

The New York Metro Chapter of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America held the first of a planned series of discussions, "How to enter the medical mainstream: Ukraine to U.S. – the success stories," with newly arrived Ukrainian physicians on May 11 at the Selfreliance Association building in Manhattan.

NY Metro officers, led by President Dr. Alexandra Kushnir, hosted a gathering of enthusiastic and inquisitive health care professionals from Ukraine seeking to learn about the process of accrediting their skills for acceptance and use in the United States. The panelists explained what channels are open to newly arrived health care specialists, how to prepare for the inevitable series of examinations, as well as various job options within the medical professions.

The four-hour discussion was the first of a series of meetings representing a new initiative spearheaded by the New York Metro Chapter to make UMANA an association more relevant to its members, and more sensitive to the needs and concerns of Ukrainian-born colleagues.

In other news, Ukrainian Fraternal Association held its 25th Convention at the Clarion Hotel on June 17-20, electing a new president, Jaroslaw Gawur, a former manager of the Verkhovyna resort once owned by the UFA and a former UFA auditor. The convention proceedings were opened by the outgoing president, John Oleksyn. In attendance were 59 delegates and members of the UFA Supreme Council.

Mr. Oleksyn, 80, was feted at a retirement luncheon at the Radisson Hotel in Scranton. He was recognized for nearly 30 years of service to the organization and was named an honorary member of the UFA Supreme Council.

The Ukrainian Music Institute of America – the largest music school in the Ukrainian diaspora – assembled students, alumni, teachers and friends at Carnegie Hall's stately Weill Recital Hall on October 27 for a concert celebrating the organization's 50th anniversary.

Ukrainians also commemorated the 75th anniversary of the 1932-1933 Ukrainian Famine-Genocide with the fourth annual ecumenical requiem service held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on November 16. Prior to the requiem service a bill was introduced in the U.S. Congress to erect a memorial in Washington to the victims of the Famine.

At the initiative of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, was approached with the idea of constructing the monument. The Famine Memorial Bill, H.R. 5289, provides for a parcel of land in Washington for the construction of a memorial, which would be dedicated in 2008 in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Famine.

The bill recognizes the horrific nature of the man-made famine in Ukraine, stating it was "not brought about by natural causes such as pestilence, drought, floods, or poor harvest, but as a consequence of a pre-meditated policy on the part of the Soviet government led by Joseph Stalin to crush the nationally conscious Ukrainian people and destroy their national, political, cultural and religious rights." The bill has been referred to the Resources Committee of the House of Representatives, specifically to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. As of

August 6 the Famine Memorial Bill had 40 co-sponsors.

Some 3,500 Ukrainians, as well as Cardinal and Major Archbishop Lubomyr Husar, primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, and other Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Church hierarchs gathered for the ecumenical requiem service offered for the victims of the Great Famine at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

During 2002, updated data on the total number of Ukrainians in the United States were released in 2002. The 2000 Census supplementary survey showed that the estimated 862,416 Ukrainians living in the U.S. was not a completely accurate number and could be characterized as an underestimate. Updated 2000 census data on ancestry showed the real number closer to 893,055 Ukrainians living in the United States, reported Dr. Oleh Wolowyna.

The census gave detailed information on variables such as: first and second ancestry, age, sex, marital status, place of birth, year of immigration (for immigrants), citizenship status, education, school attendance and type of school, occupation, income of individuals and families, relationship to the head of the household, etc. The census also revealed detailed information about housing characteristics: rent/own status, numbers of rooms and bedrooms, year of structure, mortgage payment, rent, value of house, as well as information on the number of Ukrainians living in a given state and migration patterns within the United States.

Ukrainians in the U.S. also hosted a major conference that brought experts from the United States, Ukraine, the European Union and NATO together in Washington on October 8-9 to evaluate Ukraine's prospects for eventual integration into the structures of the EuroAtlantic community. Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood – Roundtable III: "Ukraine and the EuroAtlantic Community" took into account Ukraine's efforts to move matters from theory to practice, by exploring four major areas of discussion. The conference's topics assessed: the progress of Ukraine's transition to EuroAtlantic structures, the state of European Union-Ukraine relations, the state of U.S.-Ukraine relations and the state of NATO-Ukraine relations. The conference featured 12 panels and two working luncheons, as well as keynote addresses by Sen. Carl Levin, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Rep. Maurice Hinchey of New York.

The Ukrainian Institute of America presented its Man of the Year 2002 Award to Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko of Kyiv at a gala dinner in New York City's Plaza Hotel on December 9. Walter Nazarewicz, president of the UIA, presented the award to Mr. Omelchenko and cited the mayor as the "primary mover of the renaissance of Kyiv."

Mr. Omelchenko also appeared at a press conference with world heavyweight boxing superstars Vitalii and Volodymyr Klitschko at UIA headquarters on 2 E. 79th St., where he was awarded the honorary title of New York State boxing commissioner by Jerome M. Becker, commissioner of the New York State Athletic Commission.

Mr. Omelchenko's two-day trip to New York included a meeting with students and faculty at Columbia University's Harriman Institute; a trip to Ground Zero, the site of the collapsed World Trade Center, where he placed a wreath in commemoration of the terror attacks of 9/11; a private interview with an editor from Business Week magazine; as well as a visit to St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church and School in New York's East Village.

The UIA announced plans to commemorate 2003 with a series of yearlong programs that are intended to show "the changes and the beauty of the 'new' Kyiv," a UIA press release said. Mr. Omelchenko opened the first of those programs during his trip to New York on December 10. Included in the exhibit were over 70 images of present-day Kyiv, video presentations and other information on the city's history, as well as statistics on developments in education, commerce, infrastructure, housing, religion and advertising. According to the chair of the exhibit committee, Ulana Baczynskyj, the Year of the Renaissance of Kyiv program tries to capture the changes taking place in Kyiv and "conveys it in the form of a multimedia experience and brings you momentary immersion into Kyiv city life." The exhibit committee also added that additional programs would follow at two-month intervals and are planned to focus on architecture, art, music and fashion designers of Kyiv.

In conjunction with the UIA's Renaissance of Kyiv program The Weekly ran a six-week series of articles titled "Renaissance of Kyiv." The topics included religion, culture, fashion, economics, as well as features on world champion boxers Vitalii and Volodymyr Klitschko and Mr. Omelchenko.

Demjanjuk, and others targeted by the OSI

During 2002 a federal judge once again revoked the U.S. citizenship of John Demjanjuk, whom the Office of Special Investigations of the U.S. Justice Department accuses of being a guard at several Nazi death and labor camps. The decision was handed down on February 21. Ed Nishnic, spokesman for the Demjanjuk family, told The Weekly on February 27 that Mr. Demjanjuk would appeal the decision.

Judge Paul Matia of the Federal District Court in Cleveland said there is enough evidence to prove Mr. Demjanjuk was a guard at Nazi death and forced labor camps without eyewitness corroboration. The ruling came a little more than eight months after a seven-day trial in the case that ended on June 8, 2001.

"It is true that judges have ruled against us over the past 25 years, and public opinion has seemed to be against us as well. Nevertheless, we have proven them wrong before and we have been vindicated. I am sure everybody will remember that Mr. Demjanjuk was wrongfully convicted, spent seven years in solitary confinement, and was sentenced to death by hanging due to an erroneous decision by a three-judge panel in Israel. They were wrong, and we were vindicated. We will appeal and will prove them wrong once again," Mr. Nishnic told The Weekly.

Mr. Demjanjuk, 81, whose case was initiated more than 25 years ago, has claimed that he served in the Soviet Army, was captured by German forces and was a prisoner of war. The Demjanjuk case dates back to 1977, when the Ohio resident was first accused of being "Ivan the Terrible." A naturalized U.S. citizen, he lost that status in 1981, when a court stripped him of his citizenship. He was ordered deported and in 1986 was extradited to Israel, where a war crimes trial began a year later.

He was sentenced to death in 1988, but that conviction was overturned on appeal in 1993 by Israel's Supreme Court, and Mr. Demjanjuk returned home to Seven Hills, Ohio. His citizenship was restored in 1998. In that 1998 ruling Judge Matia cited fraud on the part of U.S. government prosecutors and wrote that attorneys of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) "acted with reckless disregard for their duty to the court and their discovery obligations" in failing to disclose potentially exculpatory evidence to the Demjanjuk defense.

The Justice Department filed suit again on May 19, 1999, seeking for the second time to revoke Mr. Demjanjuk's U.S. citizenship on the grounds that he illegally gained entry into the United States and illegally gained U.S. citizenship because he had concealed his service as a camp guard. Federal prosecutors now allege that Mr. Demjanjuk served as a guard at the Sobibor, Majdanek and Flossenberg camps, and that he had been trained at the Trawniki camp.

Mr. Demjanjuk denies that he ever served the Nazis, but admits giving false statements when entering the United States in order to escape repatriation to the Soviet Union. Attorney Michael Tigar said during the trial in 2001 that his client is once again the victim of mistaken identity. The New York Times of February 22 reported that Mr. Tigar predicted Mr. Demjanjuk would be cleared.

Later in the year, on June 16, the Simon Wiesenthal Center announced in a press release that it had officially asked Polish judicial authorities to investigate the crimes allegedly committed by Mr. Demjanjuk in Poland during World War II in the Sobibor and Majdanek death camps and the Trawniki training camp. The move was the first step toward his possible extradition to stand trial in Poland. The Wiesenthal Center's request was submitted in Warsaw at a meeting between Dr. Efraim Zuroff, the center's Israeli director and chief Nazi-hunter, and Leon Kieres, head of Poland's National Remembrance Institute.

According to various press reports, Poland was studying the issue. Prof. Kieres told the news media his office is investigating whether it could "put forward charges against Demjanjuk" as a basis for seeking extradition. He explained that the review could take several months.

Commenting on the Wiesenthal Center's latest efforts related to the Demjanjuk case, Mr. Zuroff said, "In view of the recent U.S. decision stripping Ivan Demjanjuk of his American citizenship, which confirmed his service

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at Polish concentration camps, it would be extremely important for him to be tried for the crimes he committed during World War II." He added, "We, therefore, are urging the Polish authorities to initiate an investigation of this case as quickly as possible with a view toward Demjanjuk's extradition for trial in Poland."

The Plain Dealer quoted Joseph McGinness, a Cleveland lawyer who has represented men suspected of helping the Nazis, as saying that Mr. Demjanjuk has gone through enough. "He has been through hell," said Mr. McGinness, who has not handled the Demjanjuk case. "They're trying to destroy this man, absolutely destroy him, and it's just not right."

Meanwhile, at least three other Ukrainians were the subjects of legal action by the Office of Special Investigations.

On May 9, the Justice Department asked a federal court in Brooklyn, N.Y., to revoke the U.S. citizenship of Jakiw Palij, 78, of Jamaica Heights in Queens for his alleged participation "in acts of persecution against Jewish civilians while serving during World War II as an armed guard at an SS slave-labor camp in Nazi-occupied Poland." The OSI alleges that Mr. Palij trained at the Trawniki training camp and subsequently served at the adjacent slave-labor camp in Trawniki as a guard of Jewish civilian prisoners. The complaint also alleged that Mr. Palij lied when he applied for a U.S. immigration visa, misrepresenting his true wartime activities.

The Daily News reported that Mr. Palij is not accused of any specific atrocities, but that "guards like him forced prisoners to work and prevented them from escaping." The newspaper also noted that Mr. Palij says he was forced to serve with the Nazis. No trial date has yet been set for the case.

Speaking in May, OSI Director Eli Rosenbaum stated: "There will be more [cases] in the next few weeks." He declined to give any more details.

On October 25, a federal immigration court in Manhattan ordered that Mykola Wasylyk, 79, of Ellenville, N.Y., be deported, also on the basis that he participated in the persecution of Jewish civilians during the second world war. The move came after Mr. Wasylyk's U.S. citizenship was revoked in July 2001 by the District Court in Syracuse, N.Y., which found that the defendant should have been ineligible for an immigrant visa and that he had committed fraud when applying for entry into this country by concealing his wartime service. Documents filed by the OSI say that Mr. Wasylyk was trained at the Trawniki camp and then served as an armed guard at the slave-labor camp there. Later, the OSI charges, he served as a guard at the Budzyn labor camp.

Also in October, Mr. Wasylyk penned a letter to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, appealing for his intervention at "the eleventh hour." He wrote: "I am seeking a reprieve, a waive of deportation, a miracle."

Mr. Wasylyk went on to tell Mr. Ashcroft his story, explaining that he and other young Ukrainian men were rounded up by the Nazis. "They loaded us all into cattle boxcars, took us into Polish territory, and dropped us in the town of Trawniki. ... We were informed that they were going to train us. ... Approximately two months later, they ordered us to walk the perimeter of our camp. We learned that, on the other side, Jewish prisoners were working in a nearby factory, but we never saw them. Soon after, they transferred our unit to Budzyn, about 100 kilometers away. Nearby, behind a wire fence, were civilian people working in a German factory about 2 kilometers from us. We were never allowed any physical interaction with them. Occasionally they used us as watchmen behind the fence outside of the camp ..."

Mr. Wasylyk underscored: "To date, no one has provided any evidence of war criminality against me. I did not join the SS auxiliary forces or voluntarily serve with them in Trawniki or Budzyn. There is no evidence of any incident in which I was involved that could be considered as directed wrongfully at any other individual, whether a forced laborer-prisoner, or any other person."

He concluded his letter by noting:

"After three years of this constant harassment, I am emotionally, mentally and financially drained. I am on various medications for my heart, prostate and double hip replacement surgeries. I have great difficulty walking with a cane and my hearing is poor. I would be pleased to provide you with all of my pertinent medical records should they be required.

"I have nothing to hide and everything to lose.

"In closing, I am appealing to you, as one human being to another. Please do not allow our justice system

to throw an innocent old man out of the only country he has called home for half a century. I believe in justice and I trust that somehow it will be served to me fairly when all is said and done. Any intervention on my behalf would be greatly appreciated."

At year's end, on December 26, federal officials filed papers at the District Court in Brooklyn to denaturalize Jaroslaw Bilaniuk, 79, of Douglaston, Queens. Once again the Trawniki camp is at the heart of the matter, as the OSI alleges that Mr. Bilaniuk, after being trained at Trawniki, was a guard at the adjacent forced labor camp and that he concealed that activity in order to gain entry into the United States.

The Bilaniuk family issued a statement to the press on December 27, stating that Mr. Bilaniuk "is innocent and he was not involved in any persecution of any people during World War II."

"Our family and relatives were also victims of the Nazi regime and sheltered Jews in Ukraine risking the penalty of death. Unfortunately, our husband and father is the victim of overzealous prosecutors working to justify their existence by superimposing the crimes of the Nazi regime on an innocent, law-abiding citizen of the United States of America. The first step of a smear campaign and vilification in the press is taking place now to arouse the emotions of the reader."

"Our father raised his sons to believe in American ideals and we are confident that justice will be served and our father vindicated, despite the fact that this same OSI office was found to have committed fraud with its 'win at any cost' attitude by a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals," the family noted.

According to the Department of Justice, 71 individuals who assisted in Nazi persecution have been stripped of U.S. citizenship and 57 have been removed from the United States since the OSI began operations in 1979. In addition, more than 150 individuals who sought to enter the United States in recent years have been blocked from doing so as a result of the OSI's "Watch List" program. Some 160 persons remain under investigation by the OSI.

The sports world: boxing, Olympics, etc

The 19th Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, were largely a disappointment for the world of Ukrainian sports in 2002. The Ukrainian delegation, which had some strong medal hopefuls and a handful of outside shots at medals, walked away from Salt Lake empty-handed.

However, the performance of world champion boxers Vitalii and Volodymyr Klitschko made worldwide news and introduced much of the boxing world to the tall, sleek and intelligent Ukrainian boxing duo which, at the close of the year, seemed poised to prove themselves as the best in the sport.

Most recently, Volodymyr Klitschko defeated American Jameel McClint with a 10th round knockout on December 7 in Las Vegas to successfully defend his WBO world championship title. Klitschko won nine of 10 rounds on two scorecards and eight on the third, but was fighting cautiously throughout the bout. Since the younger Klitschko had boxed in Germany for most of his career, the fight was seen as Volodymyr's first big challenge in the United States.

The 26-year-old Volodymyr also defended his title on June 29 against Ray Mercer, winning by technical knockout (TKO) with 1 minute, 8 seconds left in the sixth round. Mercer, whose record was 30-4-1 with 22 knockouts, was bloodied and humbled. In defeating Mercer by TKO, Klitschko (whose record before this bout was 38-1 with 35 knockouts) did what no other fighter in the world had ever done.

Prior to fighting Mercer, the WBO champion dealt a methodical eight-round beating to South African Frans Botha at Hanns-Martin Schleyer Halle in Stuttgart, Germany, on March 16. Botha showed toughness, but was able to generate little offense against the 6-foot-7-inch Volodymyr, who rained hard blows on the "White Buffalo" repeatedly before finally bludgeoning Botha to the mat in the eighth round.

Volodymyr's older brother, Vitalii, successfully defended his World Boxing Association title against Larry Donald on November 23 in front of a crowd of 10,000 people in the Westfalenhalle arena in Dortmund, Germany.

Vitalii boxed skillfully throughout the fight before

knocking Donald out in the 10th round. It was the first time the 35-year-old Donald was knocked out in his 44-fight career. Klitschko, 32-1 with 31 knockouts, dropped Donald five times before the referee counted "The Legend" out with 23 seconds left in the 10th round.

With the win against Donald the spotlight now rests on Vitalii Klitschko, the mandatory challenger for Lennox Lewis. However, the final details of the duel have yet to be ironed out as the fight has been canceled and rescheduled repeatedly. The fight is currently scheduled for March 2003, but rumors from the Lennox Lewis camp have the British fighter walking away from a Klitschko fight in order to box Mike Tyson.

According to a November 18 issue of Sports Illustrated, which featured the Klitschko brothers, Tommy Brooks, who trained both Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield, said that although he does not see Vitalii beating Lewis, were Volodymyr to box Lewis, the Ukrainian would "clean Lennox's clock." The SI article also spoke highly of the intelligence of both brothers, saying: "[Vitalii] Klitschko appears to be more accomplished than Lewis, having hung in with former world [chess] champ Garry Kasparov for 31 moves during a 2001 chess exhibition. This year he played both Vladimir Kramnik and Deep Fritz [in chess] – the reigning human and computer champs, respectively – to draws."

Perhaps the brightest light in Ukraine's performance at the Olympic Games in Salt Lake City this past year was the performance of the men's ice hockey team.

On Saturday, February 9, even before the puck dropped at center ice in Ukraine's first preliminary round game versus Belarus, a tremendous sense of accomplishment surrounded the Ukrainian club. The 2002 Winter Games were Ukraine's first ever participation in Olympic hockey competition. Previously, Ukraine had earned its status in the upper echelon of hockey nations by winning the 1998 B-Pool World Championships.

Team Ukraine boasted three semi-noteworthy Ukrainian-born wingers with varying levels of National Hockey League experience: 12-year veteran Dmitri Khristich of the Washington Capitals, second-year rookie Ruslan Fedotenko of the Philadelphia Flyers and 21-year-old Alexei Ponikarovsky of the Toronto Maple Leafs, recalled from the American Hockey League's St. John's Leafs in mid-January.

Initially the Philadelphia Flyers were not too keen on the idea of giving Fedotenko permission to go to the Olympics, but General Manager Bobby Clarke had a change of heart after he realized Fedotenko was one of only a handful of NHL players on Ukraine's roster.

Team Ukraine gained its Olympic ice hockey berth by placing third at the Olympic Qualification Tournament for the Salt Lake City Games in Oslo, Norway, on August 2, 2001, and followed up this performance with a top-10 finish at the 2001 World Championships in Germany.

With two wins and one loss in Group B of the Olympic hockey competition's preliminary round, Ukraine's record was equal to that of the Belarusian team that emerged atop the group that also included Switzerland and France.

In the end, the deciding match-up was Team Ukraine's first Olympic game, played against Belarus on February 9 that Ukraine lost by a score of 1-0.

Ukraine won its next two games against Switzerland and France to tie Belarus with four points at the conclusion of Group B preliminary round competition. Belarus won its game against France (3-1), but lost to Switzerland (2-1). Thus, Belarus' victory over Ukraine allowed the Belarusians to move on to play the Russian Federation in the next round.

The result against Belarus – a one-goal difference – turned out to be the key factor in Ukraine's relegation to play for ninth place against Latvia, a lopsided game which Ukraine lost 9-2.

The best result Ukraine's athletes could muster at the Winter Games was a pair of fifth-place finishes in men's freestyle aerials and women's 30-kilometer cross-country skiing.

In both events the fifth-place results came as a pleasant and unexpected surprise for the competitors, highlighting a bright spot in Ukraine's disappointing final medal count of zero.

In the men's freestyle aerials event, Stanislav Kravchuk told The Weekly that he expected to do no better than sixth place, but was shooting to place in the top 10. Mr. Kravchuk's fifth-place finish was seen as one of Ukraine's highlights during the Salt Lake Games. The other bright spots for Ukraine were Valentyna Shevchenko, who took an unexpected fifth-place finish in the women's 30-kilometer cross-country event, and Lilia Ludan, whose sixth-place finish in the women's luge surprised many people.

The overall disappointment in the Ukrainian camp came

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AP/Mary Godleski

WBO heavyweight champion Volodymyr Klitschko (right) holds up his belt with his brother, Vitalii, after defeating Ray Mercer at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, N.J., on June 29.

mainly from the women's biathlon team which resulted in the firing of a biathlon coach and biathlon team leader. Prior to the Winter Games in Salt Lake City it seemed the greatest hope for a Ukrainian medal would rest with the biathlon team, specifically Olena Zubrylova. Ms. Zubrylova finished 34th in the 15-kilometer event, what had arguably been her strongest event. She had earned a gold medal in that same event at the 1999 World Championships.

Vladimir Platonov, vice-president of the NOC-Ukraine and rector of the State University of Physical Education and Sport, later told *The Weekly* that poor preparation and internal dissension were behind the failure of Ukraine's Olympians to win a single medal in Salt Lake City.

Additionally, Mr. Platonov also admitted that cross-country skier Iryna Terelia, who, along with Russian cross-country skier Larissa Lazutina was disqualified from the cross-country relay on the final day of competition, had indeed taken a banned substance, which had enhanced her red blood cell count. He called the incident unfortunate and explained that neither her federation nor her coaches sanctioned her action.

It was later suggested that the problems for the biathlon team began after the squad reached the top of the sport with its world championship in 1999. Then the federation's president, Ivan Biekov, who had directed it since 1991 and led it to the top spot in the world, was replaced. To help in raising badly needed funds, the new federation head asked businessmen to get involved in the federation's activities. The businessmen, however, put the accent on developing their commercial projects at the expense of the federation's successes, explained Mr. Platonov, and the squad's downhill slide began. As a consequence, many of the leading trainers that Mr. Biekov had retained left as well.

Ukrainian biathlete Ms. Zubrylova and her personal coach and husband, Roman Zubrylov, then moved to Belarus on July 9 after expressing dissatisfaction with the way the Ukrainian sports officials have treated them. Ms. Zubrylova's contract expired this past year and the renegotiation process with Ukrainian authorities failed, causing the Zubrylovs to leave.

Ms. Zubrylova is not the first Ukrainian winter sport athlete to decide to stop performing under the Ukrainian flag. Earlier, several athletes had left for Russia. A top freestyle skier, Alla Tsuper, was the first to trade her Ukrainian citizenship for a Belarusian one, in order to obtain the opportunity to train in adequate conditions.

Ms. Zubrylova is no ordinary athlete. Her first success came in 1997 when she won three silver medals in individual events at the World Championships. In 1999 Ms. Zubrylova brought Ukraine a World Cup gold medal as she crossed the finish line of the 15-kilometer race with a Ukrainian flag in her hands. In all, she has won four World Championship gold medals during her career. Although her performance during the Salt Lake City Olympics, where she failed to medal, was disappointing, she made a comeback later during the 2002 season, winning a World Championship title in Holmenkollen, Norway, in March.

In preparing for the 2002 Olympic Games members of Ukraine's biathlon, cross-country and figure skating teams

spent several weeks prior to the opening of the 19th Winter Olympiad training in Sun Valley, Idaho, thanks in large part to the work of Laryssa Barabash-Temple, attaché for the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, Jack Sibbach of the Sun Valley Company, and Chip Fisher, president of the Idaho governor's Olympic Committee. Ms. Temple was also instrumental in securing press accreditation for *The Weekly* at the Salt Lake Games.

On the women's side of Olympic hockey competition, Tammy Lee Shewchuk, a member of Team Canada's women's Olympic gold medal ice hockey team, met with over 150 students of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Ukrainian Saturday School in Montreal on April 6. According to the newspaper *Ukrainian News*, Ms. Shewchuk "explained to her audience how her grandparents played an important role in her upbringing and [in] teaching her to speak Ukrainian – and talked about how proud she was of her Ukrainian heritage."

Zenon Snylyk, a former editor of *The Ukrainian Weekly* and former editor-in-chief of the *Svoboda* daily, passed away on January 21, at the age of 68. His sports biography earned him renown, and a place in history, as Mr. Snylyk played on and captained U.S. National Soccer Teams that

competed in the Pan-American Games, the World Cup and at the Olympic Games in the years between 1956 and 1964.

Mr. Snylyk played on three U.S. Olympic Teams – in 1956, 1960 and 1964 – and was captain of the first two. At the time Mr. Snylyk was the only American player in history to make three Olympic teams. Twice he played on U.S. National Teams in the Pan-American Games – in 1959, when he was team captain, and in 1963.

On the three types of U.S. National Teams, Mr. Snylyk represented America in a combined total of 92 international matches.

With the U.S. National Teams, Mr. Snylyk traveled all over the world, competing on all five continents. To him a particularly memorable event was the preliminary match for the World Cup on November 13, 1960, in Mexico City. He cherished the historic photograph immortalizing this event, which shows him standing in the middle of the field, the stadium brimming with 115,000 spectators, and, as captain of the U.S. World Cup Team, presenting a pennant to the captain of the Mexican squad.

