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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## *Tuzla still in the news, as Ukraine announces it will dig a channel*

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine announced on December 8 that it would dig a channel in the Kerch Strait near the island of Tuzla, the sliver of Ukrainian territory that received international attention recently after Russia began construction of a dike in September to link it to its land.

The decision came as the two countries continued talks to finally delimit the Azov Sea as well as the Kerch Strait. Russia would like to see the two bodies of water remain commonly held without a specifically drawn border, while Ukraine is demanding that the two sides agree on a boundary in accordance with international standards.

Ukraine's Minister of Transport Heorhii Kirpa, who announced the channel-building project, said it was developed to save the island from erosion caused by the Russian dike and to relieve shipping congestion as well.

"First, it will take the pressure [of erosion] off Tuzla because it will redirect currents away from the island and, second, it will give the Kerch Strait a second shipping lane and reduce the large amount of traffic that runs along the single deep channel we have right now," explained Mr. Kirpa.

Mr. Kirpa spoke after a meeting with Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, who gave presidential approval for the project.

"I briefed the president and he approved the proposals on the need to continue the shipping lane between Tuzla and the [dike] to connect it to the Black Sea," Mr. Kirpa said.

He noted that the construction project would require some 680 to 780 meters of digging on the south side of the island to a depth of 5 meters. The new channel would be designated for shallow-hulled vessels and would be part of a project that had already been in development, which the transport minister said met all international norms and regulations.

It would allow smaller ships to avoid the heavily traveled single shipping channel currently in use, which runs through the center of the Kerch Strait north of Tuzla island, by allowing shallow-hulled ships to circumvent the main channel by traveling down the eastern side of Tuzla and then cutting back south of the island.

No less important is the fact that the new channel would effectively create a divide between the island and the dike that Russia constructed in September and October, which today reaches to less than 100 meters from the island's shore.

The dike, which Russian and Ukrainian authorities refer to as a dam, caused an uproar in Ukraine and an exchange of sharp rhetoric between the

two countries before Russia's President Vladimir Putin ordered construction halted at the end of October. Russia began building the dike, ostensibly to protect property on its northern shore that was eroding, without first informing Ukraine, in contravention of specific language in a 1994 agreement on use of the Kerch Strait requiring it to do so.

When Moscow failed to respond to two Ukrainian diplomatic notes and failed to halt the building project in response to Kyiv's demands, Ukraine threatened to turn to the United Nations Security Council to resolve the dispute. Russia answered by questioning Ukraine's right to the island, historically a part of Russia before it was gifted by the Soviet Union to Ukraine along with the Crimean Peninsula in 1954.

The controversy threatened to become violent after Ukraine sent border troops to defend its territory and blocked the pathway of the approaching stone and sand wall with pontoon bridges. The crisis was defused only after President Kuchma aborted a state visit to Brazil and returned to Ukraine, where he im-

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## **Kuchma dismisses top energy official; opponents allege Russian influence**

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma dismissed Ukraine's top government official in the energy sector on December 5 — less than a day after a visit by Russia's influential energy czar Anatolii Chubais. Some politicians have tied the firing to the visit.

While opponents of the government said that Vice Prime Minister Viktor Haiduk got the boot, along with Energy Minister Serhii Yermilov, a close associate, who was fired on December 9, because he had not toed the political line expected of him, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich called the dismissal a result of Mr. Haiduk's inability to achieve results in clearing up major issues that have throttled development of the sector.

"The fuel and energy complex in the country has accumulated many problems, which were not being solved as quickly and as consistently as needed," noted Mr. Yanukovich on December 6 through his spokesman, Taras Avrakhov.

Mr. Haiduk's portfolio included responsibility for overseeing the development of the Odesa-Brody oil pipeline,

which remains bereft of crude; the organization of Ukraine's participation of a natural gas consortium with Russia and Germany, a deal that has not yet been signed; and oversight of Ukraine's electricity grid.