Above all, Mr. Snylyk was a Ukrainian patriot and that outlook informed his editorial policy. As top editor of *UNA* publications for a period of over 36 years, he made sure they reflected the views and values of the Ukrainian community in America. He was a passionate defender of the purity of the Ukrainian literary language, vehemently opposing the Russification of Ukrainian language and orthography so evident in Soviet and post-Soviet Ukraine.

Former U.S. Olympian Yaro Dachniwsky of Chicago carried the Olympic torch in Racine, Wis., in early January as it traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, which began on February 8.

Mr. Dachniwsky, a former professional soccer player, today is senior manager of corporate sales for the Chicago Fire of Major League Soccer. He was a member of the 1996 U.S. Olympic Handball Team, playing the position of goalkeeper and contributing mightily to the team's ninth place finish in Atlanta – the best U.S. Olympic Team finish ever in that sport.

In the world of chess, Ruslan Ponomaryov, 18, of Kramatorsk on January 23, became the new champion of the world, after defeating his countryman, Vasyl Ivanchuk of Lviv, by a score of 4 1/2:2 1/2 in the final match of the world chess championship, staged by the International Chess Federation FIDE in Moscow.

The winner went undefeated, posting a record of two wins and five draws. Mr. Ponomaryov is the first Ukrainian and the youngest player ever to capture the world title. The world championship match between Ukraine's top two grandmasters had been described as an event of epic significance for Ukrainian chess.

For the first time in history Ukraine possesses both the team and the individual world chess championships – and both of them have Ruslan Ponomaryov written all



Andrew Nynka

Ukraine's Olympic ice hockey team (right) congratulates Team Latvia (left) following a 9-2 loss to the Baltic country on February 14. Team Ukraine, which for the first time competed in Olympic ice hockey, finished the 16-team tournament in 10th place.

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over them.

Mr. Ponomaryov was born on October 11, 1983, in the city of Horlivka in the Donbas region of Ukraine. He learned chess moves at age 7 and since the age of 12 has been living under the guidance of a full-time chess coach. In the under-18 age category he won the European championship at age 12 and the world championship at 13.

Twelve-year-old Ukrainian Serhiy Karjakin became the youngest person to achieve the rank of grand master during the Sudak Tournament in Ukraine on August 2-12. Mr. Karjakin was 12 years and exactly 7 months old when he attained the rank. Before Mr. Karjakin, the youngest grand master was Bu Xiangzhi of China at age 13 years, 10 months and 13 days. Mr. Ponomaryov became a grand master when he was 14 years and 17 days old, while world-renowned grand master Bobby Fischer accomplished the feat when he was 15 years, 6 months and 1 day old.

The youngster, Mr. Karjakin, was also one of Mr. Ponomaryov's official trainers during the all-Ukrainian FIDE championship between Ponomaryov and Vasyl Ivanchuk of Lviv on January 23 in Moscow.

Additionally, the 2002 chess championship of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) took place on October 5 at the Verkhovyna resort in Glen Spey, N.Y. The 12 participants included representatives of five Ukrainian American sports clubs plus two unaffiliated recent arrivals from Ukraine.

Five rounds of competition using the Swiss system produced a clear winner in Borys Baczynskij (Tryzub, Philadelphia), a chess master and winner of many Ukrainian tournaments, who posted a score of 4:1. Mr. Baczynskij had victories over the reigning USCAK champion, Olexa Podebryi, and Peter Radomskij, the only other master in this year's event. The winner's prize was \$200.

In soccer news, legendary Ukrainian soccer coach Valerii Lobanovsky, 63, died on May 13 after suffering a stroke. Almost 100,000 people descended on Dynamo Stadium in Kyiv on May 16 to pay homage to the soccer coach.

Mr. Lobanovsky was coaching a game between his Dynamo Kyiv and Zaporizhia Metallurg on May 9, when he became ill, but stayed on the field until his team had attained victory before being transferred to a local hospital by emergency vehicle. He was reported to have suffered a stroke, and his condition worsened in the next three days. He died in Zaporizhia after a second stroke and a brain operation that failed to improve his situation.

Forty minutes into the viewing, the lines were halted as a large group of national deputies numbering more than a hundred entered the stadium, led by National Deputies Valerii Pustovoitenko, a former head of the Ukrainian Soccer Federation, Leonid Kravchuk, the country's first president, and Viktor Medvedchuk.

Shortly after that, President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh and a bevy of ministers and government officials paid their respects. President Kuchma told reporters that Mr. Lobanovsky meant much more to Ukraine than simply soccer.

With thousands of people lining the streets of Kyiv, the hearse bearing the casket of the late legend was moved from the stadium to Baikove Cemetery on the afternoon of May 16, where Mr. Lobanovsky was given a state burial.

On the day of his death, President Kuchma posthumously awarded Mr. Lobanovsky the Hero of Ukraine medal. The same day the Kyiv Dynamo board of directors voted to

change the name of Dynamo Stadium to Dynamo-Lobanovsky Stadium.

In diaspora sports the Carpathian Ski Club's (KLK) annual ski races were held on February 23 at Ski Windham in Windham, N.Y. Close to 60 skiers competed in the race held annually in the Catskill Mountains of New York state. Along with the various skiing categories the 2002 KLK races introduced snowboard racing in a separate category, and six athletes of various ages competed on snowboards.

Awards were presented that evening during a banquet for skiers, their families and guests, held at Hunter Mountain in nearby Hunter, N.Y. KLK leaders Erko Palydowycz, Orest Fedash and Zenon Stakhiv conducted the evening's program.

In diaspora soccer news, Nicolaus Kasian was inducted on April 27 into the Hall of Fame of the Philadelphia Old Timers Soccer Association in recognition of his outstanding achievements and contributions in the sport of soccer. This honor was followed on May 1 by formal recognition of his 35 years of distinguished service by the Philadelphia Referees Association. These events marked the culmination of a career devoted to soccer.

The 46th annual Labor Day weekend swim meet was held at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort on August 31 by the Carpathian Ski Club (KLK) under the auspices of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (known by its Ukrainian acronym, USCAK). Trophies and ribbons awarded to individual athletes and teams were funded by the Ukrainian National Association.

Fifty swimmers registered to compete in the meet – among them 17 members of Chornomorska Sitch, a like number of members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), five from the Tryzub sports club and three from Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

Ultimately, it was the SUM swimmers who were triumphant, winning the team trophy for most points scored during the meet, a total of 168 earned by its athletes. Second place went to Sitch with 145 points. Tryzub earned 59 points, while Plast earned 18.

Also during the Labor Day weekend, USCAK held the 47th annual national tennis championships at Soyuzivka, the resort of the Ukrainian National Association. This past year's tournament was dedicated to the memory of Zenon Snylyk, a great athlete, chief editor of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda, and a member of USCAK's tennis committee, who passed away in January 2002. The dedication ceremony was a celebration of Mr. Snylyk's life and was presented during the opening activities of the tennis tournament and the swimming championships, which were held concurrently at Soyuzivka.

Almost 60 tennis players of various age groups participated in this year's tournament. The Ukrainian National Association sponsored the trophy awards. As in many previous years, the firm of Winner Group from Wilmington, Del., whose owner and president is John Hynansky, sponsored the financial stipends for the men's, women's and junior groups. This year the total amount of stipends was \$3,500.

In the men's group, Mark Oryskovich from Chicago defended last year's title by defeating Andrew Salak in a three-and-a-half-hour-long final. In the women's group, last year's finalist, Ann Marie Schumsky from West Hartford, Conn., won the title by defeating Maya Milanytch in two sets.

Scholarly activity spans the globe

Spanning the globe – that might well be the best description of the activity of Ukrainian scholarly circles during 2002, as major events and developments were recorded in the United States, Germany, Ukraine, Canada and elsewhere.

Following is a chronological summary of the most significant news in the world of academia.

- The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) in February announced plans to launch a website devoted to the Ukrainian translation of George Orwell's satire of Russian Communism, "Animal Farm." Ihor Sevcenko, a co-founder of HURI published the translation in 1947 under the pseudonym Ivan Cherniatynskiy, after exchanging letters with Orwell. The translation was seen by Orwell as a valuable tool for Eastern European intellectual circles in opposition to Stalin's tyranny. As part of the project, the original version and a previously unpublished reviewed version that Prof. Sevcenko worked out with Orwell will be made available. In addition, the website will feature Orwell and Sevcenko's correspondence and analysis of the work.

- Also in February, HURI held a book presentation and reception for Patricia Kennedy Grimsted's trailblazing study "Trophies of War and Empire: The Archival Heritage of Ukraine, World War II, and the International Politics of Restitution" (Cambridge, Mass.: HURI, 2001). On this occasion, Dr. Grimsted presented an update on the recently published volume. Dr. Grimsted's book has had the most review requests of any HURI book and has won praise from specialists in such diverse fields as archival studies, history, the Holocaust, restitution studies and international law.

- Ukrainian intellectual heavyweights from around the globe, including representatives of two respected academic societies, gathered in Kyiv on February 12 to announce the release of the first volume of the Encyclopedia of Modern Ukraine. The encyclopedia, which is expected to consist of 25 volumes with some 65,000 entries at its completion, was developed to document the development of Ukrainian society and culture in the 20th century and the transformation of the Ukrainian nation into an independent state, which today is a decade old. The encyclopedia was a joint effort of the National Academy of Sciences, headquartered in Kyiv, and the Shevchenko Scientific Society, an international organization centered in New York. Leading scholars of both organizations, from Ukraine and abroad, contributed to its development.

- The Ukrainian Free University in Munich began its year with a special occasion, as Helmut Kohl, former chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, received Leonid Rudnytsky, rector of the Ukrainian Free University (UFU), in a special audience held in Berlin on February 14. The occasion was the presentation of a commemorative booklet containing photographs and speeches from a ceremony held on December 4, 2000, during which Chancellor Kohl was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Ukrainian State University of Forestry and Wood Technology in Lviv. Dr. Kohl had a lengthy conversation with Prof. Rudnytsky concerning life in contemporary Ukraine and the work of the Ukrainian Free University in Munich.

- The Shevchenko Scientific Society of America (NTSh) hosted the 22nd annual scholarly conference dedicated to Taras Shevchenko on March 10 in New York City. The highlight of the conference was the presentation of two books published in Ukrainian by NTSh in 2001. One of the books, "A Concordance to the Poetic Works of Taras Shevchenko," compiled by Dr. Oleh Ilnytskyj and George Hawrysch, is the first ever concordance on Ukrainian literature. The four-volume, 3,200-page work lists every word used by Shevchenko, presented in the context of the surrounding sentences. The concordance lets scholars easily trace nuances of meaning and grammatical structures, and is expected to facilitate a greater understanding of Shevchenko's work. The other book presented at the conference was "The Worlds of Taras Shevchenko," Vol. 2, a collection of articles edited by NTSh President Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, Prof. Assya Humesky and Dr. John Fizer.

At the NTSh conference, Dr. Ilnytskyj, a professor of Ukrainian literature at the University of Alberta, presented a lecture titled "The Word 'Zhyd' in the works of Shevchenko." Some of Shevchenko's critics have labeled him an anti-Semite because his works contain the word "zhyd," which is an offensive term in Russian, but a benign one in Ukrainian. In fact, Dr. Ilnytskyj noted that Shevchenko, in various works, openly opposed anti-Semitism in the Russian Empire. "Shevchenko and Post-Colonialism" was the topic explored by Prof. Vitaly



Ukrainians Ruslan Ponomaryov (right) and Vasyl Ivanchuk during the world chess championships in Moscow on January 23. Mr. Ponomaryov won.

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Chernetsky of the Harriman Institute of Columbia University. Prof. Grabowicz of HURI spoke on "The Current State of Scholarly Research on Shevchenko: Some Thoughts on the Subject of Recent Publications and Presentations."

Some worrisome closing thoughts were shared by Dr. Olexa Bilaniuk, UVAN president, who traced the history of the struggle of the Ukrainian language for survival in the face of the imperialist Russian onslaught. Realizing that "the word is mightier than the sword," said Dr. Bilaniuk, tsarist Russia in the 19th century banned the Ukrainian language both from print and public speech. After a brief rebirth in the 1920s, the Ukrainian language fell victim to a new wave of compulsory Russification beginning in the early 1930s when, among other measures, some 40,000 Ukrainian terms were specifically excluded from usage by Moscow's edict. Russification reached its peak in the Brezhnev era, when the unconcealed policy of the Soviet regime was to mold all Soviet peoples into one Russian-speaking nation. "We all had expected," said Dr. Bilaniuk, that upon gaining national independence Ukraine would restore its original language and orthography but, sadly, this has not happened. A project of the Orthography Commission of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine which proposed a partial de-Russification of the Ukrainian orthography has just been canceled by Ukraine's government and the commission itself was suddenly disbanded. Thus, the struggle for the Ukrainian language has gone full cycle.

• A short time later, on March 21, the Shevchenko Scientific Society was the beneficiary of a special recital held by world-renowned Metropolitan Opera soloist Paul Plishka and internationally acclaimed pianist Thomas Hrynkiw. The event was sponsored by India House, known as a gathering place for those engaged in foreign commerce. Funds raised at the benefit went toward the society's scholarship fund.

• Ukraine was the principal focus of the seventh annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) held in New York on April 11-13. This year's convention featured 18 panels, roundtables and video presentations, the most of any other post-Soviet country, including Russia. The convention saw an unprecedented emphasis on language in Ukraine, explored in three different panels: "Nationality and Language in the 2001 Ukrainian Census," "Language Policies and Politics in Ukraine and Belarus" and "Political, Social and Linguistic Implications of Surzhyk in Ukraine Today." The "surzhyk" roundtable, organized by the Shevchenko Scientific Society of New York with the active participation of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, was particularly well-attended. Other panels and papers explored topics as diverse as "Dealing with Diasporas," "Ukraine's Loss of Human Resources: Immigrants from Ukraine to Canada, 1999-2001," "Civic Values and Religious Education in Ukraine Today" and "Lemko Separatism and Ethnic Politics of the Polish Government in the 21st Century."

• In Canada on April 11-13, the University of Alberta looked at the topic of "Ukrainians in Canada from the Great War to the Cold War." Titled "A Rock and a Hard Place," the conference brought together Ukrainian Canadian specialists and enthusiasts to hear presentations on matters ranging from a history of the hemp seed oil press in east central Alberta to a treatment of the Vasile Avramenko dance repertoire within the "paradigm of national art." The conference was organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Program of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. The April date coincided with the 25th anniversary banquet of the CIUS and, thus, highlighted the institute's important role in the development of Ukrainian-Canadian studies over the last quarter-century.

The conference also provided an opportunity for representatives of the CIUS-UCP, the Ukrainian Resource and Development Center at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton, the Canadian Center for Ukrainian Culture and Ethnology at the University of Alberta, the Prairie Center for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage in Saskatoon, the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies at the University of Manitoba and the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies to get together before the conference to look at ways in which to best cooperate in the development of Ukrainian Canadian studies.

• Meanwhile, in Switzerland, an international conference titled "Ukraine: Challenges of a Country in Transformation" was held on April 19-20, at the University of Fribourg. The organizers of the conference were: the Interfaculty Institute of East and Central Europe, the Institute for Ecumenical Studies, and the Ukrainian Society of Switzerland (Andrej N. Lushnycky, president). This was the second such symposium devoted exclusively to Ukrainian subjects. The first, in November 2001, was composed of many distinguished international guests, among

them the former president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, and was dedicated to the celebration of 10 years of Ukrainian independence. The 2002 conference featured 16 speakers from nine countries and was held in the context of the annual "European Days" at the university, a celebration of the establishment of the Council of Europe. Topics covered included political changes, the media, security issues, economic cooperation, Church and religion, and literature and culture.

• At the HURI-sponsored Vasyl and Maria Petryshyn Memorial Lecture at Harvard University, Dr. Natalia Yakovenko argued that the common view of the relationship between Orthodox and Catholics during the 16th and 17th centuries is rooted in myth rather than reality. The April 22 lecture – titled "Orthodox, Catholics, Protestants: Religious Co-Existence in Ukraine in the 16th-17th Centuries" – sought to prove that the perceived tensions between religious groups of that period came about because historians misread the works of church polemicists. According to Dr. Yakovenko, Churches were competing for the souls of Christians, and their rhetorical communications acquired the status of bona fide testimony. She pointed to much evidence that religious groups of that period co-existed peacefully and presented records showing a good deal of inter-faith marriage among Orthodox, Catholics and Protestants.

• At the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York on April 27, two noted Ukrainian scholars discussed the ongoing process of building a Ukrainian national state. Dr. Natalia Yakovenko, a professor of history at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and a visiting scholar at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute spoke of the dramatic contrast in the status of historiography before and after independence. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, she explained, discussions about history have been more honest and there has been an increased amount of collaboration with other European countries, resulting in more access to scholarly works.

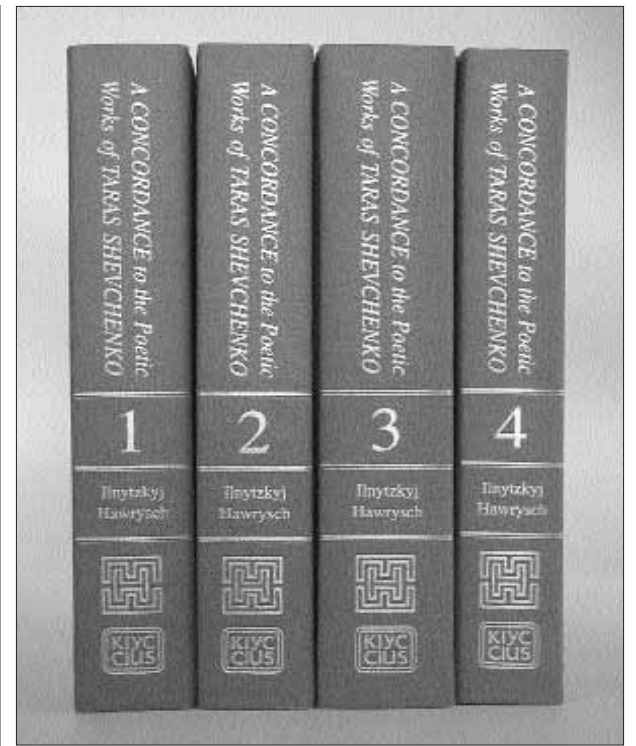
Dr. Oleh Romaniv, a member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the secretary general of the Shevchenko Scientific Society's World Council, spoke about the irregularities in Ukraine's parliamentary elections. Dr. Romaniv explained how President Leonid Kuchma's For a United Ukraine bloc had rigged votes in rural areas, sidestepping the European observers monitoring the ballots in major cities. In a fair election, Dr. Romaniv said, Victor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc would have garnered up to 35 percent of the by-party vote, rather than the 23.6 percent it won in March.

• "Language and Identity" was the theme of a conference held on April 27 at St. Vladimir's Institute in Toronto. Topics addressed included: How important is language for identity and vice versa? Who in Canada is speaking Ukrainian? Who is learning it? The conference organizers were the Educational Council of the Ukrainian World Congress, the Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada and the Ukrainian Canadian School Board-Toronto Branch; speakers included representatives of the University of Toronto, Ryerson University, the University of Alberta and Zielonogorski University in Poland. A presentation of Dr. Oleh Wolowyna's census-based research on the situation of the Ukrainian language (originally prepared for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress) was made to provide a demographic foundation to the language question in Canada.

• An international conference entitled "Ivan Mazepa and his Followers: State Ideology, History, Religion, Literature, Culture" was held at the conference center of the University of Milan at Gargnano del Garda, Italy, on May 7-11. Sponsored by the Slavic and Ugro-Finnic Section of the Department of Linguistic, Literary and Philological Studies, the conference included papers by 11 Ukrainian scholars from Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv and Chernihiv, four from Canada, four from Poland, three from Italy, two from Russia, two from France, one from Germany, one from Estonia, and one from Israel. Conference organizer Prof. Giovanna Brogi-Bercoff of the University of Milan opened the proceedings with an exhortation that the time had come to discuss the multi-faceted figure of Mazepa and his age divorced from the political and ideological polemics that have dominated for the last three centuries.

• The 250th anniversary of the composer and conductor Dmytro Bortniansky (1751-1825), generally recognized as a giant in Ukrainian religious music, was observed by the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) at its building in New York on May 18 with a musicological conference and a concert in his honor. The conference offered lectures richly illustrated with recordings of Bortniansky's choral and orchestral music, and was crowned with a live solo performance of a selection of his songs.

• A roundtable organized by the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences (UVAN) with the Shevchenko



The four-volume "Concordance to the Poetic Works of Taras Shevchenko," compiled by Dr. Oleh Ihnytzkyj and George Hawrysch.

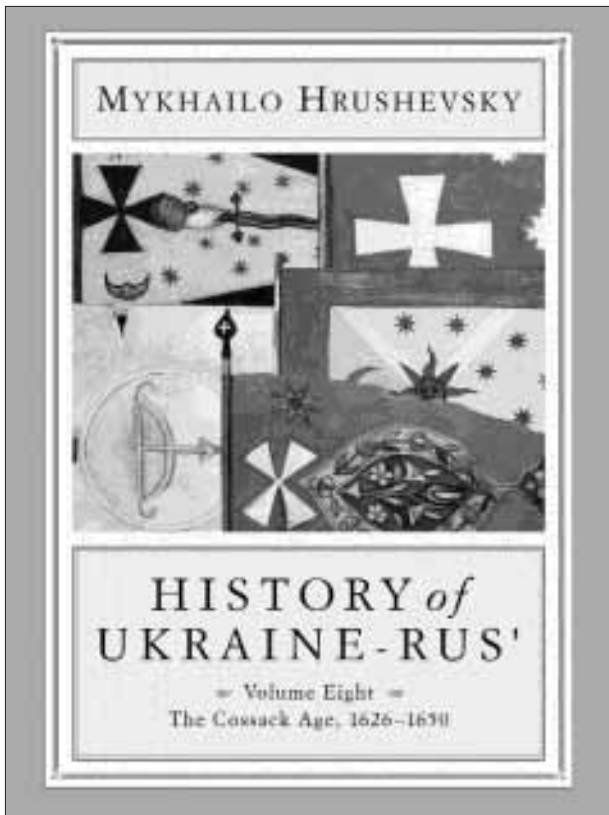
Scientific Society of Canada discussed the state and future of Ukrainian studies in Canada. Held at the Canadian Ukrainian Art Foundation gallery on May 25, the roundtable attracted participants from all across Canada. Speakers included scholars from York University, the University of Toronto, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the universities of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec, the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute at St. Paul's University and the University of Trent. The conclusion was that declining student enrollment in Ukrainian studies and courses is challenging academics to re-evaluate the field of Ukrainian studies. As the university which enjoys administrative and government support, Alberta is currently the functioning center of Ukrainian studies in Canada. The two other western universities – Manitoba and Saskatchewan – continue to hold their own and, although their enrollment numbers are falling, they are not yet considered to be at a crisis level. Although the Metropolitan Sheptytsky Institute has developed a niche for Ukrainian studies within Eastern Christian Studies, other Ontario universities need a variety of creative approaches to position Ukrainian courses and topics within the new societal and academic constellations.

• The Toronto Office of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies celebrated 25 years of the institute's work on May 26, a date chosen to coincide with the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Slavists, then being held on the University of Toronto campus. The festivities were enhanced by two interesting and significant academic events: the annual Danylo H. Struk Memorial Lecture and a book launch for the four-volume "Concordance to the Poetic Works of Taras Shevchenko."

The Struk Memorial Lecture – supported by a fund established in memory of Prof. Struk and administered by the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies – was delivered this year by Dr. Oleh Ihnytzkyj, professor of Ukrainian literature at the University of Alberta department of modern languages and Cultural Studies. In a most interesting and illuminating presentation titled "Deconstructing Gogol's/Hohol's two 'Souls'," Dr. Ihnytzkyj refuted the conventional explanation of Gogol/Hohol as a Russian writer and presented his views on Mykola Hohol's/Nikolai Gogol's national identity and the nature of the broad interplay between Ukrainian and Russian literature in the 19th century.

• President Leonid Kuchma's decree "On the Commemoration of the 350th Anniversary of the Pereiaslav Kozak Council of 1654" – an event that led to the abolition of the independent Ukrainian state formed under Bohdan Khmelnytsky's leadership – raised the ire of the scholarly community. First to react in the diaspora was the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, led by Dr. Zenon E. Kohut, CIUS director; Dr. Frank Sysyn, director, Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research; and Dr. Serhii Plokyh, director, Church Studies Program. In a June 14 open letter to Ukrainian historians, the CIUS argued that, "Intentionally or not, the presidential decree of March 13 politicizes historical scholarship in order to legitimize a possible change in the foreign policy of Ukraine and reorient the historical consciousness of the Ukrainian people. Your participation in these measures – commemorating an event that most historians on the organizing committee con-

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Volume 8 of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine-Rus" – "The Cossack Age, 1626-1650."

tinue to regard as a decision forced upon our 'great Bohdan' – will lend legitimacy to those forces in Ukraine and beyond that seek to resurrect the empire that Pereiaslav helped create. That would be a disservice to Russia and Ukraine, whose progress requires not the rebuilding of the empire but the development of democratic nation-states." Similar reactions came from the Shevchenko Scientific Society of both the United States and Canada (July 3), the World Scholarly Council of the Ukrainian World Congress (July 12), the Ukrainian World Congress (July 16) and other quarters.

• Dmytro Mymka, a retired farmer who died at age 98, left \$500,000 to the Center for Ukrainian Studies at the University of Manitoba in what was one of the largest individual bequests ever received by the University of Manitoba. A university press release reported that Mr. Mymka had no connection to the university but wanted to remember his province and heritage. He was born in Ethelbert in 1903 to Ukrainian immigrants who arrived in 1897 among the first wave of Ukrainian settlers in Manitoba. Mr. Mymka worked on the Winnipeg-Churchill railroad and farmed in the Red River area until 1966, when he retired to Vancouver. The unsolicited gift from Mr. Mymka, which was announced in July, will increase the center's endowment significantly.

"Mr. Mymka has made a contribution to his community, his province and our university that cannot be underestimated," said Denis Hlynka, the center's acting director. Through the new Dmytro Mymka Research and Scholarship Endowment Fund, the center will be able to expand research and community service, and explore new ways of delivering courses. The center, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2001, funds up to 17 undergraduate courses in Ukrainian Canadian literature, language, history, economics, religion and arts as part of its mission to create, preserve and communicate knowledge relating to Ukrainian Canadian culture and scholarship.

• "Ukrainian Archives in North America: Their Development and Their Future" was the main theme of the 21st annual conference on Ukrainian subjects held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on July 19-20. The conference was organized by the Ukrainian Research Program at the University of Illinois under the chairmanship of Prof. Dmytro Shtohryn and was held within the framework of the Summer Research Laboratory on Eastern European countries.

• The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute 2002 (HUSI) concluded on August 16. Thirty-four students from North America and Ukraine, Japan, Poland, Lithuania, Belarus and Italy took courses in Ukrainian studies that included Ukrainian language and history, as well as two pioneering courses: "Images of Ukraine in Western Culture" (Lubomyr Hajda and Ksenia Kiebuszinski) and "Ukraine as Linguistic Battlefield" (Michael Flier). The most significant event of the HUSI cultural calendar was the screening of "A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa," the latest film by the world-renowned Yuri Illienko – a film that had caused an uproar in Ukraine even before its release for the general viewer. The Harvard screening was the film's de facto North American premiere.

• The International Foundation of Omelan and Tetiana Antonovych announced the laureates of its 21st annual awards for literary and scholarly achievement on August 17 at the newly remodeled Vasyl Stefanyk Scientific Library in Lviv. Historians Yurii Shapoval and Yaroslav Isaievych won the 2002 prizes in the scholarly category, while Hryhorii Huseinov, little-known outside Ukraine, was presented the award for literary achievement.

Dr. Shapoval, an internationally recognized expert on the Soviet secret police, a member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and director of the Institute of Political and Ethno-National Studies, has combed Kyiv and Moscow archives for years and written extensively on the dark world of the Soviet intelligence agencies, such as the KGB, NKVD, CheKa, MVD and GPU. He was recognized for his complete body of work, including "The Person and the System," published in 1994; "Mykhailo Hrushevsky and the GPU-NKVD," which was produced in 1996; as well as "Poland and Ukraine in the 1930s-1940s: Unknown Documents from the Archives of the Special Services," published in 2000 in two tomes. Prof. Isaievich, the director of the Krypiakievych Institute of Ukrainian Studies and a member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, has authored "The First Printer, Ivan Fedorov, and the Beginning of Printing in Ukraine," (1975); and "Ukrainian Book Publishing: Its Wellspring, Development and Problems;" (2001). He was recognized for his contribution to research on the development of book publishing in Ukraine.

Mr. Huseinov, was recognized for the Ukrainian-language literary magazine, Kurier KryvBas, which he has published and edited in his hometown of Kryvyi Rih since 1994. National Deputy Mykola Zhulynskyi, a member of the jury that decided on the winners, gave particular praise to Mr. Huseinov, who has published extensively in Ukraine and is the author of a five-volume book of literary works called "Hospodni Zerna" (God's Seeds). "He has supported Ukrainianism, Ukrainian themes and literature in an atmosphere not very conducive to the development of things Ukrainian," explained Dr. Zhulynskyi, referring to the very Russified character of the Kryvyi Rih region of southern Ukraine that Mr. Huseinov calls home. Writer and literary critic Ivan Dzyuba said of Mr. Huseinov: "He is a Ukrainian marvel from the steppe. He has told us about the south of which we know too little. He has shown us how much of the truly Ukrainian is contained there."

• An international conference titled "Ukraine-Russia: A Dialogue of Historiographies" was held on August 23-25 in Chernihiv, a city whose monuments and history are reminiscent of the 1,000-year history of Ukraine-Rus'. The conference was initiated and co-sponsored by the Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (Edmonton) and the Institute of European Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Kyiv). Others involved in sponsoring or organizing the conference included the Viacheslav Lypynsky East European Research Institute (Philadelphia), the Taras Shevchenko State Pedagogical University (Chernihiv) and the Siverian Institute of Regional Studies (Chernihiv). About 30 historians from Ukraine, Russia, the United States and Canada participated in the conference, which attempted to understand recent developments in both Ukrainian and Russian historiographies, which 10 years ago had embarked on the path of post-Soviet transformation.

• The International Congress of Ukrainian Studies held in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, on August 26-29, elected Prof. Mark von Hagen of Columbia University as president of the International Association for Ukrainian Studies. Other officers elected at the congress were: First Vice-President Yaroslav Hrytsak (Ukraine); Vice-Presidents Joanna Berkoff (Italy), Tamara Hundorova (Ukraine), Stefan Kozak (Poland), Halyna Lisna (Russia), Wolf Moskovich (Israel), Marko Pavlyshyn (Australia) and Frank Sysyn (Canada); and Scholarly Secretaries Antonina Berezovenko (USA) and Serhii Lepiavko (Ukraine).

• On October 13, The Ukrainian Weekly's front page featured a story headlined "Ukrainian Studies Fund announces campaign for new center at Columbia." The story reported that the USF had inaugurated a capital campaign to fund a new center for Ukrainian studies at the prestigious and influential Columbia University in New York City. A planned endowment fund of \$5 million is to become the prime funding source for the center's programs. The first step in establishing the Ukrainian Studies Center is focused on the establishment of a new teaching position at Columbia in Ukrainian history. The USF's announced goal was to raise \$1 million of capital within a year since that amount will be sufficient to initiate and sustain the teaching position in Ukrainian history. Founded in 1957 by students of the Ukrainian diaspora, the USF's mission is the advancement of knowledge about Ukraine in the United States and Canada, via the establishment and funding of

centers of Ukrainian studies in North American universities.

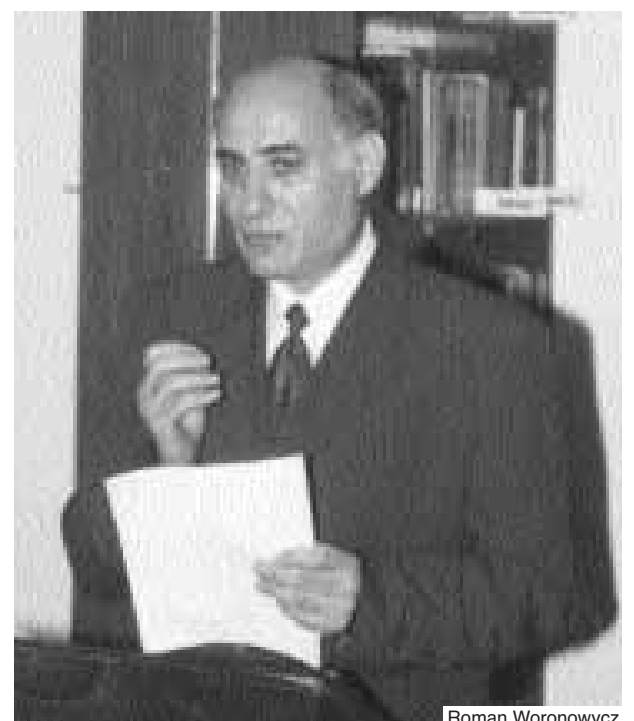
• An exhibit marking the event and highlighting some recently discovered documentation opened in Toronto on October 25. The exhibit was organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center with the support of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations and was housed at the UCRDC's premises at St. Vladimir Institute. The focal point of the exhibit was the photographic prints of the 216 negatives of UPA activity that were found in 1999 in Yavoriv, Ukraine. The exhibit also featured original publications – ideological and pedagogical materials used by the UPA to inform the populace about the true face of the Soviet occupier – found in a hide-out in Verkhovyna, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, and hidden by a teacher until 1992 when it was given to the UCRDC.

• On October 26 the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies announced a campaign to increase funding for Ukrainian studies in Canada and elsewhere. "In the course of the last 27 years the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies has placed more than \$3 million in the service of Ukrainian studies. This includes funding the publication of the English-language Encyclopedia of Ukraine, other scholarly works, as well as scholarships and other assistance given annually to students and scholars. The foundation wants to provide more because more is needed. For this reason we are undertaking an extensive fund-raising campaign to enable us to increase support for Ukrainian studies. This will benefit the Ukrainian community wherever it might be, in Canada, and worldwide, both now and for the next and succeeding generations," noted Olya Kuplowska, CFUS president, speaking at the foundation's annual meeting.

• A book note published in November noted the release of Volume 8 of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine-Rus'." Titled "The Cossack Age, 1626-1650," the 808-page volume was released by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press. It is the third volume of the classic 10-volume work by Hrushevsky that has been produced by the Hrushevsky Translation Project of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research.

• In mid-November it was reported that Ihor Pasichnyk and Natalia Lominska, rector and vice-rector, respectively, of the National University of Ostroh Academy, who were in the United States visiting Ukrainian communities in Minneapolis, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Washington, had announced the establishment of a Ukrainian Emigration History Center at Ostroh. The announcement was made, fittingly, at the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota.

• The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (KMA) and the Northwestern University Center for Technology and Innovation Management on December 2 officially announced a partnership and unveiled a new program of collaboration. Northwestern University is home to the Kellogg School of Management, ranked the best business school in the world in its MBA programs by The Economist (October 2002). The announcement was made in Kyiv at an official reception at the Imperia Restaurant of the Premier Palace Hotel. The program of cooperation began on December 2-3, with a two-day joint executive development seminar on "Stimulating and Managing Innovations" for senior managers of leading Ukrainian and international companies.



Hryhorii Huseinov accepts the Antonovych Award for literary achievement during ceremonies in Lviv on August 17.

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Culture and the arts: a survey from A to ...

The arts scene, as it was covered in *The Weekly*, has been rich and varied, with film and documentaries prominent on the scene. The year 2002 may well be referred to as the year of Dovzhenko, with his films shown in retrospectives throughout the United States in a program organized with help from the Ukrainian government, which took an active role in championing Dovzhenko's work outside his native country.

Among the highlights of the season were the following, listed by category.

Architecture

The photographic exhibition "Ornament is Not a Crime," presented by Dr. Ihor Zhuk, curator of the visual materials collection at Lviv Theological Academy and guest scholar at Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, depicting the art nouveau style of architecture in Lviv, was on view at The Ukrainian Museum on April 28-July 28. The exhibit was previously presented in Krakow and Wroclaw, Poland, as well as in London and Edinburgh.

A campaign to further the artistic heritage of Vasyl Krychevsky (1873-1952), a leading figure in the fields of architecture, art and graphic design of Ukraine, was undertaken by E. Morgan Williams, publisher. Krychevsky's many outstanding contributions, especially to architecture, were often altered or repressed by the authorities in Soviet Ukraine, who found his designs, which often incorporated traditional folk ornamentation and motifs, to be "too Ukrainian." Among projects to be undertaken is the restoration of the Taras Shevchenko museum in Kaniv as it was originally designed by Krychevsky in the 1930s. Mr. Morgan has been working with Krychevsky's grand-daughter, Oksana Linde, of Caracas, Venezuela, and others on this endeavor.

Art

The art of Roman Kowal was the subject of a feature article by Alexandra Hawryluk in the March 3 issue of *The Weekly*. Known chiefly for his innovative approach to ecclesiastic interior design, Maestro Kowal has completed mosaics and stained glass for 16 Ukrainian churches in Canada, in successful partnership with architect Victor Deneka and for two Winnipeg churches designed by Radoslav Zuk. Thus he has taken on an important role in the development of Canadian religious art.

Taras Polataiko, the Chernivtsi-born Saskatoon-based artist who has been on the art scenes of both Canada and Ukraine, represented Ukraine at the XXV Biennale de Sao Paulo held March 23-June 2 in Brazil, where he presented his project "Bird's Eye View," with Jerzy Onuch, curator of the presentation.

Tapestries, marked by a purity of color and rawness of material, and the photography of Lialia Kuchma were featured in an article by Cynthia Quick in the May 19 issue of *The Weekly* on the occasion of the exhibit of Ms. Kuchma's work in a show of contemporary furniture and fiber art titled "The Artist's Hand" at the Wood Street Gallery in Chicago on March 9-April 20.

The centenary of the birth of Edward Kozak (1902-1992), known as "Eko," was marked in New York at the Consulate of Ukraine in a production by the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, under the direction of Lydia Krushelnysky, which presented an overview of the works of the late humorist and artist. Also, as part of the opening of the summer season, the Music and Art Center of Greene County, jointly with the Chervona Kalyna Plast fraternity, of which the artist was a member, held an exhibit at the Grazhda in Hunter, N.Y. Featured were caricatures and 96 covers of the satirical/humorous journals *Komar* and *Lys Mykyta* (1948-1991), which were edited by Maestro Kozak. A brilliant caricaturist and illustrator, Maestro Kozak was equally known as an artist and editor of numerous children's as well as humorous/satirical journals. His writings and caricature drawings also served as a chronicle of the post-war émigré community in the United States. A retrospective exhibit of Maestro Kozak's works was held in Lviv in 1990, accompanied by an exhibition catalogue.

The exhibit "From Here to There," featuring the plein-air paintings of Zenowij Onyshkewych, was held at the Southport Harbor Gallery in Southport, Conn., on

November 3-December 1. An essay titled "The Omnivoyant Traveler" by Philip Eliasoph appeared in the November 3 issue of *The Weekly*.

The exhibit "Recent Paintings by Motria C. Holowinsky," expression of dreams on imaginary subjects, color and composition, opened at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute on November 20 and was on view through January 17, 2003.

Andrij Babytsch, president of the Ukrainian Association of Visual Artists of Canada (since 1994), exhibited his portraits and landscapes at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York in an exhibit that opened October 11.

Folk art and crafts

Seeking to add to its extensive collection of pysanky, or Easter eggs, a museum devoted to the pysanka, built as a new addition to the Museum of Hutsul and Pokuttia Folk Art in Kolomyia, sent out a request addressed to pysanka writers throughout the world. The museum has a collection of some 6,000 pysanky practically from every region of Ukraine and abroad, with a separate exhibit of pysanky of the Ukrainian diaspora of North America and Australia. A letter written by the museum's director, Yaroslava Tkachuk, appeared in the April 28 issue of *The Weekly*.

Designer and sculptor A. Andrew Chulyk's multiple section "sculpted" boxes were featured in an article in the November 10 issue of *The Weekly*. The work of the award-winning artist has been exhibited in invitational shows, as well as exhibited and marketed in craft galleries and fairs, and at the museum store of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Dance

"Shadows of Our Forgotten Ancestors," a dance-theater piece based on the novel by Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky (1864-1913) which uses the theatrical conventions of dance, puppetry and music to tell the story of the star-crossed young lovers Ivan and Marichka, premiered as a bilingual presentation by MN2 Productions at the Cleveland Public Theater on January 25. The text for the production, considered a variation on the Romeo and Juliet theme, is by Nadia Tarnawsky; with choreography by Sarah Morrison, Natalie Kapeluck and Roman Lewkowicz, and staging by Michael D. Flohr.

The Brigham Young University International Folk Dance Ensemble, (Edwin G. Austin Jr., artistic director and producer), whose repertoire includes Ukrainian pieces such as the Hopak, performed during the 19th Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City and at the Light of the World cultural festival sponsored by the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, in celebration of the different cultures represented by athletes at the Winter Games.

The Arkan Dance Company (Danovia Stechishin, artistic director), which has performed as cultural ambassadors of Canada and of Ukraine at international festivals throughout the world, presented "A Journey Through Ukraine," a concert of Ukrainian and modern dance featuring the work of guest choreographer National Artist of Ukraine Rafayil Malynovsky at the Living Arts Center in Mississauga, Ontario, on June 9. Also featured was the modern dance "Scythian Gold," choreographed by Mme. Stechishin and commissioned by the Royal Ontario Museum.

Film/documentaries

Director Yuri Illienko's latest film, "A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa" (Molytva za Hetmana Mazepu) – with Bohdan Stupka in the lead role and score by Virko Baley of Las Vegas – had its American premiere on August 1 at the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute in Cambridge, Mass. The first big-budget picture made in Ukraine since independence by Kyiv's Dovzhenko Studio, the film was released in Ukraine in September. The film, referred to as a "phantasmagoric dream of history," received mixed reviews. An article on the state of Ukraine's film industry and response to the film by Russian and Polish critics appeared in an article titled "Ukraine's cinema industry faces its moment of truth" by Conor Humphries, in the August 25 issue of *The Weekly*.

Oscar-winning Hollywood actor Jack Palance became chairman of the board of directors of the newly formed Hollywood Trident Foundation (HTR), whose aim is to encourage those working in the film-making industry to "study film and present the Ukrainian contributions to film-making, past and present, worldwide. The foundation was formed in January by members of the Hollywood Trident Network in Los Angeles, with



Edward Kozak

Peter Borisow, president of Entertainment Finance Management, as HTR president.

Award-winning Montreal filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy was completing a film about Bereza Kartuzka, the site between 1933 and 1939, of an infamous Polish concentration camp under the command of Col. Yanush Kostek-Biernacki where hundreds of Ukrainian patriots were incarcerated. Mr. Luhovy was interviewed for *The Weekly* (February 3) by Fran Ponomarenko. The film, the first part of a trilogy dealing with Ukraine under three occupations – Polish, Communist and Nazi – highlights the political situation in which Western Ukrainians found themselves under Polish rule between the two world wars.

On the occasion of the forthcoming 70th anniversary of the 1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, the Hollywood Trident Foundation undertook a project to record on videotape the recollections of the Ukrainian survivors of the Famine-Genocide now living in the United States and Canada. The oral histories are to be professionally produced for distribution to educational and media venues worldwide.

The Our Blossom – Across the World Film Festival, founded by The Institute of Diaspora Studies in Kyiv, a competition that emphasizes Ukrainian diaspora themes and experiences, announced this year's winners: first place, Petro Midrihana and Vasyl Riabunets of Rivne, on life of Ukrainians who were forcibly moved into lands in western Poland as a result of the resettlement program undertaken by Polish authorities in 1947 known as Akcja Wisla; second place, television journalist Maksym Drabka, on Ukrainian life in the Baltic states; third place, Kyiv film-makers Vasyl Shenderovskiyi, Nadia Dovhych and Anatolii Vasianovych, on the life of Ukrainian Czech ex-patriate and noted scientist Ivan Puliuj, and his contribution to the discovery of the X-ray.

Literature

A Ukrainian-language edition of the first book in the globally popular Harry Potter series by British author J.K. Rowling, appeared as a publication of the highly respected Ukrainian children's publishing house A-Ba-Ba-Ha-La-Ma-Ha, with illustrations by Vladyslav Yerko. In celebration of its 10th anniversary, A-Ba-Ba-Ha-La-Ma-Ha, whose founder and president is poet Ivan Malkovych, also re-issued seven of its most popular children's stories and folk tales in a first ever 1-million-copy printing of children's books in Ukraine. A joint venture with Ukraine's postal service, UkrPost, the project titled "Mini-Dyvo," made the books available at the cost of a single hryvnia each at the more than 15,000 post offices nationwide, and thus accessible to

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all Ukrainian children.

Writer Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch's latest book, "Hope's War," a book of fiction for teenagers about an alleged Ukrainian war criminal, was published in October by Dundurn Press. The background to the book's story is the problem of finding Nazi criminals in Canada. In a book launch held at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation in Toronto on November 17, Ms. Skrypuch, a well-received writer of children's books who deals with difficult subjects, noted that the central focus of the book is not wartime Ukraine but the issue of justice in Canada today.

Toronto author Lydia Palij, a 1997 recipient of the Pavlo Tychyna Award for poetry, noted for her activities in PEN and the Writers' Union of Canada, published her first book in English titled "Woman in the Window – Poetic Images" (Patricia Harvie, translator; Ms. Palij, editor of the translations).

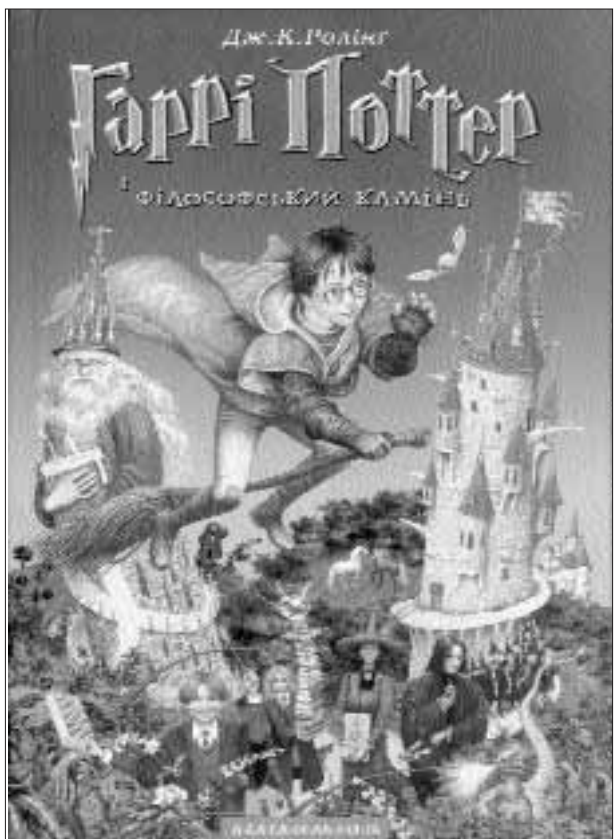
"Landscapes of Memory: The Selected Later Poetry of Lina Kostenko" came out as a bilingual Ukrainian/English edition published by Litopys Publishers in Lviv (Michael M. Naydan, translator; Olha Luchuk, editor).

Museums and exhibits

An exhibit titled "For You, Ukraine," with items from the collection of Serhei Platonov, a prominent Kyiv businessman, featuring pottery from the Trypillian period, glasswork, ancient Greek ceremonial ornaments from settlements in the south of Ukraine and Crimea, as well as coins and metals from the Kyivan Rus' and Kozak periods, was held at the Kyiv Pecharska Lavra and at St. Sophia Cathedral museums in November. Mr. Platonov, one of Kyiv's emerging new philanthropists, recently donated a significant part of his collection to Ukraine's history museum.

The development of The Ukrainian Museum in New York City drew enthusiastic interest and promise of support from the government of Ukraine. Representatives of the Ukrainian diplomatic community in New York City, Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, and Consul General Serhiy Pohoreltzev offered to assist the museum's future projects with the aim of promoting cooperative endeavors with museums and the arts community in Ukraine. The meeting of government and museum representatives took place at the end of February.

The Ukrainian Museum's new building project on East Sixth Street in the East Village section of Manhattan entered the construction phase, with the construction company S. Di Giacomo & Son, and project architect, George Sawicki of the firm Sawicki/Tarella Architecture+Design, PC, engaged in the more than \$8 million project. The proposed three-story building will become the new center for the activities of the museum, which for 26 years has preserved and presented the cultural legacy of Ukrainian Americans through exhibi-



The cover of the Ukrainian-language edition of the first book in the "Harry Potter" series.



Program of the "Oleh Krysa at 60 with Family and Friends" concert held as a special event on May 11 at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York.

tions, educational programs, publications and community-related events.

In her report Museum Director Maria Shust alluded to the preparatory work that has begun on inaugural exhibitions in the new building, with Dr. Jaroslaw Leshko engaged as curator for the Alexander Archipenko art exhibition.

The Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago (UNM), – boasting a collection of over 12,000 artifacts, a library of over 29,000 titles and an extensive archive collection – celebrated its 50th anniversary on September 29 in its newly renovated and expanded premises designed by the architectural firm of Joseph I. Mycyk of Chicago. This year, as an active member of the Chicago Field Museum's "Cultural Connections" program, the UNM hosted a program on the ethnic education in the Ukrainian community, titled "Ukrainian Saturday School, Culture for Homework." The program, overseen by Christina Taran, was recorded April 6 by Chicago Access Network Television for cable TV.

Music

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the Leontovych String Quartet, quartet-in-residence at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York, appeared at New York's Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on January 27 presenting a program of works by Dvorak, Silvestrov and Tchaikovsky.

The chamber music concert "Jewels of Ukraine," brought about on the initiative of concert pianist Thomas Hrynkiw, was held March 3 at the California State University of Sacramento featuring works by Dmytro Bortniansky, Yuriy Oliynyk, Victor Kosenko and Peter Tchaikovsky.

The award-winning women's chorus Vesnivka, under the direction of Kvitka Zorych-Kondracka, presented a program of traditional, contemporary and rarely heard Ukrainian carols and New Year's songs on January 13 at the Humbercrest United Church in Toronto. The Christmas concert also featured the recently formed Ukrainian Male Chamber Choir. On April 21 Vesnivka showcased works by contemporary composers from Ukraine – Stankovych, Stetsenko and Nekrasov – in a concert at the University of Toronto MacMillan Theater, with guest piano soloists Luba and Ireneus Zuk.

The Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble, comprising 34 singers from eight parishes across Connecticut, with Alexander Kuzma, music director, appeared in its annual spring concert at the West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium on May 19 in a program of liturgical and rarely heard folks songs and secular works. The concert received extensive publicity on Connecticut's public radio stations and was the subject of a full-length feature in the Connecticut Post.

The Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton, under the direction of Orest Soltykevych – with special guests, the Montreal/Kingston piano duo of Luba and Ireneus Zuk, and New York-based jazz pianist John Stetch – presented a concert of Ukrainian music and classical selections

on November 9 at the prestigious Winspear Center in Edmonton. The festive concert drew a capacity audience of well over 1,000.

A feature article on Roman Hurko, Canadian opera director and composer, author of "Requiem: Panakhyda for the Victims of Chernobyl" (2001), appeared in the May 12 issue of The Weekly. Penned by Myrosia Stefaniuk, it brought out the full spectrum of Maestro Hurko's creative oeuvre, bringing to the fore the underlying symbiosis of opera, theater and liturgical music in his work.