Some political pundits say Mr. Haiduk was dismissed after Mr. Chubais met President Kuchma in Kyiv on December 4 and convinced Ukraine's state leader to allow the Russian state-owned firm he heads, Unified Energy Systems, to purchase a stake in 10 Ukrainian regional electrical suppliers. Mr. Chubais also signed an accord giving UES the right to purchase Ukrainian electricity for use in Russia.

National Deputy Oleksander Hudyma, head of the parliamentary subcommittee on the natural gas industry, said on December 8 that Mr. Haiduk's dismissal was specifically a result of his lack of support for the UES initiative, which effectively would give Russia ownership of a large part of Ukraine's electrical grid.

"The discussions that occurred with Chubais, that's the real reason for the fir-

(Continued on page 3)

## ***Patriarch Filaret notes progress in raising public awareness of Famine-Genocide***

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Patriarch Filaret Denysenko, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Kyiv Patriarchate, said on December 10 that he was satisfied with the progress made in raising the level of awareness of the Great Famine across the globe and the extent of the commemorations that occurred in Ukraine on the 70th anniversary since the man-made tragedy.

In an exclusive interview with The Weekly, the head of 19 million faithful in Ukraine noted that, while he couldn't state that the Ukrainian nation had commemorated the tragedy in unity, awareness in the affected regions — the eastern and southern oblasts — was much higher and the tributes offered much more widespread at the local and regional levels.

"The broadness and the depth of the commemorations was much more extensive," said Patriarch Filaret, who hails from the eastern region of Donetsk.

Patriarch Filaret emphasized that some backtracking had occurred in the last decade, since the 60th anniversary observations, particularly the fractured way in which the political and religious elements of society had marked the tragedy this year.

The Ukrainian religious leader explained that while the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Moscow Patriarchate had sent a representative in 1993 to the

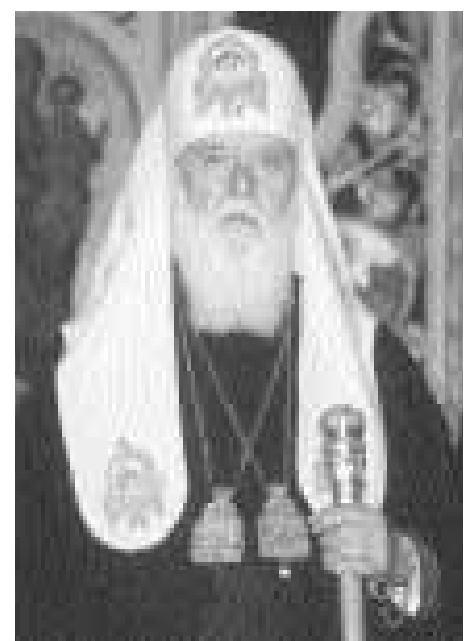
event organized by his Church, no one from the UOC-MP, which is part of the Russian Orthodox Church, showed for this year's commemoration.

He said he also was disappointed that no government officials attended the prayer service that he led in concelebration with Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, before the Great Famine Memorial in central Kyiv, located on St. Michael's Square at the foot of the belltower of St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral.

The 70th anniversary tribute to the 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians, mostly Orthodox faithful, who perished as a result of a policy of mass starvation to bring the Ukrainian farmer to his knees and into collective farms, officially took place on November 22. In 1998 President Leonid Kuchma had declared the fourth Saturday of November as Remembrance Day of the Victims of Famines, Repressions and Forced Migrations.

Ukrainian state and government leaders held a separate wreath-laying ceremony an hour prior to the beginning of the prayer service this year, mostly because the prayer service was co-organized by the Our Ukraine political bloc, which stands in political opposition to Ukraine's current leadership.

Patriarch Filaret noted that the country's leaders have an unproclaimed bias in favor of the UOC-MP, and decided



**Patriarch Filaret**

religious policy among the various confessions of Ukraine in a way that seemed to favor the Moscow-controlled Church.

"Although the government officially calls for a single, united All-Ukrainian Church, unofficially it supports the UOC-MP," explained the head of the UOC-KP.