Marika Kuzma, associate professor of music and director of choral activities at the University of California at Berkeley, directed the University Chorus in a performance of Paul Hindemith's "Requiem: For Those We Love" at Berkeley's Hertz Hall and organized a campus-wide concert, "In Memoriam: A Concert of Musical Reflections on the Events of September 11, 2001," composed of sacred and secular music from various cultures. Among her engagements as director of the Chamber Chorus of the University of California at Berkeley was the June 6 concert "Voices of Byzantium: From Mt. Athos to Kiev [Kyiv] to Moscow" presented as part of the prestigious Berkeley Early Music Festival.

Soprano Stefania Dovhan, a recent graduate of the University of Maryland School of Music, appeared at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York with distinguished bass Stefan Szkafarowsky in November. Ms. Dovhan was in Kyiv this fall for engagements in major operatic roles at the National Opera of Ukraine and solo recitals at the National Philharmonic Hall.

Young Ukrainian tenor and opera star Misha Didyk appeared as lead tenor in the Bellini opera "The Capulets and the Montagues" at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia on April 13.

The vocal duet of sisters Halyna and Lesia Telnyuk, natives of Kyiv, whose work is referred to as a synthesis of poetry and song, presented concerts in a program titled "Zhar-Ptytsi" (Firebirds) in New York (November 3) and Baltimore (November 9-10). Having previously completed successful tours in Canada, Russia, Poland, England and Ireland, the duo's current tour took them to Newton, Iowa, Chicago and Kingston, Ontario. The duo's repertoire includes Ukrainian, Irish and English folk songs, as well as songs by Bob Dylan and Oleksander Melnyk, and their own compositions.

Winners of the fourth International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz which was initiated in Kyiv in 1994 – Kyrylo Keduk of Belarus (first prize, junior group); Dmytro Onishchenko of Ukraine (first-place, intermediate group); Maryia Kim of Ukraine (first prize, senior group) – appeared in concert at the Lyceum in Alexandria, Va., on March 24, in a concert sponsored by The Washington Group Cultural Fund under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine.

Cellist Vagram Saradjian and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky were the featured performers at the Rachmaninoff Festival held as part of the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition at the Dolburn School for Performing Arts in Los Angeles on March 27. Mr. Vynnytsky also appeared in concert with the Zapolski String Quartet of Denmark in a series of concerts at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York (June 22), the Grazhda in Hunter, N.Y. (June 29), and at Music Mountain (June 30).

Cellist Natalia Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky appeared in concert at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall on May 29 in a program of works by Beethoven, Mozart, Shostakovich, Granados, Cassadó and Vynnytsky. They also performed at the Lake San Marco Chamber Music Society concert series in California (May 26) and at La Belle Alliance in Willemstad in Curaçao (November 1-3).

The concert "Oleh Krysa at 60 with Family and Friends," held May 11 at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York as a special event and gala concert of the "Music at the Institute" (MATI) series, launched the 60th anniversary celebrations of the eminent violinist and teacher, and honorary artistic director and founder of MATI. The celebrations entailed a world tour, with concerts presented in Kyiv, as well as in Australia, Canada, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, Singapore and Japan. The New York concert featured composer/pianist Virko Baley, pianists Alexander Slobodyanik and Tatiana Tchekina, violinist Peter Krysa, violists Borys Deviatov and Alexander Rees, and cellists Rachel Lewis Krysa and Volodymyr Panteleyev, with Robert Sherman of New York's classical music radio station WQXR-FM, as

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Marika C. Kuzma

master of ceremonies.

Bandurist Julian Kytasty performed music from "Black Sea Winds: The Kobzari of Ukraine," his latest CD recording, at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago on April 4. On November 23 he appeared with master Mongolian musician Battuvshin and Ilya Temkin in the concert "Music from the Far Ends of the Steppe," in Tibet House in New York. On December 6, Mr. Kytasty's Experimental Bandura Trio performed at Symphony Space in the "Music for Pipa" (or Chinese lute) concert, with Wu Man, and in duets drawing on Chinese and Ukrainian sources.

The concert "Shliakhamy Kobzariv" (In the Steps of the Kobzars), featuring Victor Mishalow, Julian Kytasty, Hryhoriy Herchak, Jurij Fedynskyi, Ilya Temkin and Maestro Mishalow's students, was held at St. Volodymyr Orthodox Cathedral in Toronto on December 1.

Musicology

The personal archive of noted diaspora conductor and

musicologist Prof. Myroslav Antonovych of Utrecht, whose research specialization was on Ukrainian church music and Franco-Flemish church music of the Renaissance, was acquired by the library of the Lviv Theological Academy. Prof. Antonovych's celebrated Byzantine Choir was composed of Hollanders who sang Ukrainian music in the Ukrainian language.

The 250th anniversary of the birth of renowned composer and conductor Dmytro Bortniansky (1751-1825), was marked by the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York on May 18 with a conference, an exhibit titled "Bortniansky in Iconography, Discography and Print," and a concert. Taking part in the conference were Dr. Andriy Szul, Roman Sawycky Jr., Stepan Maksymiuk, Vasyl Hrechynsky and Dr. Jaropolk Lassowsky.

Musicians Bortnianskii, the Ukrainian Canadian performing arts organization/ensemble, under the direction of Myron Maksymiw, released its latest recording: the 17th and 18th century five- and six-part Ukrainian motets known as "Partesni Kontserty" or "Partesni Motets" by anonymous Ukrainian composers.

Photography

The photography exhibit, "Starving for Color," featuring black-and-white photos of infants in orphanages in Ukraine taken by Dr. Roksolana Tymiak-Lonchyna during her travels on humanitarian missions and private trips to Ukraine, opened at the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago where it was on view on October 15-29. The exhibit, with its deeply humanitarian subject matter, raised \$10,800 for nutrition programs in the orphanages.

Pop culture/entertainment

In a three-part series titled "Pop, rock, hip-hop – Ukraine's music scene has it all – and it's thriving," Roman Woronowycz, The Weekly's Kyiv correspondent, focused on Kyiv's vibrant popular music scene and Ukraine's contemporary music stars – pop divas Ani Lorak and Iryna Bilyk; the rock bands Vopli Vodopliasova (V.V.) and Okean Elzy; and the hip-hop group Tanok na Maydani Kongo and Dymna Sumish.

Pop star Annychka from Lviv was the feature act during the Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival's kick-off concert on September 13 in Toronto appearing before an enthusiastic crowd reaching 50,000 people. Canada's most prestigious radio station, CFRB, did a four-hour live broadcast from the festival site.

Popular composer and musician Taras Petrynenko and vocalist Tetiana Horobets toured the eastern U.S., as part of a project undertaken by Cleveland-based Melodies of Ukraine, in an outreach program to young Ukrainian audiences through Ukrainian pop music. The duo appeared in concert at St. George's Academy in

New York in November.

Television

John Spencer, a veteran of television, film and stage, won the award for best supporting actor in the drama series "The West Wing," where he plays the White House chief of staff, during the 54th annual Emmy Awards held at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on September 22.

Theater

Gregory Hlady, the critically acclaimed stage and cinema actor and director, who has made his mark in Canadian alternative theater and abroad, was the subject of a review by Alexandra Hawryluk (April 7) on the occasion of the premiere of his theater piece "Kateryna's Dreams." The work, inspired by Mykola Hohol's "A Terrible Vengeance," premiered at Infinitheatre in Montreal on February 28. This year Mr. Hlady also played the lead role in Kim Nguyen's new feature film "Le Marais" and appeared in Paula de Vasconcelos' Montreal theater production of "The Other."

Virlana Tkacz, New York director of the dynamic Yara Arts Group, was in Kyiv this fall teaching on a Fulbright Fellowship. Among Ms. Tkacz's activities while in Kyiv was the direction of a concert version of "In the Beginning Was Song," a dialogue of traditional songs from Ukrainian and Hebrew, performed by Marianna Sadovska from Germany and Victoria Hanna from Jerusalem. The concert was staged for the Fulbright Conference and for a new music and poetry series, "Kolo Nas," which was inaugurated by Ms. Tracz.

The company NaCl (North American cultural laboratory), founded by Canadian-born actress Tannis Kowalchuk and her husband, Brad Krumholz, took part in the 10-day Catskill Festival of New Theater 2002 in Highland Lake, N.Y., this summer, and appeared at folk festivals in Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. During a benefit at St. Clements Church Theater in Manhattan, Ms. Kowalchuk performed in the featured event "10 Brecht Poems," which she helped create, and in "Invisible Neighborhood," an NaCl street theater work-in-progress held in Manhattan, Brooklyn and in city parks this summer.

The Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theater of Kyiv (Mykhailo Zakharevych, director), with Ukraine's leading actor Bohdan Stupka in the title role, brought "Teveye" to the U.S. in a Ukrainian production. The two-act play, based on Sholom Aleichem's story of Jewish life in Ukraine in the early 20th century, was staged on August 2 and 3 at Brooklyn's Millennium Theater in Brighton Beach. The tour closed in Chicago on August 4.

Films by Dovzhenko gain much exposure

The films of Oleksander (Alexander) Dovzhenko (1894-1956), a key figure of Soviet-era and world cinematography, whose works include classics of the silent and early sound eras, were given multiple exposure in film programs throughout the United States. The series was organized with help from the Ukrainian government, which has taken an active role in championing Dovzhenko's work outside his native country.

A forceful modernist in the structural, especially visual, aspects of his work, Dovzhenko, also drew on the Ukrainian folkloric tradition. With Stalin's denunciation of Dovzhenko in 1944, the filmmaker's post-silent-era career was characterized by banned projects and unproduced or drastically altered screenplays.

The Dovzhenko film series premiered at the Walter Reade Theater at New York's Lincoln Center on May 8-21, with subsequent screenings at the University of California at Los Angeles (October 3, 5 and 8) in a program organized by UCLA Film and Television Archives and the Hollywood Trident Foundation. Concurrently with the Dovzhenko series at the National Gallery of Art in Washington held December 7-29, Dovzhenko's films were shown at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Brooklyn Academy of Music as part of BAMcinematék (December 5-19), as well as at Cornell University.

Featured in New York were all of Dovzhenko's extant works, i.e., 13 films, including his early silent films,

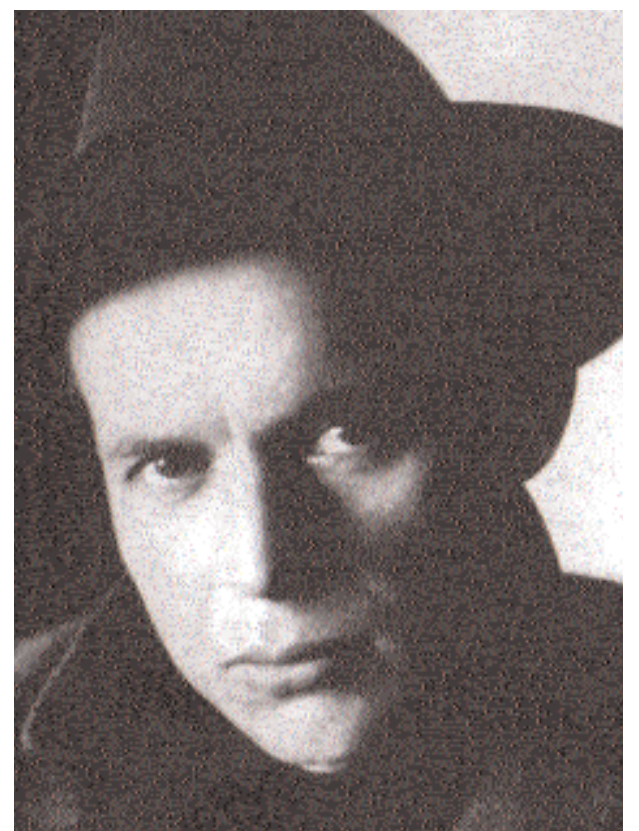
which were presented with live music accompaniment, and the rarely screened later films. The series also included "Farewell, America," Dovzhenko's unfinished final film, which was restored under the sponsorship of Mosfilm and Gosfilmofond Rossii in 1995 as well as "Povist Polumianykh Lit" (The Chronicle of the Flaming Years), 1945, based on a script by Dovzhenko and filmed by his wife and close collaborator, Yulia Solntseva.

The film programs in New York, Los Angeles and Washington were supplemented by symposia on Dovzhenko's art and legacy, featuring scholars from Ukraine and North America, and a gallery exhibition curated by the Dovzhenko Museum in Kyiv that comprised posters and Dovzhenko self-portraits and drawings.

The New York symposium, titled "The Art and Legacy of Alexander Dovzhenko," featured representatives from the National Center of Oleksander Dovzhenko (NCAD), and the Ministry of Art and Culture of Ukraine, Serhii Trymbach, film historian at the NCAD as well as P. Adams Sitney and Josephine Woll, author of "Reel Images: Soviet Cinema and the Thaw."

The UCLA program, titled "Earth – The Films of Alexander Dovzhenko," featured presentations by Marco Carynnyk, editor and translator of "Alexander Dovzhenko's 1939 Autobiography" and translator of "Alexander Dovzhenko: The Poet as Fimmaker"; George O. Liber, author of the just published book "Alexander Dovzhenko: A Life in Soviet Film"; and Bohdan Nebesio.

The Dovzhenko series was presented by the Film Society of Lincoln Center and Seagull Films in collaboration with Ukraine's Ministry of Arts and Culture and the National Center of Oleksander Dovzhenko.



Oleksander Dovzhenko, during his years abroad (c. 1921-1923). Reprinted with permission from "Alexander Dovzhenko: A Life in Soviet Film," by George Liber (British Film Institute, London, 2002).

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At the UNA: convention means new beginnings

New beginnings – that's how one could best describe the year 2002 at the Ukrainian National Association. It was, of course, a convention year, during which a new General Assembly was elected for a four-year term. At the top of the list was the UNA's new president, Stefan Kaczaraj, who was elected in place of the departing chief executive, Ulana Diachuk, who retired this year after 52 years of service to the fraternal organization – 30 of them as an executive officer.

The pre-convention preparations began in earnest with the publication in mid-January of the official announcement of the 35th Regular Convention of the UNA and lists of small UNA branches that would need to unite with others in order to elect a common delegate. Our editorial "Convention countdown 2002" explained to readers the significance of the upcoming conclave. In succeeding weeks the hubbub continued with announcement of the convention program and related special events in Chicago, the host city; lists of delegates and alternates; the naming of convention committees; proposals for amendments to the UNA By-Laws and comments, pro and con, on those proposals. Among the most vocal was the chairman of the Chicago Convention Committee, a long-time UNA activist and former vice-president, Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, who underscored that the UNA must begin thinking in terms of "revival and not survival."

Perhaps the hottest issue was the proposal to reduce the size of the General Assembly from 25 to 14 members: four executive officers instead of six; three auditors instead of five; and seven advisors instead of 14. Two other major issues that were discussed in Chicago were the future of the UNA in Canada, where membership had been declining steadily, and the fate of Soyuzivka, the UNA's beautiful, but deficit-plagued resort.

Ultimately, the convention elected a new 20-member General Assembly – significantly, one whose composition was greatly changed as 14 of the 25 members of the General Assembly for 1998-2002 are no longer on the assembly (13 of them opted not to seek election). The Executive Committee for 2002-2006 includes four newcomers among its six members. Two experienced hands returned, but in new capacities: Treasurer Kaczaraj, a CPA widely praised for his no-nonsense handling of UNA finances and for a new degree of openness, moved from CFO to CEO in his new role as UNA president. National Secretary Martha Lysko, while leaving the UNA's employ as the full-time executive officer in charge of its insurance business, returned as the non-salaried first vice-president. Newcomers to the executive committee are Eugene Iwanciw, a UNA advisor in 1974-1998 and formerly the director of the UNA Washington Office that functioned in 1988-1995, who joined the executive as second vice-president; and Al Kachkowski, a one-term advisor who has much experience in the realm of charitable giving, who now serves as director for Canada.

In addition to the president, there are two other full-time UNA executive positions; both filled by capable young women. The new national secretary is Christine Kozak, formerly the UNA's director of insurance operations, who has worked at the UNA Home Office since 1995. Roma Lisovich, the new treasurer is new to the UNA and to the General Assembly; however, she is far from new to her field since she has more than 20 years' experience in banking and corporate finance.

The newly elected Auditing Committee, downsized from five members to three in accordance with an amendment to the UNA By-Laws adopted at the convention, includes two experienced UNA auditors: Alexander Serafyn, an MBA and Ph.D., and Yaroslav Zaviysky, a credit union manager. Joining them as the top vote-getter among the auditors is newcomer Zenon Holubec, a CPA who is president of his own accounting firm. (The new team conducted its first audit of UNA operations on November 19-21.)

The new advisors, too, have qualifications that should be most beneficial to the UNA as it works to improve its bottom line by focusing on increasing its membership. Four of them – Eugene Oscislowski, Joseph Hawryluk, Stefan Hawrysz and Myron Pylypiak – are top UNA organizers, and Mr. Hawrysz is a former UNA supreme organizer and longtime field organizer (not to mention a former auditor). Nine of the 11 advisors (formerly there were 14) are branch secretaries – a most significant factor now that the by-laws have been changed to include among the advisors' duties the enrollment of new UNA members.

Speaking after his election by acclamation by the 122 delegates, 22 General Assembly members and four hon-



Roma Hadzewycz

The UNA's newly elected Executive Committee on May 28 (from left): Second Vice-President Eugene Iwanciw, Director for Canada Al Kachkowski, President Stefan Kaczaraj, First Vice-President Martha Lysko, Treasurer Roma Lisovich and National Secretary Christine Kozak.

orary members of the assembly who had voting power at the convention, Mr. Kaczaraj expressed optimism about the UNA's future. However, he said it would be necessary to revitalize and re-energize the UNA membership to assure a return to growth. "I would like to see our membership more united, inspired by the idea of progress and full of the vitality needed for continued growth," said the new UNA president.

During five days of sometimes strained deliberations, the delegates approved several other key changes to the UNA's By-Laws, including a measure that prohibits UNA employees from simultaneously holding a job with the UNA and serving on the General Assembly, and an amendment that more clearly specifies the duties of advisors, including the enrollment of members, keeping in touch with local branches and being active in regional district committees, and belonging to one of the standing committees of the General Assembly.

In addition, UNA delegates approved a proposal to move forward a plan to search for investors to develop and share the running of the Soyuzivka estate owned by the UNA. The resort, which marked its 50th anniversary in 2002 (more on those celebrations below), is losing more than \$500,000 annually and is in need of extensive renovation and upgrading. Mr. Kaczaraj said the deficit was sufficiently serious to be a danger to the UNA's well-being and said that within a year an authoritative decision must be made on whether it would be viable to save Soyuzivka and how that would be done, or whether to seriously consider selling the property.

A special standing committee established in 2000 had worked with consultants to develop a proposal for saving the resort that was presented to delegates. "Soyuzivka must be redesigned, renovated, rejuvenated, reinvented, recharged and rediscovered," explained John A. Flis, Soyuzivka's manager. "It needs an infusion of capital, it must operate like a business, not like a mom-and-pop shop."

After some debate, a consensus seemed to develop that the best alternative would be to find a Ukrainian partner to invest to keep the treasured asset entirely within the hands of the Ukrainian community, and a new Soyuzivka Redevelopment Committee – composed of Stefko Kuropas, Taras Szmagala, Anya Dydik-Petrenko, Alex Chudolij and Al Kachkowski – was directed to work for another year on other alternatives, after which it was to make a final recommendation to the Executive Committee. The resolution stated: "This committee shall be responsible for evaluating options available to the association regarding Soyuzivka. The goal of the committee shall be to end the need for subsidization of the resort by the UNA, while at the same time preserving the Ukrainian cultural focus of the resort. Solutions may include the transfer or sale of the resort, if necessary. The Executive Committee is directed to provide adequate funding for the activities of the Soyuzivka Committee for one year."

A separate resolution made it clear how dear Soyuzivka is to UNA members: "We, the delegates call on the new UNA leadership in the strongest possible terms to do their utmost – and then some – to assure that Soyuzivka remains

a UNA asset and one of the best fraternal benefits the society has to offer its members. We call on our new president and new officers, auditors and advisors to keep our beloved Catskill Mountains resort either wholly owned by the UNA or at the very least to limit any partnership that may be needed to save and invigorate Soyuzivka, to ones that will involve organizations or investors from the worldwide Ukrainian community. We also remind our leaders that the UNA remains a Ukrainian community organization and that one essential aspect of its functions and responsibilities is the rearing of our children in the Ukrainian culture and traditions and that Soyuzivka has been where that socialization process begins, specifically in the children's camps held there."

Another thorny issue addressed by the delegates was whether "Batko Soyuz" should retain a presence in Canada. And while the issue wasn't formally raised until the final day of the convention, it ran as an undercurrent throughout it, beginning on the first day when the continued need for the executive position of director for Canada was considered. The UNA has been losing membership in Canada since 1978 when membership reached 10,000. Since then it has fallen to 1,207 paid-up and 1,615 premium-paying members, a fact noted by National Secretary Lysko during debate on the issue. She added that the Canadian business climate for U.S. fraternal societies and insurance companies had worsened, with Canadian insurance regulators putting pressure on them to either increase their percentage of Canadian business or consider leaving the market.

UNA President Diachuk said Canada could eventually force the UNA out and that viable alternatives must be developed for taking care of the membership still existing there, including: having the Canadian UNA membership incorporated into U.S. branches or the Home Office and have all memberships, new and old, turned into U.S. dollar value; selling UNA Canadian policies and completely leaving the country; or, submitting a five-year plan with the hope that it will be accepted by the regulators.

However, the new director for Canada, Al Kachkowski, told the delegates that, in his view, making Canadians become U.S. members would lead to the end of the UNA in Canada. "I believe that turning to U.S. dollars would result in a drastic cashing in of policies," he explained. He said he favored going ahead with a five-year plan and organizing a vigorous effort to develop growth in Canada. The delegates eventually decided on a two-year moratorium on a decision, during which time Mr. Kachkowski would attempt a membership drive and a standing committee of advisors would be formed to track the matter and develop a strategy.

Much discussion at the convention was devoted to the "Fourth-Wave" of immigrants from Ukraine, and, indeed, their influence was felt at the convention. There were a number of delegates from this newest group of immigrants, and that fact was reflected in the increased use of the Ukrainian language alongside English during convention deliberations. It was noteworthy also that two Fourth Wavers were elected as advisors, making them the first General Assembly members from that group. Myron Pylypiak has been a very successful UNA organizer in the Seattle area, while Paul Prinko of the Philadelphia area is

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somewhat new to the UNA but joins the General Assembly with new ideas about the public relations campaign that is absolutely essential for the expansion of the UNA. In addition, many speakers spoke in favor of reinstating a bilingual (English-Ukrainian) application form for UNA membership that would help organizers attract members whose English may not yet be up to par.

For all their attention to the work of the convention, the delegates and guests also had time to visit the Ukrainian Village area of Chicago, take a tour of the beautiful city, as well as attend a concert and a banquet. The gala banquet featured addresses by Ukrainian community and U.S. political leaders, including U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj and Dr. Kuropas, UNA historian and former UNA vice-president.

In the Ukrainian Village, the delegates attended a divine liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, presided over by Bishop Innocent Lotocky, which was followed by an ecumenical moleben service with both Bishop Lotocky and Archbishop Vsevolod concelebrating. They also visited the new premises of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, where UNA'ers were welcomed by CEO Bohdan Watral and feted at a reception, followed by a tour of downtown Chicago.

Back in New Jersey, President Diachuk and National Secretary Lysko were given a warm send-off on June 28 by employees of the UNA Home Office. That day marked the last working day of the four-year term of General Assembly members elected in 1998, as, in accordance with the UNA By-Laws, the newly elected General Assembly takes office on July 1.

Mrs. Diachuk, the first female president of the UNA, left after working at the Home Office for 52 years – serving for the last 12 of those years as president and the 18 years before that as treasurer. Mrs. Lysko departed from the UNA headquarters after 16 years of service, half of them as national secretary; however, she remains on the UNA Executive Committee as the organization's first vice-president. Their colleague, Treasurer and President-Elect Kaczaraj, delivered farewell remarks at the reception to "two persons who made large contributions to the UNA in the course of many years."

The following Monday, July 1, the UNA Home Office welcomed its new full-time executive officers: President Kaczaraj, National Secretary Kozak and Treasurer Lisovich.

Also in the news, UNA-wise, during 2002 was talk of merger between the UNA and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association. Executive officers of the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association met in Scranton, Pa., at the Radisson Lackawanna on January 11 to discuss their possible merger at the two organizations' upcoming conventions later this year.

The meeting's goal was to lay the groundwork for discussions on the possibilities and conditions for a merger of the two fraternal benefit societies. Both sides agreed to convene again at a second meeting to continue discussions as the UNA's convention would be held in May while the UFA's would follow in June. By mid-February, however, the UNA released a notice to its members that stated: "It is our duty to inform our members that in the past month we have had no response from the leadership of the UFA in regard to matters discussed at the January 11 meeting, nor was any attempt made to set up another meeting. The UNA Convention is scheduled to begin on May 24. In accordance with the requirements of the statutes of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the agreement of merger has to be printed in the official publications not later than 60 days before the convention, or by March 24, but such a merger agreement does not yet exist. We also must seek tentative approval for the merger from the Insurance Department of New Jersey, which might take a long time to achieve, and to this day not much has been accomplished in that respect. The UFA has been notified of all these requirements. Due to the fact that, to this date, the merger of both organizations has not been properly prepared, we have only a very slim hope that the merger will be on the agenda of the UNA Convention. Should the deliberations start anew, we will notify our membership in our official publications." The notice appeared in *The Weekly* on February 17.

In the very next issue of the UNA's official publications, the UNA President Diachuk offered an update on negotiations in which she reported that "As it stands today, such a merger proposal will definitely not be on the convention agenda. On Friday, February 15, UFA President John Oleksyn notified me that after polling all members of the UFA General Assembly, it is evident that for the merger of the UNA and the UFA to take place the new organization must have a new name."

At the January 11 meeting UFA President Oleksyn had insisted on almost the same terms as were presented for

Soyuzivka celebrates 50th anniversary

Celebrations made the year 2002 special for Soyuzivka as the Ukrainian National Association estate marked its 50th anniversary. It was in 1952 that the Foord estate was purchased by the UNA, and Soyuzivka's dedication in 1953 was seen as a community-wide affair that was greeted with much enthusiasm and witnessed by 2,000 guests who arrived for the occasion in the hamlet of Kerhonkson, N.Y., from all parts of the country.

Fifty years later, Soyuzivka guests, employees, campers and Miss Soyuzivkas – anyone in any way connected to the resort – were asked to share their "remembrances," as the resort planned an exhibit and booklet commemorating its anniversary.

During the 2002 summer season, the period from July 28 through August 11 was designated as special golden anniversary weeks at Soyuzivka, and a special 50th anniversary cabaret was held on August 3. At the evening show in the Veselka auditorium hosted by Roman Wasyluk, the entertainment ranged from a traditional Suzy-Q talent night to the more serious main stage performer, and included performers who blended both formulas.

All along the perimeters of the auditorium photo collages were displayed and viewed by all of the former workers in attendance that night. There was a tribute to the late Manager Walter Kwas, of course, as well as photos of every past and present manager. Fifty years' worth of memories were depicted: people from all over vacationing at Soyuzivka; performers from all around the U.S., Canada, and Ukraine; campers at various "tabory"; artists who came to display or sell their works; and the workers who not only worked at their posts but who also took part in the various talent nights – some of whom would then move onto the main stage at the Saturday night shows.

Also on August 3, the Voice of America program "Kaleidoscope of the Diaspora" aired a special show on Soyuzivka. The broadcast featured interviews with Alex Chudolij, a former employee and band leader at Soyuzivka; former Manager Daniel Slobodian; Office Manager Sonia Semanyshyn, "Tabir Ptashat" founder Neonila Sochan; former Advisor Stephanie Hawryluk, a familiar face at the resort's gift shop, and others.

At the same time, however, questions continued to swirl in the community about Soyuzivka's fate, even though the UNA's 35th Convention (see preceding section) had made clear that the UNA was committed to saving its resort. Soyuzivka is, after all, an institution and a community treasure; it is part and parcel of the UNA's public face.

In mid-August, UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj issued a message titled "On the road to Soyuzivka's renewal" in which he noted that the fate of the resort was the subject of much attention during the recent UNA convention, as well as during the annual conference of UNA Seniors and at a special meeting convened at the resort during "Tabir Ptashat" (Plast's day camp for pre-schoolers, which has been conducted at Soyuzivka since 1989). "The Soyuzivka management, with the assistance of the special committee established at the UNA convention, as well as with the help of other supporters of Soyuzivka, intends to conduct a multi-faceted review of the resort's problems and to reach appropriate conclusions on how to foster Soyuzivka's rebirth so that it may continue to serve us and succeeding generations. A plan for the renewal of Soyuzivka will soon be presented to the Ukrainian community at large," Mr. Kaczaraj assured readers.

In a second message in early September, headlined "The UNA is committed to keeping Soyuzivka," Mr. Kaczaraj stated: "We have been touched by the overwhelming support from our community to help resolve the various problems associated with Soyuzivka. Our blue-ribbon panel of experts, all volunteers, has been working throughout the summer, analyzing the situation and examining ways to redevelop our beloved resort. All of this is happening because the UNA is committed to keeping Soyuzivka. We are perturbed by the number of rumors that say that the sale is eminent, or even concluded. This is simply not true." He went on to reiterate that the UNA would present a redevelopment plan in the fall, and solicited the advice and ideas of all "those to whom Soyuzivka is important."

Then, in the fall, beginning on September 1, in issues

published for Labor Day weekend – traditionally the most popular weekend at Soyuzivka – *The Ukrainian Weekly* and *Svoboda* carried "Save the date" advertisements promoting Soyuzivka's 50th anniversary jubilee on November 23. Next came a full-page ad, with a red heart (our first use ever of spot color) urging readers to "Come home to Soyuzivka" and celebrate its 50th anniversary. The \$100-a-plate banquet was billed as a fund-raiser for Soyuzivka that would kick off its redevelopment plan.

The theme for the event was "I ♥ Suzy Q," and hundreds arrived at Soyuzivka for the golden jubilee. Upon arriving at the resort's Main House, guests were greeted by outdoor lights spelling out "I ♥ Q." Inside, the lobby was decorated with hundreds of balloons bearing the same message. The welcome continued in the guests' rooms, where a schedule of the festivities was attached to Hershey's kisses, in keeping with the "I love Soyuzivka" theme, and more balloons. A local winery, Rivendell, was contracted to prepare special anniversary bottles of wine bearing a 50th anniversary Soyuzivka label.

The evening began with cocktails in the Main House lobby and library, which were filled to overflowing. Guests mingled and enjoyed the photo display of people and events from years past at Soyuzivka. Many found themselves in the photos on exhibit, and thus recalled old times, good company and cherished moments.

The main event, of course, was the elegant banquet in the Veselka auditorium, during which guests heard messages about Soyuzivka, its past, its significance and its potential, presented by three UNA executives: President Stefan Kaczaraj, National Secretary Christine E. Kozak and Treasurer Roma Lisovich. The evening's master of ceremonies Nestor Olesnycky and keynote speaker Roman Kyzyk shared reminiscences and reflections about Soyuzivka.

The band chosen to play for the evening's dance was Tempo, a regular at the resort for decades. A high point of the evening came when it was announced that the Self Reliance (New York) Federal Credit Union was donating \$50,000 to Soyuzivka. The presentation, made by Dr. Bohdan Kekish, president and CEO, was the first donation to what was later dubbed "Soyuzivka Project Renaissance" and set in motion a series of donations from guests at the banquet that added \$20,000 more to the fund for Soyuzivka.

A blue-ribbon panel of experts – Orest Fedash, hotel manager; Peter Darmohraj, architect, and Myron Kukuruza, building contractor – who have volunteered their services to help revitalize Soyuzivka was introduced to the audience at the banquet. Also assisting with Soyuzivka's planned renovations is John Shmerykowsky, a structural engineer, who answered UNA executives' call for assistance in that field.

The program for the special evening was printed in a bilingual booklet that also contained a brief history of Soyuzivka. Also as part of the golden jubilee, the UNA's two official publications, *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*, each released special eight-page pullouts devoted to Soyuzivka.

As the year 2002 drew to a close, UNAers and the Ukrainian community at large were anxiously awaiting more details about the plans for Soyuzivka's redevelopment, which are to be released in early 2003.



Dr. Bohdan Kekish (left) of Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union presents a donation of \$50,000 toward Soyuzivka Project Renaissance to UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj during the resort's 50th anniversary gala on November 23.

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approval of the delegates of the UNA Convention in May 1998, namely: the name of the new organization is to be changed to Ukrainian National Fraternal Association; for the next four-year term one member of the Auditing Committee and two advisors will be designated by the UFA; and all honorary members of the UFA Supreme Council will become honorary members of the new organization's General Assembly, without any time limitation.

The stumbling block of the merger discussion became the UFA's demand to change the name of the new organization to "Ukrainian National Fraternal Association." At the 1998 UNA Convention, though delegates approved the UNA-UFA merger, the name change did not receive the necessary two-thirds majority of votes and as a result was defeated. At that year's UFA Convention, which followed the UNA convention by one month, UFA delegates rejected a proposal to merge with UNA because the name change did not pass at the UNA convention. Four years later, the name change proposal previously defeated at the convention now had even less support in the UNA General Assembly and among UNA members than it had four years ago.

At the January meeting the UNA's representatives stressed the many benefits of a merger to both UFA members and to the UFA as an organization: UFA members would have access to all the new and very competitive UNA insurance policies and to several types of UNA annuities; and merger would allow administrative expenses to be reduced by approximately \$400,000. Despite these positive possibilities, Mrs. Diachuk noted, members of the UFA Supreme Council rejected a merger of the two fraternal societies without the name change.

Then, at the UNA convention in May, an unannounced visit by UFA Supreme Council Member Mykola Domashevsky exacerbated matters when what was presumed to be a simple greeting by him became an apparent policy statement. After extending greetings to the UNA Convention on behalf of the UFA, Mr. Domashevsky told the delegates that he sees no reason for a merger. He explained that he believes there are sufficient numbers of Fourth Wave immigrants and even earlier-generation Ukrainians in the U.S. who can be enrolled, allowing both fraternal organizations to thrive.

Nonetheless, UNA delegates adopted a resolution directing the newly elected General Assembly to begin the task of mailing ballots regarding a UNA-UFA merger to the delegates of the UNA 35th Convention by the end of 2002 if, and only if, the upcoming UFA convention in June approved the merger, barring any name changes of the Ukrainian National Association.

Meeting at the Ukrainian Fraternal Association's 25th Convention on June 17-20, however, delegates passed a resolution that contained a non-specific reference to a merger: "We believe it would be useful to continue negotiations with the aim of possible merger with other Ukrainian fraternal organizations." The resolution also called on newly elected officers (led by the UFA's new president, Jaroslav Gawur, a former manager of the Verkhovyna resort once owned by the UFA and a former UFA auditor) to work for the further growth and development of the UFA.

There was sad news at the UNA during 2002 as several UNA stalwarts passed away.

John Teluk, UNA supreme vice-president from 1970 to 1974, UNA supreme auditor from 1978 to 1982 and Secretary of Branch 414 from 1969 to 1998, died on July 13 at the age of 78. A professor of economics and finance for 28 years at the University of New Haven, he was very active as chairman of the New Haven UNA District Committee.

Anne Remick, former advisor of the UNA, and a lifelong activist in the Boston area Ukrainian community, died on August 2 at age 79. Mrs. Remick was elected to two terms as a UNA supreme adviser, and was also active in the New England Fraternal Congress, representing the UNA on its board. She also served as financial secretary-treasurer of UNA Branch 238 for over 30 years.

Mary Dushnyck, 91, four-term supreme vice-president of the Ukrainian National Association and an honorary member of the UNA Supreme Assembly (today called the General Assembly), died on September 13. She was known in the UNA as a leader on women's, youth, sports and cultural issues, serving and chairing UNA committees that focused on those fields of endeavor. She was the longtime chair of the Supreme Assembly's Women's Committee and was the initiator and moving force behind efforts to erect a monument to poet Lesia Ukrainka at Soyuzivka. Mrs. Dushnyck was active in UNA sports since 1956 when the first tennis tournament was held at Soyuzivka under the auspices of the Carpathian Ski Club and the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada. She herself competed in those tournaments and won a women's title in 1956. For decades Mrs. Dushnyck was the sponsor of a

sportsmanship trophy awarded at the annual national tennis championships at Soyuzivka. She was active as well in the New York District Committee, serving for many years as the English-language press liaison, as well as in Branch 293 of Brooklyn.

On the legal front, on November 8 the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor, announced that it obtained an indictment against Joseph Binczak, a former insurance agent for the Ukrainian National Association, charging him with theft, forging signatures and falsifying the records of seven clients in a scheme to fraudulently obtain a portion of their funds from their annuity accounts. The indictment came after an almost two-year investigation by the State of New Jersey. The Ukrainian National Association initiated the investigation in early 2001, when the UNA uncovered suspicious activities on two transactions that involved Mr. Binczak. The discovery led to a cooperative effort between the State of New Jersey and the Ukrainian National Association that resulted in the indictment.

The investigation began after a UNA policyholder questioned a transaction on her annuity statement. The Ukrainian National Association immediately notified the proper state insurance authorities. This irregularity prompted the UNA to conduct a painstaking internal audit, which led to the discovery that between November 1996 and November 2000 more than \$600,000 was illegally transferred from the accounts of seven annuity policyholders by Mr. Binczak, who used shell companies and forged documents to accomplish the theft.

Mr. Kaczaraj emphasized: "It is important to note that no Ukrainian National Association policyholder has suffered any financial loss as the Ukrainian National Association made full and immediate restitution to the impacted members. The Ukrainian National Association took this extraordinary step out of commitment to our policyholders, which is in keeping with the Ukrainian National Association's nature as a non-profit fraternal benefit society. We want to prevent losses from being incurred by innocent and loyal UNA members." Mr. Kaczaraj underscored that, "This loss, while serious and regrettable, does not change the fact that the UNA is a sound and stable financial institution, with a high ratio of assets to liabilities and a healthy reserve account."

In addition to the State of New Jersey's criminal case against Mr. Binczak, the Ukrainian National Association also commenced legal action to recover the misappropriated funds. The Ukrainian National Association successfully obtained a civil judgment against Mr. Binczak, and two companies he owns that played a role in the theft, in an amount equal to the misappropriated funds.

The UNA Executive Committee, old and new, met three times this year: once before the convention and twice after, with the first post-convention meeting, that is, the first meeting of the six newly elected officers, occurring on September 9. The focus was on teamwork, as Mr. Kaczaraj welcomed the new Executive Committee members and wished them all the best in the next four years.

At the September 9 meeting, Mr. Kaczaraj began the president's report by announcing that \$18,050 in scholarships had been awarded to UNA members for academic year 2002-2003. The scholarships are divided into four categories, and the UNA awarded the following: 33 scholarships for \$125; 19 scholarships for \$150; 21 scholarships for \$175 and 17 scholarships for \$200. In the special scholarships category, awarded were the Galandiuk Scholarship, (one for \$2,000); the Jarosewycz Scholarship (one for \$1,000) and the Blackstone Scholarship (two for \$500 each).

Likewise, the UNA's Auditing Committee, as usual, conducted two reviews of UNA operations: one in the spring, before the convention, and one in the fall, before the special meeting of the UNA General Assembly.

Also during 2002, the UNA Seniors held their 28th annual conference at Soyuzivka on June 9-14. The seniors spent a great deal of time discussing the fate of Soyuzivka, and they were pleased that UNA President-Elect Kaczaraj met with them at a session and shared his goals for the future of the Ukrainian National Association and Soyuzivka. The seniors voted to donate \$1,500 to a fund to "Save Our Soyuzivka." Anna Chopek, who celebrated her 90th birthday on September 16 (she was feted by family and friends at a surprise birthday party held a week early), was re-elected as president of the UNA Seniors. Ms. Chopek is well-known to the Ukrainian community, having served as vice-president of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America, as supreme advisor of the Ukrainian National Association for 24 years and afterwards as an honorary member of the UNA General Assembly.

During 2002 Soyuzivka had not one, but two Miss Soyuzivkas. Over the weekend of August 9-11 a new Miss Soyuzivka was crowned during the Ukrainian National

Association estate's 50th anniversary year. For the first time since the contest began in 1956, there was a tie for first place in the judges' voting. The winners were Lydia Rajsz, 21, of Edison, N.J., and Michelle Odomirok, 19, of Thiells, N.Y. The first runner-up was 18-year-old Christina Rajsz (yes, she's Lydia's sister), while the second-runner up slot produced yet another tie, with Acya Fedun and Olga Olach.

A little more than a week later, Soyuzivka hosted the UNA Secretaries and Organizers Courses, with secretaries or organizers representing 21 branches in attendance. Topics covered included insurance matters, the UNA Charter and By-Laws, membership benefits and fraternal activities, as well as customer service by both UNA Home Office personnel and branch secretaries.

Other developments at the UNA included an April 5 visit to the UNA Corporate Headquarters by top representatives of Ukraine's diplomatic corps in the United States – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Valeriy P. Kuchinsky and Consul General of Ukraine in New York Serhiy Pohoreltzev. During the unprecedented visit, Ukraine's diplomats pledged to initiate a "working dialogue," i.e., to establish contacts with one of the leading Ukrainian organizations in the United States and two major newspapers, and through them with the Ukrainian community at large.

And that was the news at the UNA, as it prepares for its 109th birthday on February 22, 2003.

Worthy of note in 2002: events, people, etc.

Noteworthy is our traditional name for the category that encompasses items that do not neatly fit into any of our aforementioned sections. The following, presented in chronological order, are among the most noteworthy developments, people and events observed during the year 2002.

- In the first six months of 2002, Canada Post released four Ukraine-related postal items honoring five different men in the fields of sport, government and art. On January 12, Canada Post released an envelope honoring the 75th anniversary of the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey club. In addition to the team crest and a jersey, the souvenir envelope features a photo of the most famous goal ever scored by a Maple Leafs player. It occurred in the 1951 Stanley Cup finals, when William "Bashing Bill" Barilko scored while airborne in sudden-death overtime against the Montreal Canadiens to win the game and the series. Along with the envelope, Canada Post issued a pre-stamped postcard for the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. One side of the card carries a reproduction of the Wayne Gretzky All-Star stamp from 2000.

- On February 1, Canada issued a stamp marking the 50th anniversary of a Canadian first becoming governor general, a position responsible for carrying out the duties of head of state of Canada. The stamp lists the nine persons who have served as governor general over the past five decades. Two of the nine governors general listed on the stamp are of Ukrainian background, Edward Schreyer and Ramon Hnatyshyn (who passed away in December 2002).

- On June 10 Canada Post released a two-stamp set honoring Canadian sculptors Leo Mol (with his figures of "Lumberjacks") and Charles Daudelin (and his abstract creation "Embacle"). Leonid Molodozhanyan, who shortened his name to Leo Mol, was born in Volyn, Ukraine. The Taras Shevchenko monuments in Washington and Buenos Aires are his creations, and Mr. Mol is now recognized as one of Canada's finest-ever sculptors.

- The text about Mr. Mol that appears on the reverse of the day of issue envelope reads: "The monumental bronze sculpture, 'Lumberjacks' (1990), by Winnipeg sculptor Leo Mol, effectively captures the strength in motion which epitomizes his work. Born in Ukraine in 1915, the classically trained artist immigrated to Canada in 1948. He came to prominence in 1964, when his monument to Taras Shevchenko was unveiled in Washington by Dwight D. Eisenhower. His sculptures of Canadian themes, like the 'Lumberjacks,' have earned him a loyal following among collectors. A longtime member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, his artistic contributions have earned him numerous awards and honors, including the Order of Canada in 1989."

- The city of Hartford installed a temporary skating rink during the 2001-2002 holiday season, and since Thanksgiving an estimated 2,000 skaters per week, mostly children, enjoyed the ice. On January 6, area resident and

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The Canadian postal issue honoring two of the country's sculptors, Ukrainian Canadian Leo Mol and Charles Daudelin.

Olympic gold medalist Viktor Petrenko was on hand to skate with them. Under the auspices of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, Mr. Petrenko spent about an hour and a half skating and clowning on the ice with fans. He posed for countless photographs and signed autographs. An especially touching moment hushed the crowd as a handful of children pulling little red wagons filled with toys made their way to Mr. Petrenko. Boundless Playgrounds and its corporate sponsor, Hasbro, donated toys to Mr. Petrenko and CCRF for distribution to children in Ukrainian orphanages.

- Long-time community leader Orest T. Dubno of New Haven, Conn., was honored on January 12 as a recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. 2002 Brotherhood Award in recognition of his "outstanding, distinguished and unselfish efforts to promote tolerance and understanding among all racial, ethnic and cultural groups." He was cited for his work as the former president of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and for his long years of public service in the state of Connecticut. Mr. Dubno has served on the board of directors of the University of New Haven and the Advocacy Council at Yale New Haven Hospital. He was Connecticut's commissioner of revenue from 1975 until 1985 and is currently the chief financial officer with the Lex Atlantic Corp. He served as the chairman of the board of directors of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund from 1993 to 1999.

- In February it was reported that Lohika Systems Inc., a company with close ties to Ukraine, announced it had completed its Series A Round of equity financing from a premier group of private investors, raising a total of \$1.25 million. Employing computer programmers in Ukraine, Lohika provides high-quality, cost-effective outsourced software development, integration and maintenance services to the higher-education and utilities markets in the United States. In Ukraine the shortage of rewarding employment opportunities means that the best and brightest young minds in the country look to the West for jobs, causing a "brain drain" through emigration. Lohika established a software development center in Lviv, and as a result serves the important social function of helping Ukraine retain its talented programmers.

- Cmdr. Heidemarie M. Stefanyshyn-Piper (U.S. Navy), who completed NASA's astronaut training program in April of 1998, was assigned to a space shuttle mission scheduled for April 2003, and was to become the first Ukrainian American to fly in space. The announcement came on February 26. The mission is to deliver and attach the second port truss segment to the International Space Station. Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper was born in St. Paul, Minn., on February 7, 1963, and was an active member of the Ukrainian American community – belonging to Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, the local Ukrainian dance ensemble, the school of Ukrainian studies and St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Church. She is currently a member of the Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston.

- In the springtime of 2002, Capt. Myron Diduryk, a Ukrainian American veteran of the Vietnam War, was cited in the movie "We Were Soldiers" starring Mel Gibson. The movie documents the first major battle fought by the U.S. forces in Vietnam: the November 1965 battle of the Ia

Drang Valley. Capt. Diduryk's key role in the battle is noted in the best-selling book "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young," written by Lt. Gen. Moore (ret.) and Joseph T. Galloway, the only journalist on the scene during the battle. The similarly titled movie is based on the book. Though there are numerous citations for Capt. Diduryk in the book, as well as a photograph of the young soldier and a diagram of the battle titled "Diduryk's Men Hold the Line," Diduryk's character does not appear in the movie. There is a reference to Capt. Diduryk, however, in a line in the movie, as Lt. Col. Moore addresses the departing troops and notes that the unit includes "a captain from Ukraine."

- Dr. Michael I. Yarymovich, currently chief scientific advisor to ANSER Corp. of Arlington, Va., was presented the von Kármán Medal by the NATO Research and Technology Board during ceremonies held in March at Mandelieu, France. The medal is awarded annually for exemplary service and significant contribution to the enhancement of progress in research and technology cooperation among the NATO countries, carried out in conjunction with NATO Research and Technology Organization activities. Dr. Yarymovich served as director of the Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development (AGARD) in Paris, as well as U.S. national delegate to AGARD and chairman of the same body. He also served as chairman of the newly established NATO Research and Technology Organization.

- Jan Demczur became a hero on 9/11 by freeing himself and five others trapped in an elevator in the World Trade Center. Mr. Demczur had worked for 11 years as a window washer in the Twin Towers, and he used the tool of his trade, a squeegee, to extricate himself and the others from the elevator. The elevator that Mr. Demczur was riding fell 20 floors before coming to a stop at the 50th floor. The men were able to pry open the elevator doors, but found a wall of sheetrock on the other side. They used the squeegee blade until they dropped it, and after that used the squeegee handle break through the sheetrock. Six months later, on March 11, 2002, the squeegee was part of a temporary display at the National Museum of American History along with other artifacts of the terrorist attacks.

- The Microsoft Corp. released a Ukrainian version of its new Microsoft Office XP software package on March 12, making it the first computer software on the market available in the Ukrainian language. Originally a plan to computerize 2,900 Ukrainian schools and institutions of higher learning was to utilize existing Russian-language programs. However, the U.S.-based Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) turned to Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates and to the Ukrainian government to insist that only a Ukrainian-language software program could be acceptable. Microsoft had provided localized operating software for all the countries of the region – Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland – but, inexplicably, not for Ukraine. Microsoft did not deny that it had responded to pressure from the Ukrainian Ministry of Education but said, "It is an international standard of Microsoft that when there is a partnership with a government the most important programs are to be translated into the native language."

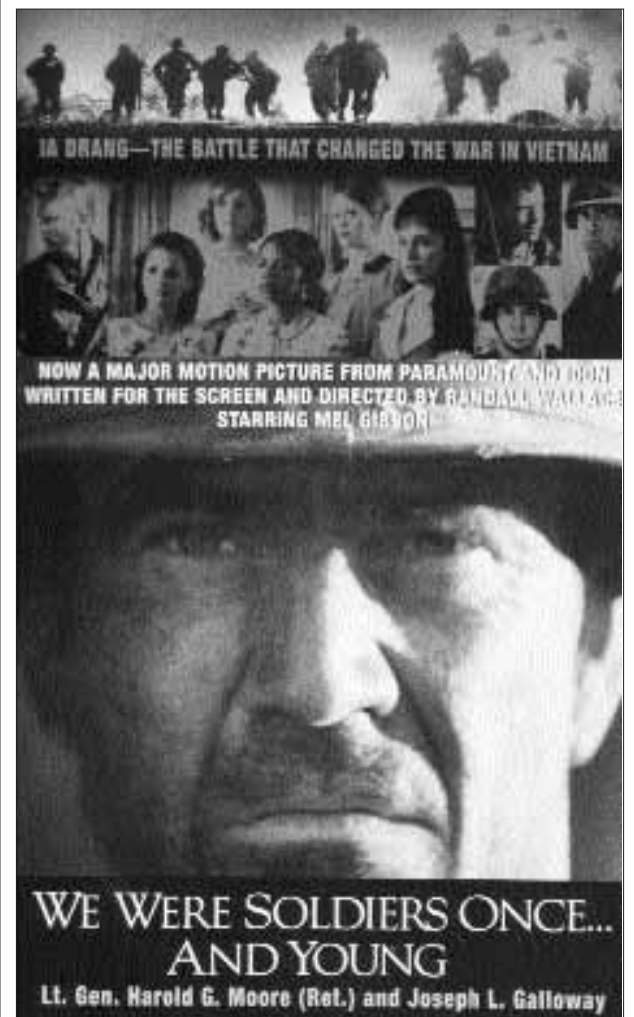
- The Batkivschyna, the Ukrainian schooner that was

lost at sea in the Atlantic Ocean for three weeks and then became the toast of the Eastern Seaboard during Operation Sail 2000 in the millennium year, began the third year of its trans-global expedition in mid-April. The vessel planned to spend the spring and first part of the summer in the Caribbean before crossing the Panama Canal and traveling up the U.S. Pacific coast and then continuing westward to Hawaii and Australia. Its 2002 tour came after last year's three-month journey through the Great Lakes, during which the crew met with Ukrainian communities of all the major cities of the region and continued the Discover Ukraine project, the Batkivschyna's quest to publicize Ukraine, its achievements and its potential.