He said that the UOC-MP did not have an official representative at this year's commemorations of the Great Famine because

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## ANALYSIS

## Ukrainian authorities tighten their grip on the Internet

by Taras Kuzio

RFE/RL Media Matters

The Ukrainian government is making moves to take control of the local Internet in the run-up to the country's October 2004 presidential elections.

First, the government is attempting to seize control of the "ua" domain, which has been managed by the private company Hostmaster since 2001. Prior to that, the "ua" domain was managed by Ukrainian Internet enthusiasts. An October 27 press release from the French NGO Reporters Without Borders warned of attempts by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) to take control of Internet operations in the country.

On July 22, the government issued a directive titled "On The Administration of the 'Ua' Domain." That same day, the government filed suit against Hostmaster to seize control over the "ua" domain. After winning a positive court ruling over the summer, the government appealed to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the international organization in control of assigning domains, to approve the transfer of control over "ua." ICANN has not yet

*Dr. Taras Kuzio is a resident fellow at the Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto.*

responded to this request.

When the government began its campaign to wrest control of the "ua" domain from Hostmaster, the company's director, Boris Mostovoi, was quoted in The Moscow Times as saying, "This is an extremely incompetent and clumsy move by the authorities that shows their low level of professionalism and blatant disregard for legislation."

If the "ua" domain finally passes from Hostmaster, it will almost certainly end up being managed by a new organization controlled by the SBU: the Ukrainian Space Information Center. This new body ostensibly aims to unite the government and private ISPs, with each side controlling 50 percent of the organization. However, not all Internet providers have yet agreed to join the Ukrainian Space Information Center.

The SBU's involvement naturally has analysts concerned because it – like the Internal Affairs Ministry – has increasingly resumed its Soviet-era role of monitoring the political opposition. The role of these agencies has traditionally been to protect those in power, and analysts argue that placing the Ukrainian Internet in the SBU's hands is tantamount to handing it over to the executive branch.

Second, the SBU, backed by the government, is attempting to strengthen its

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## Will advertising in Ukrainian promote the language?

by Askold Krushelnycky

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

Last month the Ukrainian Parliament adopted a law stipulating that all advertising – in newspapers, on billboards, and on television and radio – should be in the Ukrainian language. The law forbids advertising in any other language and is punishable by a fine of four times the cost of the advertisement.

Critics of the new law say advertisers will not want to advertise only in Ukrainian because they won't be able to reach the audiences they are targeting.

Aleksander Bazeliuk leads the Slavic Party, based in the eastern city of Donetsk, which seeks closer ties with Russia. He says the new law could ruin many Russian-language newspapers, since advertisers in regions where Russian is predominantly spoken will not pay for ads in the Ukrainian language.

"Where we live, people speak Ukrainian very poorly. In our region – that is, the left bank [eastern] Ukraine – people don't know Ukrainian well, and when Ukrainian ads appear in a newspaper, nobody wants to reach for a dictionary to find out what it all means," Mr. Bazeliuk said.

He said the law will also hurt companies that can't afford to produce new Ukrainian-language advertising materials. "Let's take the example of a company that wants to advertise in shops. Say it can spend \$3,000 on that. Now it's obliged to spend more money and resources to produce Ukrainian ads. They don't have money for that in the firm's budget," he noted.

*Askold Krushelnycky is an RFE/RL correspondent.*

Mr. Bazeliuk also said he believes the law is discriminatory, principally against Russian speakers, and is a breach of human rights.

"Let's say I travel from Ukraine to Germany where there are many Germans of Russian origin. I place an ad, counting on the fact that it will be read by Russian emigrants to Germany. That's normal, isn't it? But if a German or Briton or a Czech wanted to place an ad [in a Ukrainian newspaper], they could do so only in Ukrainian in accordance with the new law. Therefore, from a purely humanitarian point of view, this is discrimination – firstly, against the Russian language, and secondly, against all other languages," Mr. Bazeliuk said.

Many Russian-language publications have thus far ignored the new law. Mr. Bazeliuk said that to date only two cases have been brought to court and in both cases the people who advertised in Russian won their cases. He said the defendants successfully argued that the new law breaches Ukraine's commitments to European Union legislation safeguarding minority languages, and expressed his hope that the Verkhovna Rada would soon amend or scrap the new law.