- The Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union in April moved its main office into a modern new building. The credit union chose to remain in the Ukrainian Village of Chicago, the neighborhood that is home to Ukrainian churches, schools and a number of Ukrainian-owned businesses, and where many of its members still reside. On April 14 President Bohdan Watral and Board Chairman Michael R. Kos ceremoniously cut the ribbon at the opening, and the blessing of the premises was conducted by Archbishop Vsevolod with Bishops Michael Wiwchar and Innocent Lotocky.

- The Province of Saskatchewan honored Paul Ortynsky, pharmacist and longtime Ukrainian Canadian community activist, on April 25 when he was invested with the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal. Mr. Ortynsky's contributions include service as: board member of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee's Saskatchewan Provincial Council; mayor of Canora; vice-president of Parkland Regional College Canora Ukrainian Centennial celebrations and millennium reunion; national president of the Ukrainian Professional and Business Association; Canora branch president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress; president of the Canora Ukrainian Heritage Museum; member of the Senate at the University of Regina; and member of the Provincial Government's Advisory Committee on Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations.

- The 2002 Heorhiy Narbut Prize balloting, which began in May, selected the Korol (King) Danylo souvenir sheet as the best-designed philatelic release of 2001 in Ukraine. The winning design by Oleksii Shtanko, depicted the famous king of Halych (Galicia) and Volyn (ruled 1238-1264; King of Rus' from 1253) riding a white charger at the head of his troops. A golden lion on a blue banner unfurls behind him, while in the background are the wooden walls of the newly built city of Lviv, named for Danylo's son Lev and founded about 1256. There was also a Special Narbut Prize awarded in April of 2002 for "the best stamp issue of Ukraine's first decade of independ-



Cover of the book "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young," which recounts the key role of Capt. Myron Diduryk in the battle of the Ia Drang Valley during the Vietnam War.

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Yaro Bihun

Oksana Horbunova (left), the Kyiv program coordinator for the International Organization for Migration, was honored on May 16. With her is Melanne Verveer, chair of Vital Voices Global Partnership.

ence." Two souvenir sheets were declared co-winners – the 1997 "Founding of Kyiv" and the 2000 "Wildflowers of Ukraine." "Founding of Kyiv," designed by Volodymyr Taran and Oleksander Kharuk, depicts the legendary founders of Ukraine's capital: the brothers Kyi, Schek, and Khoryv, and their sister Lybid. According to the ancient manuscript "Povist Vremenykh Lit" (Tale of Bygone Years), the siblings established the city some 1,500 years ago on a site overlooking the Dnipro. "Wildflowers of Ukraine," designed by Kateryna Shtanko, depicts a girl wearing a floral wreath standing in front of various types of flowers. Each stamp from the sheet features a different flower.

- "Window on America," the Voice of America's popular Ukrainian TV newsmagazine, became available worldwide on the Internet, according to a news story published in early May. "Window's" presence on the World Wide Web came nine years after the program's nationwide debut on Ukraine's UT-1 state television network. Produced in Washington, the 26-minute weekly broadcast highlights a wide range of topics, from U.S.-Ukrainian relations, and difficult issues such as homelessness and crime, to light-hearted vignettes. The program also features American sports, business, agriculture, medicine, education, culture and life in the Ukrainian American community. The website can be accessed at www.vikno.tv.

- Ukrainian American Stefan Tatarenko won his second term as Clifton city councilman on May 14. Following Mr. Tatarenko's victory, a celebration was held in his honor at Venezia Restaurant in Clifton the same night. In a speech during the celebration Mr. Tatarenko added a "promise to continue to help the citizens of Clifton by maintaining a low tax base, increase ratables, increase senior housing and services, maintain infrastructure in the city, attract new businesses, continue redeveloping the downtown areas and of course, continue the outstanding relationship with the Ukrainian community and to assist them in any way possible."

- More than 100 people crammed into Ottawa's Ukrainian Orthodox church hall on May 15 to take part in the fifth annual National Kovbasa Tasting Competition, organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Ottawa. The kovbasa tasting competition was preceded by a brief panel on real estate tips. At the competition, attendees got to taste, then vote for, their favorite kovbasa in three categories: traditional, ham-based and specialty. Asked if the garlic in the kovbasa was perhaps a little intense, Terence Scheltema answered "not at all," but he added that he "feels sorry for the person who's not eating kovbasa tonight."

- Oksana Horbunova, a leading women's and human rights activist in Ukraine who helped focus the world's attention on the growing international problem of trafficking in women and children was honored for her efforts at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on May 16. Ms. Horbunova, the Kyiv program coordinator for the International Organization for Migration, was

joined by three other women activists – from Afghanistan, Northern Ireland and South Africa – as the first award recipients to be honored for their work on behalf of women's rights by Vital Voices Global Partnership, an organization that supports women's groups worldwide in expanding the participation of women in the political and economic life of their countries and in fighting trafficking.

- The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum celebrated its 25th anniversary of service to the public, with actor Jack Palance as special guest, at the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Center in Mayfield, Pa., on May 31. Mr. Palance, who was born Vladimer Palaniuk in Lattimer Mines, Pa., took part in the celebrations expressing appreciation for the work the museum does in preserving the coal region heritage. The region can rightfully be called the cradle of Ukrainian immigration to the U.S.

- On June 16, 35-year-old teacher Danylo Darewych and 21-year-old University of Toronto student Andriy Kolos reached North America's highest peak, Denali in Alaska. Denali is the Native American name for Mount McKinley, which has a height of 20,320 feet. Messrs. Darewych and Kolos started out from base camp on June 1 with enough food for 30 days. They finally arrived at the summit on June 16. During their ascent, the Ukrainian Canadian pair by chance met a group of three climbers from Zaporizhia in Ukraine.

- A newly constructed EMS Building on Grove Street in Passaic, N.J., was dedicated on June 30 to the memory of John Skala, a police officer killed at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. On that day Officer Skala was stationed at the Lincoln Tunnel. After the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center, he and others rushed to the site, where he would lose his life. Mr. Skala was a member of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), as well as a member of the board of directors of the Ukrainian Center of Passaic. The 16th world congress of SUM, which was held in November 2001, posthumously awarded the Iron Cross of Valor to Mr. Skala. It is the highest honor in SUM, and it is the first time it has ever been awarded.

- During the 2001-2002 academic year at the Des Moines Area Community College in central Iowa, faculty, staff and students took a close look at Ukraine. The "Year of Ukraine" marked the 18th consecutive year the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) observed International Year. Each year the school selects a different country, learning about its history, culture, economy and politics. Students at DMACC read The Ukrainian Weekly and books about Ukraine; viewed artistic exhibits demonstrating photographs, watercolors and tapestries; watched films; ate Ukrainian food; heard speakers talk about contemporary issues; saw performances by classical and pop musicians; and made pysanky.

- The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation conducted its first annual Youth Leadership Program in Washington on August 3-9 for 13 U.S. college students interested in U.S.-Ukraine relations. A weeklong program of meetings and discus-

sions focused on U.S.-Ukraine relations, leadership, public policy, the political process and public service. The students met with lobbyists, former ambassadors, congressmen and congressional staffers, leaders of NGOs, as well as Ukrainian priests and representatives of social organizations in Washington. They visited many of Washington's political establishments, such as the Kennan Institute and the Young Republican National Federation. They also attended a viewing of CNN's "Crossfire" TV program.

- Nonagenarian Dr. Michael Ewanchuk, author of 12 books on Ukrainian pioneers in Canada, as well as a book on Ukrainian contract workers in Hawaii, was honored on September 10 with the Queen's Medal on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's 50 years on the British throne. Dr. Ewanchuk is currently working on two more books about Ukrainian settlers and pioneers. Another recipient of the golden jubilee medal was Metropolitan Wasyly Fedak of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

- Acrobatic aerialist Tatyana Petruk, Kyiv-born World Cup and European acrobatics champion and member of New York's Team AntiGravity, wowed hundreds of spectators in the a at the outdoor extravaganza that opened the 100th birthday celebration of Macy's, billed as the world's largest department store. A later AntiGravity appearance featured Ukrainian-born acrobat Tatyana Brikulskaya.

- On September 23, the Miss Universe Organization announced that Oxana Fedorova of Russia had been relieved of her duties as Miss Universe 2002 and that the first runner-up, Justine Pasek of Panama, would assume the title and serve the remaining nine months of Miss Universe's reign. What was not known at the time was that the naming of Ms. Pasek would be a proud day also for Ukraine and Poland. The beautiful brunette was born in Ukraine, lived in Poland and later moved to Panama with her parents. According to the Brama website, which cited Polish journalist Waldemar Piasecki of Kurier Lubelski, Ms. Pasek's mother, Elizabeth Patino, was a chemistry student in Kharkiv, Ukraine, when she met and fell in love with a Polish engineering student, Stanislaw Pasek. The couple was married in Kharkiv, where their daughter Justine was born and spent the first year of her life. The Pasek family then moved to Wuzuczynie, Poland, where "Yustyna" was baptized. The new Miss Universe is 22, works in TV production and plans to complete a degree in environmental engineering.

- An editorial in The Ukrainian Weekly in November called "Famine and The Times revisited" commented on the newly released book "Written into History," which contains Pulitzer Prize reporting of the 20th century from The New York Times. It refers to Walter Duranty, who won the Pulitzer in 1932 for his reporting from the USSR, in which he denied the Famine of 1932-1933 while privately telling British intelligence that he believed over 10 million had died. The book contains a parenthetical notation saying, "Other writers in the Times and elsewhere have discredited this coverage." In a later section, it notes that Duranty's reporting "has come under a cloud" and that he "ignored the reality of Stalin's mass murder." However, there is no mention of the Famine-Genocide. A Pulitzer Prize awarded to Janet Cooke of the Washington Post in 1981 was returned because Ms. Cooke had fabricated the story. The Times has elected not to follow suit and even has a picture of Duranty hanging among the photographs of Pulitzer winners in a corridor at The Times.

- At year's end came news of a proposal for a new museum in France: the Museum of Accidents. As reported in the December 26 issue of The New York Times, the idea comes from Paul Virilio, 70, a French urbanist, philosopher and writer, who expounds a theory of accidents which holds that many human accidents today are caused by technology, and that modern technology and communications have made accidents more global in impact. As an illustration of what he proposes to display in such a museum, Mr. Virilio prepared an exhibit called "Unknown Quantity" which is on view at the Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art in Paris through March 30. The exhibit includes all types of natural and man-made disasters; among them, along with volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, train derailments and airplane crashes are the terrorist attacks of 9/11, which Mr. Virilio says falls into the category of "war disguised as accident." Also part of the exhibit is the 1986 disaster at Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The Times noted that "The fire at the Chernobyl [sic] nuclear plant in Ukraine in 1986 is presented as perhaps the most dramatic example of sophisticated technology run amok." It quoted Mr. Virilio as saying in a film prepared for the exhibit that Chernobyl "foreshadowed a new kind of warfare, terrorist war, in which you cannot differentiate between attacks and accidents, where the declaration of war does not exist, where there are no uniforms, no flags, where there is simply evil-doing."

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Our community mourns its losses

During 2002 we mourned the passing of statesmen, scholars, editors and broadcasters, leading members of the community, and other prominent individuals. Among them were the following.

In early 2002, we learned of the death of the Rev. Vital Wasył Pidskalny, 80, former vice-general and Canadian provincial superior of Basilian Fathers – Saskatoon, December 10, 2001.

- Stepan Woroch, 81, dentist and prominent Ukrainian community activist and leader – Maplewood, N.J., January 2.

- Ivan Fedorovych Karabyts, 57, a leading composer of Ukraine, founder of the international music festival, Kyiv Music Fest and the Kyiv International Piano Competition in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz – Kyiv, January 20.

- Zenon Snylyk, 69, editor-in-chief of the Svoboda Ukrainian-language daily newspaper (1980-1998) and prior to that editor of The Ukrainian Weekly; an accomplished athlete and three-time member of the U.S. Olympic soccer team – Berkeley Heights, N.J., January 21.

- Lydia Wasylenko Smyk, 43, teacher at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School and editor of The Ukrainian Weekly's "UKELODEON" section – Newark, N.J., February 14.

- Natalia Shukhevych, 92, wife of Roman Shukhevych (1907-1950), supreme commander of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) – Lviv, February 28.

- Wasył Kardash, 79, founder and director of Ukrainian Canadian church choirs and choral ensembles; member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and a Holocaust survivor – Toronto, March 26.

- Dr. Oksana Maria Korzeniowski, 57, physician and professor of medicine at the Medical College of Pennsylvania-Hahnemann University in Philadelphia – Glenside, Pa., March 29.

- George Y. Shevelov, 94, world-renowned linguist and literary critic, professor of Slavic philology at Harvard and Columbia universities – New York, April 12.

- Savella Stechishin, 99, editor and author, pioneer of Ukrainian women's movement in Canada – Saskatoon, April 22.

- Dr. Peter Woroby, economics professor emeritus of the University of Regina, special advisor to the government of Saskatchewan on Ukraine (1990-1995) and community leader – Regina, Saskatchewan, May 5.

- Valerii Lobanovsky, 63, legendary soccer coach of Kyiv Dynamo – Kyiv, May 13.

- The Rev. Michael Horoshko, 90, Ukrainian chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces during World War II and parish priest serving in parishes in Canada and the United States – Mahanoy City, Pa., May 31.

- Roman Oliynyk Rakhmanny, 83, prolific journalist-publisher – Montreal, June 24.

- Dr. Mykola Deychakiwsky, 81, physician, member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, community activist and benefactor – Parma, Ohio, July 11.

- John Teluk, 78, former vice-president of the Ukrainian National Association and professor of economics and finance at the University of New Haven – Kerhonkson, N.Y., July 13.

- Bohdan Yasinsky, 79, librarian-bibliographer and Ukrainian area specialist at the Library of Congress; resident of Silver Spring, Md. – died in Kyiv, while on an extended visit to Ukraine, July 28.

- Bohdan Pevny, 71, artist, arts writer and critic, co-editor of the journal Suchasnist – Kew Gardens, N.Y., September 7.

- Mary Dushnyk, 91, former vice-presidentess of the Ukrainian National Association and a women's and community activist – Brooklyn, N.Y., September 13.

- Zenon Onufryk, 66, engineer, community activist and leader – Whippany, N.J., September 24.

- Hryhoriy Oleksandrovych Kostiuk, 99, prominent émigré literary scholar and editor, who wrote extensively on Ukrainian literature and politics in interwar Soviet Ukraine – Silver Spring, Md., October 3.

- Ivan Kandyba, 72, lawyer and dissident active in the national and human rights movements in Ukraine, and founding member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group – Lviv, November 8.

- Dr. Wasył Lencyk, 90, scholar and educator, whose life was marked by service to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States – Stamford, Conn., November 10.

- Michael Terpak, 85, pioneer in international radio broadcasting during the Cold War, established the Ukrainian section of Radio Liberation (now Radio Liberty), chief of the Ukrainian Service at Voice of America – Fairfax, Va., December 2.

- Ramon John Hnatyshyn, 68, governor general of Canada, 1990-1995, and former justice minister of Canada – Ottawa, December 18.



George Y. Shevelov



Zenon Snylyk



Ramon Hnatyshyn

Victims of 9/11: for the record

Only during 2002 did the names of the thousands of victims of 9/11 become known. Below are the names of victims gleaned from The New York Times website by doing a search for the keywords "Ukraine" and "Ukrainian."

- Tatyana Bakalinskaya, 43, arrived in New York City from Ukraine in 1994, and worked as a hostess at the offices of Marsh & McLennan on the 93rd floor of the World Trade Center (WTC).

- Marina Gertsburg, 25, emigrated from Odesa and settled in Queens with her family at age 4. She was a junior manager at Cantor Fitzgerald, which she had joined only a week before the terrorist attack and was enrolled in a master's program at Baruch College.

- Boris Khalif, 30, moved to the United States from Ukraine at age 10. He was a computer consultant at Marsh & McLennan.

- Iouri Mouchinski, 55, arrived in New York City from Ukraine in 1994, and was a civil engineer who worked as a handyman at the World Trade Center.

- Vladimir Savinkin, 21, came to the United States almost six years earlier from Odesa. He attended Pace University at age 16, and became an accountant at Cantor Fitzgerald.

- Simon V. Weiser, a Jew born in Kyiv in 1936, arrived in Brooklyn in 1978. He was an engineer in the USSR who eventually worked in power-distribution engineering for the Port Authority.

- Oleh Wengerchuk, 56, was born in Ukraine, and became a Displaced Person as a result of World War II. He was a transportation designer for the Washington Group International, on the 91st floor of the WTC, and lived in Centerpoint, Long Island.

- Igor Zukelman, 29, an immigrant from Ukraine arrived in this country in 1992, and worked at the Fiduciary Trust Co. on WTC's 97th floor.

It should be noted that the name of John Skala, 31, of Clifton, N.J., a Port Authority police officer, did not come up in either search as he was not identified as being either Ukrainian or from Ukraine. Officer Skala was assigned to the Lincoln Tunnel and was called to the World Trade Center after the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers.

In addition to these nine victims killed at the WTC, there were others on the long somber list that filled two pages in small type in a recent issue of The New York Times, whose last names sound Ukrainian. So the number of victims with Ukrainian roots undoubtedly is higher.

Meanwhile, at The Weekly...

Whoa! Is it 2003 already? Here at The Weekly, let us tell you, 2002 just flew by. Could be the workload and the number of stories we published during the year ... there was just no time for reflection or the realization that the end of the year was fast approaching (that despite the repeated warnings of our webmaster/special projects adjunct Serge "Sid" Polishchuk that "the yearender is coming.")

Really, it seems like just yesterday that we unveiled the full texts of all 52 issues of The Ukrainian Weekly published in 2001 at www.ukrweekly.com, our newspaper's official website. The new addition was unveiled, as has become tradition, in February, on the anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian National Association, publisher of The Ukrainian Weekly. Included in the 2001 issues now online are 1,771 news stories and articles (not counting individual items in Newsbriefs) published during the course of the entire year. The Weekly's official website now contains 11,115 full-text articles. Notable among the 2001 issues are the newspaper's special sections dedicated to the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive, which opened its official website on August 20, 1998, now contains full texts of all issues published in 1996 through 2001, as well as excerpts of the top news stories published each week during the current year. All sections of the site are searchable. The Ukrainian Weekly provides this website of archival materi-

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als as a community service. The site is maintained by the newspaper's production and editorial staffs.

For the record, during 2002, The Ukrainian Weekly published 1,715 articles (not counting individual "Newsbriefs" or "Preview of Events" items). The word "Ukrainian" was used 11,237 times; "Ukrainians" – 1,037 times; "Ukraine" – 9,695 times and "Ukraine's" – 2,257 times. Need we go on? This is, after all, The Ukrainian Weekly! Oh, and the total number of words published in 2002: 1,278,700 – a nice round number.

During the year, The Ukrainian Weekly celebrated a number of achievements and innovations.

The most notable was the release of "Ukraine Lives!" – a compilation of materials prepared on the occasion of the milestone 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. The name of the book is taken from the title of The Weekly's editorial written in 2001 to mark a decade since the historic act of August 24, 1991, that once again placed the name "Ukraine" on the world map. Copies of "Ukraine Lives!" were mailed to The Ukrainian Weekly's subscribers in North America, as well as all members of the U.S. Congress.

The book contains contemporaneous reports on events leading up to the re-establishment of Ukraine's independence, as well as news reports filed from the scene by The Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau on that momentous day in 1991 when the Parliament of the Ukrainian SSR, proclaimed the independence of Ukraine. Also included are reports on the often tense and exciting events that transpired immediately thereafter, including the referendum of December 1, 1991, that affirmed the Ukrainian nation's overwhelming support for independent statehood.

Materials in the book are organized into chapters: "From Perebudova to Independence," "Independence: The Early Years," "The Tenth Anniversary," "Ukraine's Independence Day" (a collection of Weekly editorials published on each successive Ukrainian Independence Day, which gives a snapshot of both independent Ukraine's progress and the diaspora reaction) and "Attributes of Statehood."

The 288-page book also covers the compelling events that led up to independence. Thus, the book transports readers to Ukraine, then still part of the USSR, at the time of the newly proclaimed policies of glasnost, perestroika (or perebudova in Ukrainian) and demokratyzatsia. The volume contains unique materials related to Ukraine's first decade of independence – encompassing the fields of politics, the arts, religious life, philately, etc. – along with special reports, commentaries by scholars, observations by foreign leaders, and reflections by youths of both Ukraine and the diaspora related to the 2001 celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Ukrainian independence. Among the newly published materials in the book is an account of Ukraine's participation in the Olympic Games, from 1992 to 2000.

Besides the book (Roma Hadzewycz, editor; Serge Polishchuk, design/layout) our editors had other successes during 2002.

Roman Woronowycz of our Kyiv Press Bureau started the year off by covering the music scene in Ukraine with a three-part series, each of which featured two groups. "Pop, rock, hip-hop – Ukraine's music scene has it all – and it's

thriving," read the headline.

Editor Andrew Nynka covered Ukraine's participation in the 2002 Winter Olympics from Salt Lake City and environs, as well as Team Ukraine's preparations before the Games in Sun Valley, Idaho, the team's official training site. (Thanks go to Laryssa Barabash Temple, attaché for the Ukrainian National Olympic Committee, for making this possible.)

Throughout the year our arts editor, Ika Koznarska Casanova was on the lookout for news and new talent in that realm. She succeeded in enlisting the cooperation of Alexandra Hawryluk of Montreal as a new arts writer, and the results included features such as those about artist Roman Kowal, known for his ecclesiastic interior design, and actor and director Gregory Hlady. In addition, Ms. Casanova's work and coordination with other writers highlighted the art of such new notables as photographer and tapestry artist Lialia Kuchma and painter Motria C. Holowinsky.

Unfortunately, The Weekly also was in mourning during 2002 as two people associated with the paper passed away.

Zenon Snylyk, former editor-in-chief of the Svoboda Ukrainian-language daily newspaper (1980-1998), and prior to that editor of The Ukrainian Weekly (1962-1980), died on January 21 at the age of 68. Mr. Snylyk devoted 36 years and four months of his life to work as an editor with publications of the Ukrainian National Association. He split that time equally between the UNA's two papers, and also was a member of the editorial staff of the two-volume Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia sponsored by the UNA and published by the University of Toronto Press. Mr. Snylyk always underlined that the role of UNA publications was to serve the Ukrainian community and the Ukrainian nation, and that these were his "imperatives" as an editor.

He was renowned also as an athlete. He was a three-time member of the U.S. Olympic Soccer Team (1956, 1960, 1964), and captained the 1956 and 1960 Olympic squads. He also played and/or led U.S. soccer teams that competed in the Pan-American Games and in a World Cup tournament, and was twice named an All-American. In addition, he coached and played for seven Ukrainian soccer teams during the 1950s and 1960s.

Mr. Snylyk chose to retire in 1998 before Svoboda was transformed, in accordance with a decision of the UNA Convention of that year, to a weekly newspaper. On June 18, 1998, his last day of work at the UNA Home Office, which by then had moved from Jersey City to Parsippany, N.J., Mr. Snylyk was feted at an informal gathering of the two UNA newspapers' editorial and production staffs, print shop and administration. In recognition of Mr. Snylyk's three most beloved pursuits, on the occasion of his retirement the staff of The Ukrainian Weekly prepared a special front page of the paper highlighting his days on the soccer field, at the editor's desk and on the tennis court.

Just three weeks after Mr. Snylyk's death, The Weekly and the Ukrainian community lost Lydia Wasylenko Smyk, 43, a beloved teacher at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark, N.J., who died on February 14 after a long battle with cancer. During the last three years of her life Ms. Smyk also worked with the editorial staff of The Ukrainian Weekly on its UKELODEON section for children and youths. It was Ms. Smyk who came up with the name for the monthly section inaugurated on Valentine's Day 1999, illustrated the "Mykola Myshka" feature and prepared "Mishanyna," as well as articles bearing her byline. UKELODEON noted Ms. Smyk's passing, bidding her a final farewell on March 10.

Though she held a degree in English literature and had job experience in the fields of advertising and maintenance of historical archives, Ms. Smyk found her true calling in 1991, when she began teaching at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School. She taught at the parochial school for 11 years, during that time teaching fourth grade and kindergarten. A tribute from her students at St. John's appeared in the April 14 issue of UKELODEON.

Our special features during the year included our second annual section devoted to Ukrainian debutante balls, published on March 24; our sixth annual supplement titled "A Ukrainian Summer," contained in our May 5 issue. The latter featured a dramatic photo of Kyiv's monument to Bohdan Khmelnytsky against the backdrop of the St. Michael's Golden-Domed Sobor that appeared on the front page of that 12-page supplement along with the story "Historic Kyiv: a world-class capital city just waiting to be rediscovered," written by our Kyiv Press Bureau chief, Roman Woronowycz.

The original color version of that photo – taken by our colleague from the Associated Press, Efrem Lukatsky – took one's breath away. It was just what we were looking

for to grace the cover of our latest book "Ukraine Lives!"

Also during the year, The Weekly focused several issues on the 50th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort, culminating in an eight-page photo pull-out that appeared in the November 24 issue under the heading "Soyuzivka is ... memories."

Marta Kolomayets, once a member of The Ukrainian Weekly's editorial staff and a former Kyiv correspondent for the newspaper, and another former colleague of ours, Natalia Feduschak, authored a six-part series of articles on the "Renaissance of Kyiv," which was timed to appear before the Ukrainian Institute of America gala honored Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko as Man of the Year, who is seen as the chief architect of the capital city's rebirth.

We also marked the 69th anniversary of our paper. Our editorial on that occasion referred to some of the groundbreaking work done by the paper during the nearly seven decades of its service to our community. It reflected also upon the paper's extremely loyal readership without whom the paper would not be able to continue its mission, as well as the crucial role of its publisher.

Subscriptions do not even come close to supporting the work of this newspaper, we explained to our readers. Our advertisers and our benefactors do help foot the bill, and so do the generous donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund and the donations received along with payment for our aforementioned latest book – for which we offer most sincere thanks. But, frankly, without the financial input of our publisher, the Ukrainian National Association, neither The Weekly nor the Ukrainian-language Svoboda would exist. Both weekly newspapers are funded with hefty subsidies from the UNA – probably the best concrete example of the UNA's role as a fraternal benefit society that exists to benefit its members and their community.

Thanks were due also in 2002 to supporters of our "Copies for Congress" program, which provides gratis subscriptions to The Ukrainian Weekly for all members of the U.S. Congress based on the premise that this newspaper has served as the voice of our community and thus informs our legislators about our concerns and spurs them to action on issues important to us. As well, it provides information about developments in Ukraine that simply is not available elsewhere. Plus, The Weekly is the only newspaper that provides such information consistently, coherently and accurately.

The Ukrainian Weekly's "Copies for Congress" program during 2001-2002 was supported by eight credit unions, three professional organizations, three community organizations and four individual donors. Their contributions totaled \$12,600. Each donation of \$1,000 was acknowledged with a special sponsor's box that appeared on page 3 of The Weekly.

Finally, we must thank our administration, headed by Walter Honcharyk (still our top candidate for our Unofficial Man of the Year Award); our advertising manager, Maria Oscislawski (who still refuses to wear those sneakers she needs because of all the running around she does); and our subscription/circulation manager, Mary Pendzola (whom we began calling "president" of her one-woman "department" this year). It's great working with you all – your cooperation is much appreciated.

And that, Dear Readers, brings "2002: The Year in Review" to a close.

We hereby extend greetings and wishes of good health, good fortune and good humor to all of you for the New Year and beyond. Keep reading and keep in touch!

Oh, just one more thing...

The materials in this year-in-review section were prepared by Roman Woronowycz of our Kyiv Press Bureau, Roma Hadzewycz, Andrew Nynka and Ika Koznarska Casanova of our home office in Parsippany, N.J., Yaro Bihun in Washington, and our colleague and former staffer Deanna Yurchuk of New York City. We were also assisted by our two summer interns, Peter Steciuk and Andrew Olesnycky, who took some time out of their winter breaks to assist us. (As far as we're concerned, they can work any and all seasons they'd like...)

Needless to say (or is it?), the materials in this issue are dependent also on the many submissions from local activists, regular correspondents and free-lancers whose reports were published in The Weekly during 2002.

Special thanks are due also to our production team par excellence: the dynamic duo of Markian ("Markianchyk") Rybak and Awilda Rolon, without whose hard work and great spirits, often under trying circumstances, we could not have released this 48-page issue containing 34 solid pages of year-in-review material.



Cover of The Ukrainian Weekly's latest book, "Ukraine Lives!"

DATELINE NEW YORK: Holiday happenings in retrospect

by Helen Smindak

At the turn of the year, cultural events in the Ukrainian community dwindle down to a precious few as we go about celebrating one Christmas or the other (or both) and ringing in the new year with traditional "Malanka" festivities.

Yet there still remains much to write about, for the pre-Christmas period of 2002 was well stocked with art exhibitions and musical events.

Apart from the Ukrainian Institute of America's exhilarating "Renaissance of Kyiv" events and an exciting Ukraine Day at the United Nations (see *The Ukrainian Weekly* of December 15 and January 5, respectively), December had many sugarplums to offer.

Included among these were "A Royal Christmas," a touring show starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer, and featuring principal dancers of the Kyiv Ballet and the Shumka Ukrainian dancers of Edmonton; a duo-piano recital by Kyiv-born Valentina Lisitsa and her husband, Alexei Kuznetsoff; a Symphony Space concert headlined by master bandurist Julian Kytasty and virtuoso pipa (Chinese lute) player Wu Man; and a gig by the wild Gogol Bordello ensemble at the Knitting Factory.

Dovzhenko films took the spotlight for two weeks at the BAM Rose Cinemas in Brooklyn. Capturing interest in Manhattan were exhibits by artist Inka Essenhigh and photographer Joseph Sywenkyj.

Highbrow cartooning

Inka Essenhigh, the progeny of a Ukrainian mother and an English father, has been making waves for several years as a stylish up-and-coming painter, but her English surname concealed her from "Dateline" until a Connecticut reader tipped us off to her part-Ukrainian lineage. Turns out Ms. Essenhigh enjoyed sudden fame four years ago, when critics and New York art dealers first discovered her "trendy" art.

Michael Kimmelman, who wrote about her latest exhibit in the November 17, 2002, issue of *The New York Times*, referred to her early work as "skillfully drawn, sinuous and decorative," populated by "humanoid technoblobs that looked slightly sinister but also loopy." He says her new work, shown in tandem at 303 Gallery in Manhattan in December and at the Victoria Miro Gallery in London, reveals a new phase in her still youthful career: she has evolved her own distinctive realm of "highbrow cartooning in a kinky style that is lush and louche."

Ms. Essenhigh's art, says Mr. Kimmelman, tests the always fine, fascinating line between beauty and bad taste as she "flirts brazenly with kitsch." One of her eight paintings at 303 Gallery showed a long-lashed vixen in delicate pink-striped harem pants, fanned by buglike slaves, reclining on a gigantic platform bed shaped like a tiered wedding cake. Another work focused on lovers shooting laser beams into each other's eyes while morphing into Art Nouveau entanglements of vines and budding flowers.

In her earlier work, Ms. Essenhigh used enamels that left a flat, glossy surface on the large canvases she uses; this past summer she switched to oils for a richer, tactile surface. Andrea Scott (*Time Out New York*) says the off-key palette and the imagery that hints at Mughal miniatures and Japanese ukiyo-e prints are still recognizably Ms. Essenhigh's, but she feels that old-fashioned paint and more familiar pictorial conventions constitute a brave move for a young artist who's garnered so much attention.

Writing in the November issue of *ArtReview*, Violet Fraser notes that Ms. Essenhigh's paintings omit facial details, as in the visually epic work "Rearing Horse and Rider" (2002). She says character and experience are given definition by the rodeo-style salute, the big boot firmly planted in a foregrounded stirrup and the drama of the rearing horse, swathed in streams of cloth and flying mane.

Steven Vincent wrote in *Art & Auction* that Essenhigh paintings such as the 2002 "Personal Planet" and "Arrows of Fear" strike our sensibilities "less as examples of hip '90s art and more as insightful ruminations for anxious times." He feels that Ms. Essenhigh's evolution toward a more confident, painterly style should solidify her reputation as a significant debut de siecle artist.

Most critics agree that Ms. Essenhigh's large paintings are vibrant, violent and shiny. The public must like them, for the work on view at the Miro Gallery was sold (at \$30,000 to \$35,000 a canvas) even before the exhibit opened.

Born in Belfont, Pa., Inka Essenhigh was named Ivanka by her parents, Anna (Kobrynskyi) and Robert Essenhigh, and affectionately dubbed Inka by her grandmother; the nickname stuck. She attended Ukrainian school in Ohio and worked at Soyuzivka in the 1980s



Performers of the show "A Royal Christmas," including the Shuma Dancers, take a bow

("I'm very conscious of my heritage," she told "Dateline.") Her art studies took her to the Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio and New York's School of Visual Arts, from which she graduated in 1994.

In the next few years, Ms. Essenhigh tried various painting styles, realist and abstract, before settling on a style of her own, one that was influenced by artists like Dali. At the time, she was designing Sears boxer shorts on which images of simplified, generic space ships, cocktail glasses or aliens floated in front of flat monochrome grounds. The clear, bold language of the textiles appealed to Ms. Essenhigh and she tried to achieve that clarity and directness in her paintings, eventually developing her cast of heavily outlined, headless mutants, set in enigmatic scenarios before neutral fields of paint.

At 29, she shot to fame in 1998 after some critically acclaimed shows in New York. There were scads of reviews in leading art publications and the general print media. Her surreal canvases were snapped up by the Whitney Gallery and MoMA in New York, the Tate Liverpool in England and Hollywood mogul Michael Ovitz, among others. A profile in *Vanity Fair* magazine established the petite, live-wire painter as a celebrity.

Now 33, and lately married, Ms. Essenhigh continues to work in her East Village studio, while her London exhibit travels to Edinburgh and the New York show goes on to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Miami. Critics are waiting to see what she'll come up with next. Says Ms. Essenhigh, "I think about (my paintings) as being about America: fake, fun, pop, violent but also quite attractive."

An open door

Joseph Sywenkyj, a young photographer who graduated from the School of Visual Arts with an Honors B.A. degree in photography last spring, has a mission: he wants to raise awareness of Ukraine's growing epidemics through photographs, searching at the same time for truth and hope in its various forms.

To this end, he has returned repeatedly to Ukraine, the land of his ancestors, to photograph Chernobyl radiation victims and citizens of Ukraine suffering from HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

"I think of the camera as an open door to bring me closer to the people I photograph," he says. "I am very concerned with fostering social change but work to represent the people in the images not only for who they are and how I see them, but for how they would prefer to be seen and represented."

Mr. Sywenkyj's exhibition "Joseph Sywenkyj Ukraine: Verses of Faith and Disease," opened at the Visual Arts Gallery in November and ran through December 14, 2002. Included were some 35 photographs taken in Ukraine over the past two years, among them shots of 6 and 7-year-old Chernobyl victims who seemed to carry the weight of adulthood on their faces, and photos from last summer's trek to several TB hospitals.

Guest curator W. M. Hunt, director of photography at Ricco/Maresca Gallery in New York, told opening night attendees that "Joseph Sywenkyj is the real thing: he has a

good eye as a photographer, his sense of color and composition are remarkable, and he has enormous heart as a human being."

While Mr. Sywenkyj's striking exhibit covered the spread of tuberculosis, the centerpiece was his story about AIDS and its impact on Odesa residents Ira and Sasha and their newly born fifth child, Maria. Resisting despair, he included images showing the preciousness and vitality of life – Maria's sisters, Nadia and Tanya, skipping rope.

Mr. Sywenkyj's work is currently seen in a traveling exhibition "Pandemic: Imaging AIDS," which includes 100 works by major award-winning photographers and artists representing 50 countries, documenting 20 years of AIDS. On view in the United Nations Visitors' Lobby through January 20, the exhibit has already been seen in the Netherlands, South Africa and Spain, and will travel to Washington in the spring. The "Pandemic: Imaging AIDS" project includes a book that carries two of Mr. Sywenkyj's photos.

Mr. Sywenkyj's photojournalistic work, which has earned him several prestigious awards and grants, has been carried in *U. S. News & World Report*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, *Guitar World*, *The Ukrainian Weekly* and other publications.

That's entertainment!

At Symphony Space in early December, bandura maestro Julian Kytasty joined Wu Man, a virtuoso performer on the pipa (Chinese lute) for an evening of extraordinary and beautiful music. Ms. Man, who has performed and recorded with Yo Yo Ma's Silk Road Project and the Kronos Quartet, performed an opening solo set of traditional Chinese material. Then she and Mr. Kytasty combined talents (as well as a variety of banduras and flutes) in some newly arranged duets that drew on both Chinese and Ukrainian sources. Mr. Kytasty's colleagues from the Experimental Bandura Trio, Michael Andrec and Jurij Fedynskyj, came in for the finale, creating a foursome that produced unusual rearrangements of three numbers from the EBT Songbook.

With the "Sound of Music" co-stars Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer heading the line-up, the touring show "A Royal Christmas" came to Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, Long Island, for a one-night stand in December. The supporting cast included the 16-year-old Welsh soprano Charlotte Church and a slew of international choir singers and ballet and folk dancers, among them the world-renowned Shumka Dancers, an ensemble that's been compared to big-time Riverdance. The nostalgic Yuletide show featured three acclaimed ballet dancers from Kyiv – principal dancer of The Royal Ballet Ivan Putrov and principal dancers of the Kyiv Ballet Oksana Storozuk and Olena Filipeva – who performed beautiful ballet pieces from "The Nutcracker Suite."

Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall resounded with a Schubert piano duet and Chopin études on December 17, 2002, as Kyiv-born Valentina Lisitsa and her husband, Alexei Kuznetsoff, teamed up in a duo-piano

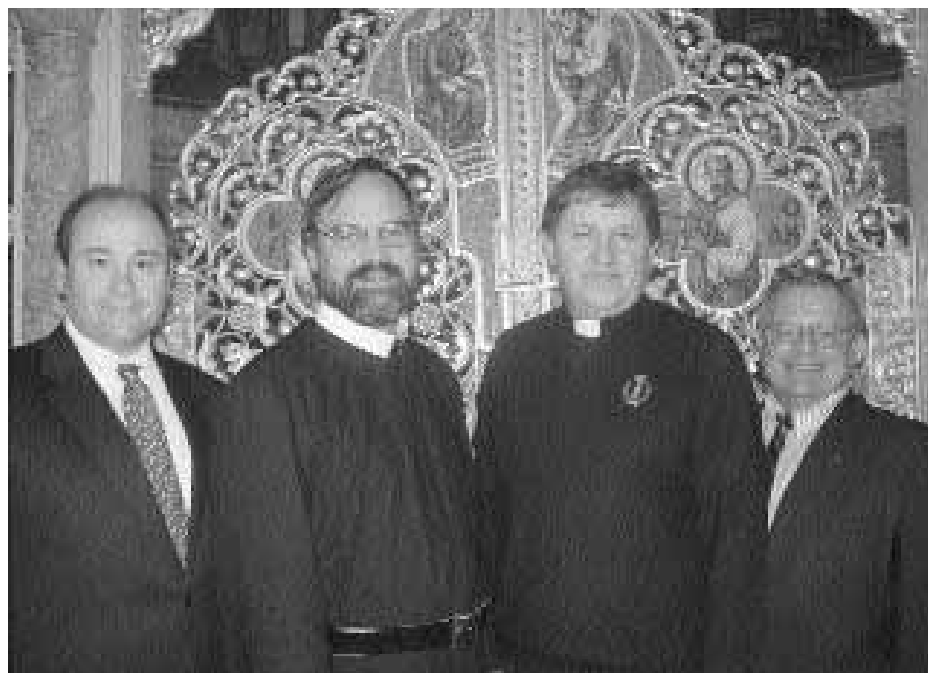
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Basilian Order taps activist to serve as fund-raiser

GLEN COVE, N.Y. – The Order of St. Basil the Great has officially authorized Steve Ircha to conduct fund-raising activities on its behalf. The purpose of this campaign is to support of vocations to the monastic life, which includes the monastic priesthood.

The Order of St. Basil is seeking donations because the expenses involved in the education of seminarians and the upkeep of various educational facilities has depleted the order's resources. Checks for the support of the order's vocational work should be made out to Order of St. Basil the Great and sent to: Steve Ircha, 6 Gramatan Court, Bronxville, NY 10708. His work phone number is: 1 (800) 221-4947 and his home phone number is (914) 395-3777. Donations may also be sent directly to: Order of St. Basil the Great, c/o St. Josaphat Monastery, East Beach Drive, Glen Cove, NY, 11542.

The American Province of the Order of St. Basil the Great ministers to Ukrainian Catholic faithful in the United States. The order administers parishes in New York, Michigan and Illinois. This includes St. George Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Manhattan, along with St. George elementary and high schools; Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Hamtramck, Mich., along with its elementary and high schools; St. Josaphat Residence and Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Warren, Mich.; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Palos Park, Ill.; Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Parish, Long Island City, N.Y.; St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Parish, Bronx, N.Y.; and St. Josaphat Monastery and Novitiate, Glen Cove, N.Y.



Fund-raiser Steven Ircha, Fathers Philip Sandrick, and Mauricio Popadiuk, of the Basilian Order and Andrij Szul, attorney.

In addition to the student seminarians in Glen Cove, the American Province of the Order of St. Basil the Great has seminarians studying in schools in Orchard Lake, Mich.; Edmonton; Rome, Italy; Curitiba, Brazil; and Peremyshl, Poland.

The Order of St. Basil also conducts parish missions (spiritual renewals) in Ukrainian Catholic parishes throughout the United States. The order runs a retreat center in Glen Cove, where couples contemplating marriage are given a weekend of instructions by competent married couples and clergy.

Currently 10 student seminarians are being educated for the American Province

of the order. To cover the expenses involved in training these seminarians and to conduct the other religious services mentioned above, the order seeks to raise \$3 million. Donations to the order for this purpose are tax-deductible.

Mr. Ircha, along with his wife, Jane, and sister Suzanne have already successfully raised thousands of dollars for the Order of St. Basil the Great. Steve Ircha is the senior managing director of the investment firm McLaughlin, Piven, Vogel Securities Inc. and has been a longtime friend of the order. Mr. Ircha and his three sisters all attended St. George Elementary School in Manhattan.

2001 Census...

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. and Canadian censuses.

Table 1 shows a list of selected nationalities in 2001, and provides a comparison with the 1989 census data. Ukrainians comprised 77.8 percent of the total population (about 37.5 million), while the percent for Russians was 17.3 (about 8.3 million). The last column of Table 1 shows the relative increase (or loss) in absolute numbers for each nationality, between 1989 and 2001. The number of Ukrainians increased by 0.3 percent between 1989 and 2001, while the number of Russians decreased by 26.6 percent during this period. Two factors are likely to account for this loss: 1) out-migration of Russians from Ukraine; 2) and Ukrainians who declared Russian as their nationality in 1989 and switched to Ukrainian as their nationality in 2001. The available data does not allow us to estimate the relative weight of these two factors.

Ukrainians and Russians comprise more than 95 percent of the total population of Ukraine; thus the size of other nationalities is quite small. The third largest nationality in Ukraine is Belarusians, with 0.6 percent (276,000), followed by Moldovans, Crimean Tatars and Bulgarians, with between 205,000 and 259,000. The sizes of the other nationality groups are much smaller.

It is interesting to note the changes in the sizes of these nationalities between 1989 and 2001 (see last column of Table 1). Only three nationalities experienced increases in their absolute numbers during this period; all others showed losses. Georgians and Azerbaijanis showed the largest increases, with 45 and 22 percent, respectively. Although their absolute numbers are quite small, this is a trend worth monitoring. The only other nationality with positive growth was the Romanians, with 12 percent.

The largest loss was experienced by Jews, with a decline of almost 79 percent in their absolute numbers between 1989 and 2001. This is consistent with the large emigration of Jews from Ukraine during this period, which started in the later part of the 1980s. Belarusians and Poles also showed large losses, 37 and 34 percent, respectively. Here again it would be interesting to see if this was due largely to out-migration or to changes in declared nationalities between 1989 and 2001.

The distribution of Russians is very uneven across Ukraine. They are heavily concentrated in the eastern and southern oblasts, while their numbers are quite small in western oblasts. Table 3 presents data from selected oblasts in these two categories, as well as the relative changes between 1989 and 2001 in their proportions within the oblast's total population.

First, we note that overall the proportion of Ukrainians has increased between 1989 and 2001, while the proportion of Russians has decreased. The proportion of Ukrainians has experienced a gain of 7 percent, while the proportion of Russians experienced a loss of 22 percent (last column of Table 3). This could be interpreted by some as a positive trend.

The Crimean Autonomous Republic and the city of Sevastopol are the only areas where Russians constitute the majority of the population: 72 percent in Sevastopol and 58 percent in Crimea. In the case of Crimea, the proportion of both Russians and Ukrainians has experienced a loss between 1989 and 2001, but this is due to the influx during this period of Tatars, who were allowed to return to their homeland. It is interesting to observe that in Sevastopol, despite the overwhelming proportion of Russians, between 1989 and 2001 the relative size of the Ukrainian population has increased from 20.1 to 22.4 percent, while the relative size of the Russian population has decreased from 74.9 to 71.6 percent.

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... AND A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

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2001 Census...

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For illustrative purposes, Table 3 shows data for two oblasts with a significant proportion of Russians: Donetsk with 38 percent and Odesa with 20 percent. In both cases we see that between 1989 and 2001 the proportion of Ukrainians has increased, while the proportion of Russians has decreased. In the case of Donetsk, for example, Ukrainians experienced a 12 percent increase in their relative proportion, while Russians experienced a 12 percent decrease in their relative proportion. The gain for Ukrainians in Odesa was even higher, while the loss for Russians was larger.

Table 2 also presents similar data for four oblasts where Ukrainians constitute more than 90 percent of the total population, and the percent of Russians varies between 2 and 7 percent. In all four cases the proportion of Ukrainians has increased between 1989 and 2001, while the proportion of Russians has decreased. The relative decrease in the proportion of Russians in these oblasts varies between 29 percent in Poltava and 50 percent in Lviv.

Language

The structure of the language question was as follows. Your language characteristics: a) mother tongue (note); b) if your mother tongue is not Ukrainian, note if you speak Ukrainian (yes or no); c) do you speak another language? (note).

So far, the only language data released by the Ukrainian Statistical Committee is a table which relates part a) of this question with the nationality of the individual. In Table 3 we list selected nationalities by percent of persons who declared their mother tongue to be that of their own nationality, Ukrainian or Russian. (With the exception of Gypsies, or Roma, referred to as "Tsyhany," the percent with another mother tongue was very low for all nationalities).

The percentages in the first column of Table 3 can be interpreted as measures of the degree of language retention of the respective nationality. Thus, Russians have a high degree of language retention, with 96 percent of them declaring that Russian is their mother tongue. Hungarians and Crimean Tatars also have a very high degree of language retention, while this indicator for Ukrainians was 85 percent. Jews have the lowest value with 3 percent, followed by Greeks with 6 percent, Germans with 12 percent and Poles with 13 percent. It is rather surprising that such a small percentage of Poles in Ukraine declared that Polish was their mother tongue.

Data in the second and third columns of Table 3 show that, for most nationalities, a high percentage consider Russian as their mother tongue. First, one should note that almost 15 percent of Ukrainians declared that Russian was their mother tongue, while only 4 percent of Russians considered Ukrainian as their mother tongue. This may come as a surprise for persons who feared that a much higher percentage of Ukrainians would consider Russian as their mother tongue, although in some oblasts this percentage is likely to be higher.

Poles have the highest percentage of persons with Ukrainian as their mother tongue, 71 percent, while 15.5 percent of them declared Russian as their mother tongue. Also Gypsies (Roma), Hungarians and Romanians have higher percentages with Ukrainian than with Russian mother tongue: 21.6 and 3 percent, respectively. The nationalities with the highest percentages with Russian mother tongue are the Greeks and Jews, with 88.5 and 83 percent, respectively. Belarusians, Germans, Georgians, Azerbaijanis and Tatars also have large percentages with Russian mother tongue (more than 50 percent in all cases except Azerbaijanis).

In sum, Ukraine's 2001 Census has documented an alarming trend of a decline in the population of Ukraine, especially in the eastern, northeastern and central oblasts, with losses between 8 and 12 percent in these oblasts. The relative percentage of Russians has decreased between 1989 and 2001, and this is observed in all oblasts, including those with high percentages of Russians. Ukrainians and Russians comprise about 95 percent of the total population; thus the other nationalities are relatively small at the national level. (There are some local exceptions, as in the case of the Crimean Autonomous Republic, where Crimean Tatars constitute 12 percent of the population; and Zakarpattia, where Hungarians constitute 12 percent of the population).

Most nationalities have decreased in size between 1989 and 2001. There was a very large out-migration of Jews during this period, and Belarusians and Poles also experienced significant reductions. Only three nationalities experienced significant increases: Georgians, Azerbaijanis and

Table 1.- Population by Selected Nationalities: Ukraine, 2001 and 1989 Census Data

NATIONALITIES	2001 population		% gain/loss 2001/1989
	(in 1,000s)	% of total	
Ukrainian	37541.7	77.8	0.3
Russian	8334.1	17.3	-26.6
Belarusian	275.8	0.6	-37.3
Moldovan	258.6	0.5	-20.3
Crimean Tatar	248.2	0.5	NA
Bulgarian	204.6	0.4	-12.5
Hungarian	156.6	0.3	-4.0
Romanian	151.0	0.3	12.0
Polish	144.1	0.3	-34.2
Jewish	103.6	0.2	-78.7
Azerbaijani	45.2	0.1	22.2
Georgian	34.2	0.1	45.3
German	33.3	0.1	-12.0

Source: Ukraine's 2001 Census.

Table 2.- Ukrainian and Russian Nationalities in Selected Oblasts: 2001 and 1989 Census Data

UKRAINE: OBLAST	NATIONALITY	2001 pop. (in 1,000s)	% in Census Year:		% Gain/loss in relative size *
			2001 (a)	1989 (b)	
	Ukrainian	37,541.7	77.8	72.7	7.0%
	Russian	8,334.1	17.3	22.1	-21.7%
CRIMEA (auto. rep.)	Ukrainian	492.2	24.3	26.7	-9.0%
	Russian	1,180.4	58.3	65.6	-11.1%
SEVASTOPOL (city)	Ukrainian	84.4	22.4	20.1	11.4%
	Russian	270.0	71.6	74.9	-4.4%
DONETSK	Ukrainian	2,744.1	56.9	50.7	12.2%
	Russian	1,844.4	38.2	43.6	-12.4%
ODESA	Ukrainian	1,542.3	62.8	54.6	15.0%
	Russian	508.5	20.7	27.4	-24.5%
KYIV (city)	Ukrainian	2,110.8	82.2	72.5	13.4%
	Russian	337.3	13.1	20.9	-37.3%
LVIV	Ukrainian	24,771.0	94.8	90.4	4.9%
	Russian	92.6	3.6	7.2	-50.0%
VOLYN	Ukrainian	1,025.0	96.9	94.6	2.4%
	Russian	25.1	2.4	4.4	-45.5%
RIVNE	Ukrainian	1,123.4	95.9	93.3	2.8%
	Russian	30.1	2.6	4.6	-43.5%
POLTAVA	Ukrainian	1,481.1	91.4	87.9	4.0%
	Russian	117.1	7.2	10.2	-29.4%

* % [(a)/(b)]-1

Source: Ukraine's 2001 Census.

Romanians.

The fact that more than 85 percent of Ukrainians declared Ukrainian as their mother tongue is probably a pleasant surprise for some people, and seems to bode well for the future of the language in Ukraine. The degree of language assimilation among Poles in Ukraine was quite surprising, as was the fact that most of them declared Ukrainian as their mother tongue. However, for most of the other nationalities Russian is the predominant mother tongue. Among Greeks and Jews, more than 80 percent declared Russian as their mother tongue, and for Belarusians, Germans, Georgians and Tatars this figure was more than 50 percent.

The nationality and language data seem to be positive overall from the perspective of Ukrainian nation-building. If the trends documented for the 1989-2001 period continue, they provide a solid foundation for Ukraine's future as a nation, but the process is likely to be a long one.

Oleh Wolowyna is president of Informed Decisions Inc. based in Chapel Hill, N.C. A demographer, he has written previously for The Ukrainian Weekly about the U.S. Census and Ukrainians in the United States.

Table 3.- Selected Nationalities by % of Declared Mother Tongue: 2001 Census

NATIONALITY	Declared Mother Tongue (%)		
	Own nationality	Ukrainian	Russian
Ukrainian	85.2	NA	14.8
Russian	95.9	3.9	NA
Polish	12.9	71.0	15.6
Hungarian	95.4	3.4	1.0
Romanian	91.7	6.2	1.5
Gypsy (Roma)	44.7	21.1	13.4
Moldovan	70.0	10.7	17.6
Crimean Tatar	92.0	0.1	6.1
Tatar	35.2	4.5	58.7
Belarusian	19.8	17.5	62.5
Jewish	3.1	13.4	83.0
Greek	6.4	4.8	88.5
German	12.2	22.1	64.7
Georgian	36.7	8.2	54.4
Azerbaijani	53.0	7.1	37.6

Source: Ukraine's 2001 Census.

NOTES ON PEOPLE

UNA VP takes on new responsibility



Eugene Iwanciw

ARLINGTON, Va. – Ukrainian National Association Vice-President Eugene Iwanciw was recently elected as President of the Inter-Service Club Council (ISCC) of Arlington, Va. The

ISCC is an umbrella organization of 32 service clubs in Arlington, including the Optimist, Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions clubs, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, Jaycees, American Legion and Salvation Army.

Prior to taking over the organization on January 1, Mr. Iwanciw served as the ISCC vice-president for the past year. He hails from the Optimist Club of Arlington. As vice-president, he presided over the 48th Annual ISCC Luncheon in November which featured Special Assistant to the President Ronald Christie as the keynote speaker and was attended by over 200 individuals, including county board members.

The ISCC was organized in 1940 as a liaison between the various service clubs in Arlington. Recent surveys indicate that these service clubs contribute over 100,000 man-hours yearly of volunteer time (the equivalent of 50 full-time workers) in addressing the unmet needs of youths and adults within the community. In addition, the service clubs raise and contribute close to \$1 million annually for various programs in the community.

In taking over the organization, Mr. Iwanciw said he plans to increase the volunteer work and membership of service clubs through the creation of a website and recruitment through the USA Freedom Corps.

Notes on People is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person's UNA branch number. Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt, when space permits.

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

upon the [parliamentary] majority and its government," Mr. Kuchma said. He added that he has great expectations for the coming year: "All political conditions have been created to improve the economic situation of every Ukrainian; to put it simply, [to enhance] the prosperity of each of you." (RFE/RL Newline)

Microsoft Ukrainianizes operating system

KYIV – Microsoft has released a free computer application allowing conversion of the Russian-language version of the Windows XP operating system into a full-fledged Ukrainian-language version, UNIAN reported on January 4, quoting the BBC Ukrainian Service. (RFE/RL Newline)

NBU to be tough on money launderers

KYIV – Newly appointed National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Serhii Tyhypko has threatened to use tough measures against Ukrainian banks involved in money laundering, UNIAN reported on January 3. Mr. Tyhypko pledged to issue official warnings to banks suspected of money laundering and to withdraw their licenses if they fail to heed such warnings. He did not name any banks suspected of facilitating money laundering. (RFE/RL Newline)

President signs 2003 budget

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma signed into law the 2003 deficit budget adopted on December 26, 2002, by the Parliament, UNIAN reported on January

5. In a letter published on his official website (<http://www.president.gov.ua>), however, Mr. Kuchma appealed to lawmakers to amend the 2003 budget in order to increase the level of social-security protection for poorly provided-for Ukrainians. The president also signed a minimum-wage bill to increase the minimum monthly wage by 28 percent – from 185 hrv (\$34) to 237 hrv – on January 1. (RFE/RL Newline)

Russia ends Peace Corps agreement

MOSCOW – The Kremlin's decision in late December to end a 1991 agreement with the United States on the work of Peace Corps volunteers in Russia seems to be the latest manifestation of "spy mania" among high-ranking officials in the Federal Security Service (FSB). The announcement came just days after presidential envoy to the Southern Federal District General Viktor Kazantsev declared that representatives of the Red Cross assisting displaced persons from Chechnya are also engaging in espionage. Throughout 2002, the Kremlin waged a campaign aimed at chasing out the Peace Corps that combined numerous public statements complaining about the professional capabilities of volunteers with both general and specific allegations of spying. During a meeting with journalists on December 15, 2002, FSB Director Nikolai Patrushev foreshadowed the abrogation of the Peace Corps agreement by saying that two volunteers were accused of espionage in 2002 and that 30 volunteers were denied visa extensions in August for the same reason. When the visa decision was announced, officials had declined to specify the reason for the measure. (RFE/RL Newline)

Ukrainian prime minister's...

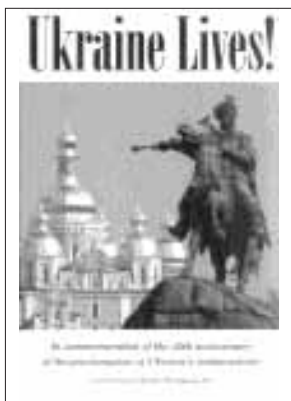
(Continued from page 1)

topic of the Eaglets Cemetery in Lviv. A dispute has raged for the past two years over how to represent the Polish soldiers buried there who died in the Polish-Ukrainian War of 1919-1921. Lviv resi-

dents have stiffly resisted attempts by the cemetery to memorialize the dead soldiers as heroes.

Prime Minister Miller said he believed that his Ukrainian counterpart, Mr. Yanukovich, was "interested in settling the issue," which has affected Polish-Ukrainian relations and stalled the official opening of the cemetery.

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Los Angeles couple donates \$50,000 to Ukrainian Catholic University

by Matthew Matuszak

LVIV – Taras Kozbur, a retired architect in the Los Angeles area, and his wife, Oksana, have donated \$50,000 to the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv (UCU). Mr. Kozbur, long-time head of the Greater Los Angeles Patriarchal Society, and his wife visited the UCU at the end of September 2002 and were given a tour by the rector, the Rev. Borys Dr. Gudziak.

“We had a good visit with Dr. Gudziak in Lviv,” said Mr. Kozbur, “and we are impressed with the kind of institution he is building out there.”

Inaugurated during the summer of 2002, the Ukrainian Catholic University has great plans for the future, and so has great needs. Half of the Kozburs' gift will be used to establish an endowment for needy students and half will go towards the building fund.

Ilyia Labunka, associate director at the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, said, “As an architect, Mr. Kozbur realizes the need for more building space, but, at the same time, he also believes in investing in people.” It was Mrs. Kozbur who initially suggested the 50/50 building/scholarship allotment that the couple eventually decided on.

Mr. Kozbur said he was particularly impressed with the new construction

work that is continuing on to the fourth floor of the university's main building. Previously the domain of pigeons, the area now houses numerous offices, mini language classrooms and a large lecture hall with a balcony. The university library plans to eventually open a new wing on the south side of the fourth floor, which is still under construction.

Another section of the university that made a big impression on the architect was the Institute of Church History, which records and disseminates information on the underground life of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in the 20th century.

“We are inspired by your plans and the vision of your predecessors, Metropolitan Andrey and Patriarch Josyf,” wrote the Kozburs in a letter to the Rev. Gudziak. “You have taken this vision upon your own shoulders and you carry it worthily.”

Prof. Jeffrey Wills, vice-rector at UCU, noted that “Mr. Kozbur's generous donation will be particularly significant as the university begins its capital campaign next year. The example of such generous leaders should give others greater confidence to invest in Ukraine's future.”

The major thrust of the first stage of the building campaign to begin in 2003 will be the Theological Center, which will be on a new campus located near Lviv's Sykhiv neighborhood. Seminarians of the Lviv



Bishop Ihor Vozniak blesses the new library wing for the Ukrainian Catholic University. UCU Rector the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak (in background) assists.

Archeparchy, religious from various orders and lay theology students will study there. The new campus will be in the heart of the city, so urban pastoral programs, including hospital and prison ministry will be an important part of the students' practicum.

For further information on the Ukrainian Catholic University, contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; phone, (773) 235-8462; fax, (773) 235-8464; e-mail, www.ucef.org.

USCAK provides scholarships to physical education students in Lviv

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEWARK, N.J. – The Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) has provided \$2,000 a year for student scholarships at the Lviv State Institute of Physical Culture (LSIPC) for the years 2002 and 2003. This award represents another installment in the ongoing five-year scholarship program that was launched in August 2000 with a signed agreement between USCAK President Myron Stebelsky and Myroslav Hertsyk, the president of LSIPC. USCAK agreed to establish a scholarship fund of \$10,000, of which \$2,000 annually would be distributed among several deserving students in the years 2000 through 2004.

The scholarships are designed to provide financial assistance and encouragement to those LSIPC students who exhibit the qualities of Ukrainian patriotism and excel academically as well as in sports. In addition, one-time assistance is envisioned in cases of extreme financial hardship.

So far, complete and well-documented records have been received on the disbursement of the scholarships in the years 2000 and 2001. The awards in the amount of \$200 per student were presented in the year 2000 to: Volodymyr Napera, Oksana Putsylo, Vira Hlynska, Lubov Sheshurak, Natalia Prokopovych, Natalia Kuzma, Svitlana Druz and Lilia Vezdenko. In 2001 awards were given to: Vasyl Skoropad, Iryna Sharadovska, Natalia Kuzma, Stanislav Chorny, Ola Bas, Yuriy Rostotsky and Vitaliy Kucherenko. For the year 2002, the names of two recipients are known thus far: Lubomyr Shlomsy and Natalia Hural.

The Lviv State Institute of Physical Culture is an institu-

tion that is remarkable in two respects. One is its emphasis on fostering Ukrainian patriotism among its students and faculty. Even the awarding of the USCAK scholarships is generally scheduled to coincide with a patriotic event – the anniversary of the founding of the Western Ukrainian National Republic in Lviv on November 1, 1918. The November anniversary is celebrated by the institute with a traditional long-distance run, in which the entire student body and faculty participate. The scholarships are presented immediately following the race.

Another notable characteristic of the LSIPC is its admirable transparency when it comes to the disbursement of the scholarship money. Not only are the awards scrupulously documented for the benefit of USCAK, but the names of the scholarship recipients are also prominently displayed in a main hallway of the institute.



Myroslav Hertsyk, the president of LSIPC (left), in his office in Lviv with Dr. Orest Popovych, a representative of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada.

Curkowskyj Foundation supports Internet encyclopedia

TORONTO – In the autumn of 1999, staff at the Toronto Office of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) initiated a project to develop an Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine (IEU) as the most comprehensive web-based resource in English on Ukraine and Ukrainians. This project was conceived as a successor to the five-volume Encyclopedia of Ukraine (University of Toronto Press, 1984-1993), a joint venture of the CIUS and the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Western Europe that was generously supported by the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies (CFUS).

The IEU website was established in 2001. It is maintained and is being expanded by a team of scholarly and technical editors at the CIUS Toronto Office headed by Roman Senkus, managing editor, and Marko Stech, project manager.

This immense learning resource is based on the contributions of hundreds of dedicated specialists from around the world who have contributed to the Entsyklopediia Ukrainoznavstva since the late 1940s and the Encyclopedia of Ukraine since the late 1970s.

Owing to the complexity and labor-intensive nature of the work on the Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine and its website (www.encyclopediaofukraine.com), however, only a fraction of the vast body of knowledge that will become available is currently accessible to Internet users. Entries are being written, edited and updated daily. But the rate at which information can be added to the site will depend greatly on the availability of financial resources to engage additional qualified editorial and web personnel to work on the project. Additional, ongoing financial support from individual and organizational benefactors is crucial if the project is to achieve its goal.

Earlier this year, the Rev. Marian and Dr. Roman Curkowskyj Foundation signalled its support for the IEU project with a grant of \$15,000. The foundation considers the IEU to be of particular importance to Ukrainians worldwide, and it encourages individuals and organizations, particularly in Canada and the United States, to

provide financial backing for this historic undertaking. “We consider the Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine to be one of the most crucial undertakings in Ukrainian scholarship and education,” said Dr. Roman Curkowskyj, president of the foundation. “This project fits well with the main goals and priorities of the Curkowskyj Foundation,” explained Christine Curkowskyj, the foundation's secretary.

Established in 1990 in Toronto and funded primarily by endowments from Dr. Roman Curkowskyj and, more recently, Roman K. Inc., the Curkowskyj Foundation has directed its resources toward supporting the advancement of education and the study and writing of works in Ukrainian history. It has established an endowment fund at the CFUS to encourage and promote higher education and career mentorship for Ukrainian Canadian students; and it has provided financial support for the construction of the Youth Center at the St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto and for the Ukrainian Canadian Care Center in Toronto.

The Curkowskyj Foundation has also been active in Ukraine: it has donated books to educational institutions and libraries in Kyiv and Lviv; provided scholarships to students attending the Greek-Catholic Lviv Theological Academy and its successor, the Ukrainian Catholic University; and awarded several publication grants.

The CIUS noted that benefactors are encouraged to create endowments designated for the IEU project as a whole or for any area of study that will be featured in the IEU. All donations will be gratefully acknowledged, and receipts for tax purposes will be issued.

Donations (payable to CIUS – Encyclopedia of Ukraine) may be sent to: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 450 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E8, Canada.

For further information readers may call (780) 492-2972; fax (780) 492-2972; or e-mail cius@ualberta.ca.

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Batkivschyna...

(Continued from page 1)

because money was a scarce resource. Benefactors and payments from host cities of Operation Sail helped fill the ship's till and set the stage for the second leg of the Batkivschyna's voyage, which took it into the Great Lakes, then down the mighty Mississippi River and into the Gulf of Mexico to St. Petersburg, Fla., during 2001. The schooner spent the winter there with the help of local benefactors. The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund of Short Hills, N.J., co-sponsored the Great Lakes portion of the second leg.

Money still remained in short supply, but crew members became an even scarcer commodity during the second leg of the journey. Most of the original crew had returned to Ukraine after Operation Sail was completed. Captain Biriukovich attempted to pick up sailors and even simple "wannabes" along the Great Lakes route, but often the crew consisted only of his wife, the cook and the mechanic. They made it to their winter destination all the same.

This past spring the Batkivschyna began the third leg of its trans-global journey by heading south from Florida into the Caribbean and towards Central America. Their first stop was Cuba, where the members of the Discover Ukraine expedition paid a visit to the children's hospital for Chernobyl victims, which is co-sponsored by the governments of Ukraine and Cuba.

They brought toys and candy for the children, courtesy of a collection effort by Ukrainian Americans Luba Misyk, Yevhenia Lyktyj and Anatoly Lysyj.

"Ukrainian Ambassador Viktor Paschuk was amazed and delighted when he saw what we had brought," explained Mr. Biriukovich.

After that the Batkivschyna took on the warm water ports of the Cayman Islands, Montego Bay and Curacao, with their white sand beaches and cocktail-sipping tourist crowds, as part of the Americas Sail Festival. The fees the expedition received for its participation paid for its further journey, which took the vessel across the Panama Canal and into the Pacific Ocean.

By the time the Batkivschyna reached the Panama Canal, a crew of six had dwindled to two. Undaunted and determined to proceed, Captain Biriukovich took the ship through the locks with his cook and three-year partner, Leonid Deriugin, and then sailed up the Mexican and U.S. coasts to Seattle to begin a series of Pacific Coast sailing events under the auspices of the American Sail Training Association (ASTA) that would bring the schooner back down to San Diego by the fall.

At the various stops, including San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego, the Ukrainian sailing vessel and its crew met with representatives of the Ukrainian American communities in

those locales. Captain Biriukovich said that many people went out of their way to help the expedition in any way they could. He specifically mentioned Luba Kyhychak and her husband, a sea pilot who helped them navigate around Seattle, as well as Anna Shalauta of the Los Angeles-based California Association to Aid Ukraine and Ihor Hankiw of the Ukrainian Cultural Center there.

But it was in San Diego that the captain met Ken Kling, a non-Ukrainian American whom he called his "guardian angel."

"He took care of us beyond our wildest expectations," explained the captain of the Batkivschyna.

Mr. Kling, a sailing enthusiast, was a volunteer member of the crew of the tall ship, the Pilgrim, who took a liking to the Ukrainian schooner and offered to find money and a place to dry dock the boat for the winter. He convinced the Ocean Institute in Dana Point, Calif., the Batkivschyna's last scheduled stop in 2002, to offer needed financial support and found a winter harbor in Long Beach.

"I really believe God helped us here because we had no place to put the ship and no money to proceed," explained Mr. Biriukovich.

Today, the Batkivschyna captain explained, his duty is to make sure the expedition finishes the journey it began nearly three years ago. To do so, Mr. Biriukovich must assure himself two necessities that remain scarce: a crew and financing.

He is counting on the Maritime Museum in Honolulu, where the Batkivschyna has scheduled a stop next June on its way to Australia, as well as the San Pedro Museum in Los Angeles for financial support. He believes he has found an answer to crew problems at the Maritime Merchant Academy in Kyiv, where he hopes to pick up five young and able sea cadets willing to gain real-time experience.

Captain Biriukovich was scheduled to leave Kyiv and return to Long Beach in the first part of January and is set to begin the 3,200-mile trek to Hawaii in May, when Pacific waters are calmest. Then it is on to New Zealand and Australia in the fall (which is spring in the southern hemisphere) via the Polynesian Islands.

Captain Biriukovich hopes to dock in New Zealand by December. He has already received an invitation to a sailing festival on the Australian island of Tasmania scheduled for early 2004. He also would like to meet with Ukrainians living in Australia and is currently looking for contacts there.

"After that we will be homeward bound," explained the captain.

He said his initial plan for the final stage is to stop in India before moving into the Red Sea and the Mediterranean and finally up the Dardanelles into the Black Sea.

Dateline...

(Continued from page 39)

recital. Ms. Lisitsa, who earned a scholarship to complete her studies at the famed Kyiv Conservatory at the age of 7, and her husband have won numerous prizes, among them the Lysenko Piano Competition and the Ukrainian Chamber Music Competition. Now a U.S. resident, Ms. Lisitsa has been enjoying a fast-growing solo career since making her U.S. debut at the Mostly Mozart Festival. She continues to collaborate with her husband, appears frequently with numerous chamber groups and has recorded

seven disks for the Audiofon label.

Topping off their first North American tour, the giddy punk rock ensemble Gogol Bordello and its Ukrainian frontman, Eugene Hutz, returned to the Knitting Factory in lower Manhattan for the pleasure of fans who saw them kick off the tour at the Factory back in September 2002. Says Mr. Hutz: "Gogol Bordello is this thing where I can do acting and music writing and music performing and just really plain freaking out. Our music is radical and risky, but I think that's exactly what needs to be done now."

Helen Smindak's e-mail address is HaliaSmindak@aol.com.

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

New Britain parishioners send aid to Ukraine

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. – A small but dedicated group of parishioners at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church has been steadily at work over the past 11 years sending clothing, food and medical aid to Ukraine. To date, the Bundles for Ukraine group, financed by parishioner donations, has sent over 120,000 pounds of aid.

In addition, each year the group collects toys, candy, cookies, cocoa and children's clothes/shoes to send as gifts for the children for the feast day of St. Nicholas. Thanks to the support of parishioners and friends, boxes totaling over 3,900 pounds were sent this year to 71 locations in Ukraine. These include 69 parishes where the Orthodox priest distributes the gifts to the children, an orphanage in Oleshu in Kherson Oblast, and a school in the village of Synne in the Kharkiv Oblast.

In addition to the gifts, the Bundles

group supports the purchase of bread and milk for the lunches of the 70 children in the village school.

The 10 parishioner-volunteers meet every Thursday without fail to sort the donations and to pack the boxes. They are Alise Andrusia, Andrew Buszko, Ann Hattis, Kay Kerelejza, Helen Kochanowski, Sylvia Lindgren, Mary Ann Pilgrim, Helen Prestash and Julia Stepanczak. In addition, John Petruniw supplies all the boxes, and Dymitri Shafran translates all the letters the group receives. Dr. Joan D. Kerelejza is chairperson of the project.

Since the project barely survives financially from year to year, the Bundles for Ukraine group appreciates monetary donations. These may be sent to: Bundles for Ukraine, c/o Dr. Joan D. Kerelejza, 50 Ellsworth Blvd., Kensington, CT 06037. For more information about the project e-mail joankerelejza@cs.com.



Volunteers (from left) Sylvia Lindgren, Julia Stepanczak, Helen Kochanowski and Alice Andrusia sort clothing bound for Ukraine.

Clifton parish hosts visit of St. Nicholas



CLIFTON, N.J. – December 15, 2002, marked an important accomplishment for St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church parishioners here as St. Nicholas visited this growing community for the first time in approximately 30 years. Due to growing parish membership and frequent attendance by children, the generous saint couldn't pass up an opportunity to check on everyone's behavior for the year, as well as deliver gifts and treats. A pleasant time was had by all. Pictured above prior to St. Nicholas' arrival, are St. Mary Church's greatest asset, its children, together with the Very Rev. Michael Zemlachenko.

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International delegation of Basilian Sisters visits Manor College in Pennsylvania

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – Manor College recently hosted the visit of the general superior of the Basilian Sisters, Sister Alphonsa, OSBM, and the Enlarged Council of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great. Thirty representatives of the entire international community visited and toured the campus.

The Manor College visit followed the sisters' international meeting in the United States for the first time in recent history, where they explored issues facing the order after the fall of communism in Eastern European countries.

The Byzantine Ukrainian Sisters of St. Basil the Great, who celebrated their 90th anniversary in 2001, were founded in the 4th century by St. Basil the Great and his sister, St. Macrina. In 1947 the order established Manor Junior College on the grounds of the Basilian Motherhouse in Fox Chase.

Today, Manor College is a private, two-year, co-ed, independent institution of higher education, located at 700 Fox Chase Road in Jenkintown, offering programs in allied health/science and mathematics, business and liberal arts.



During a visit to Manor College (from left) are: Sister Marcella from Romania; Sister Basilia from Ukraine; Sister M. Alphonsa Danovich, general superior; Chrystyna Prokopovych, curator of Manor's Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center; Sister Mary Cecilia, Manor president.

Ambassador Pascual's...

(Continued from page 3)

Let me close with a reflection on the people in this room. You truly have the opportunity to shape your own future, as well as the future of this country. You are already doing so. Just in the past year, I have seen significant growth of the civil society and of Ukrainian citizens taking on the responsibility for their own future. We saw this in the high level of involvement of NGOs and citizens' groups in the parliamentary elections in March, and in the election results themselves, which showed that politics in Ukraine has

moved to the center, rejecting extremes of left and right. We see it today, in the actions of courageous journalists who are fighting for media freedom.

I am inspired by the actions of ordinary Ukrainians and it makes me optimistic about Ukraine's long-term future.

You are helping to form the next generation, the next set of leaders, whether it be in business or in government. Set an example, because the youth of this country will follow you. You are building Ukraine's civil society. Challenge these young Ukrainians in your care to maintain their rights. That's a tremendous responsibility, but at the same time it's an enormous opportunity. The future of your country is in your hands.

The clan...

(Continued from page 2)

number of less prominent Donetsk businessmen affiliated with the Industrial Union of the Donbas were killed, and in July 1996, Yevhen Shcherban, at the time a member of Parliament, was killed, along with his wife and bodyguard, at the Donetsk airport. A car filled with people dressed as police officers drove up to his plane as Mr. Shcherban was exiting the aircraft. The men jumped out and opened fire with automatic weapons, then walked back to the car and drove off at a leisurely pace without any difficulty.

The real killers have never been found in any of the cases named above, but earlier this year, Ukrainian Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun stated that former Prime Minister Lazarenko was the person who ordered the contract hit on Yevhen Shcherban. This revelation came at the same time that rumors began circulating that Mr. Lazarenko had decided to cooperate with the prosecution in California and was naming some very important people in Kyiv as participants in his criminal dealings.

UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

is on winter break with its readers.

The next edition of UKELODEON will appear in our January 19 issue.

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For Reservations & Information, Contact Christopher Iwanik at 860-716-0334

Pre-Malanka Pub Party

Friday, January 31st
 at the Ukrainian National Home
 961 Wethersfield Avenue
 Hartford, CT.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, January 17

EAST HANOVER, N.J.: The area's second "Ladies' Night Out" will take place at the Ramada Hotel on Route 10 (west-bound) beginning at 7:30 p.m. The get-together initiated last October by Ukrainian women of New Jersey is a chance for informal interaction and meeting old and new friends. The January event is also a fund-raiser for the Vovcha Tropa Plast Camp in East Chatham, N.J. Cost is \$50 per person; menu includes chicken Marsala or baked salmon, plus wine, beer, soda, appetizers, dessert and coffee. For information or to RSVP send e-mail by January 14 to: lvhuk@att.com or aesmal1733@yahoo.com. (Please indicate your entree selection.)

Wednesday, January 22

WINNIPEG: McNally-Robinson and Alpha Omega Alumnae, with Rodovid Publishers of Kyiv present the book launch of "Ukrainian Antiquities: Folk Art of the Hutsul and Pokuttia Regions in Private Collections," translated by Orysia Paszczak Tracz of Winnipeg. The launch will begin at 8 p.m. at McNally-Robinson Booksellers, Grant Park Shopping Center. Admission is free. Lida Lykhach, the publisher and editor, will also be in attendance. The book was published in English and Ukrainian editions in Kyiv in August 2002; the Ukrainian edition is titled: "Ukrainska Starovyna iz Pryvatnykh Zbirok: Mystetstvo Hutsulschyny i Pokuttia."

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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