But some involved in the advertising industry in Ukraine disagree.

Sashko Kovtonenko is the co-owner of a successful advertising agency called KAS, based in Kyiv. Since its beginning 10 years ago, KAS has produced advertising exclusively in the Ukrainian language.

"I want to tell you that many companies which use the Ukrainian language in their advertisements – and the biggest of these are in the alcohol and tobacco sec-

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Rada OKs new peacekeeping mission

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada voted 234-145 on December 9 to endorse President Leonid Kuchma's motion to send a peacekeeping contingent of 350 troops, 14 helicopters and 20 civilian personnel to Liberia, Interfax reported. The peacekeepers are to be deployed in Liberia by May. The United Nations will reportedly pay \$1.5 million per month to Kyiv to compensate for the cost of the deployment. The Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and a part of the Our Ukraine bloc voted against the move. Defections from Our Ukraine reportedly helped the pro-presidential majority to approve the motion, which was rejected on two previous occasions. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### World Bank approves loan of \$250 M

WASHINGTON – The World Bank's board of executive directors on December 9 endorsed a \$250 million loan to Ukraine to support specific achievements in the government's structural-reform program, Interfax reported, quoting a World Bank press release. The World Bank said the facility, called the Second Programmatic Adjustment Loan, "is focused on five thematic areas: financial discipline, regulation, property rights, public sector accountability, and management of social and environmental risks," according to the press release. Its specific aims include improving tax collection; eliminating favorable electricity tariffs to businesses and business sectors; legislating a solution to debt that accrues in the energy sector and launching a tender for the sale of state-owned electricity distributors; enacting a law to unify procedures regarding land and real-estate ownership; and reducing the number of tax exemptions. The first such targeted loan was issued by the World Bank in September 2001. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Helicopter unit headed for Iraq

KYIV – Ukraine will send a squadron of six helicopters to Iraq in February to support its military contingent in that country, Interfax reported, quoting Petro Shuliak, commander of the Ukrainian ground troops. Mr. Shuliak said there is no need for the government to ask the Verkhovna Rada for approval of this military dispatch. He recalled that the Verkhovna Rada has already agreed to send 1,800 troops to assist the U.S.-led stabilization effort, while there are already 1,656 Ukrainian servicemen in Iraq. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Major industrial growth reported

KYIV – The Ukrainian State Statistics Committee announced on December 8

that the country's industrial output increased by 15.5 percent year-on-year in January-November, Interfax reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Russian energy giant expands to Ukraine

KYIV – Anatolii Chubais, head of Russia's Unified Energy Systems (known by the Russian-based acronym of EES), said in Kyiv on December 4 that EES has reached a deal with the Ukrainian groups Energy Standard and Interpipe on buying stakes in one fully and nine partly privatized Ukrainian regional electricity distributors, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. Mr. Chubais said Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich informed him that Ukraine is planning to renew privatization in the energy sector next year and provide equal conditions for all bidders. However, the Ukrainian presidential press service commented more cautiously on Mr. Chubais' visit to Kyiv, saying President Leonid Kuchma told Mr. Chubais that Ukraine is not yet ready to discuss the issue of selling further stakes in regional power companies, Interfax reported. EES reportedly owns 33.3 percent of shares in the newly created Ukrainian-Russian power holding. The financial details of the deal have not been made public. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kyiv to buy grain from U.S., Canada

KYIV – Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Ivan Kyrylenko told journalists on December 4 that Ukraine is planning to import 1 million tons of milling grain in January-July 2004, mostly from the United States and Canada, Interfax reported. Mr. Kyrylenko said Ukraine has to abandon the CIS grain markets in favor of world markets due to Russia's and Kazakstan's intentions to limit grain exports. The government estimates Ukraine's grain shortage – brought about by a poor harvest this year – at 3.5 million tons. Ukraine has already imported 1.9 million tons of grain this year and expects to import 600 million tons more by the end of December. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Will Kuchma be allowed to run again?

KYIV – The Constitutional Court of Ukraine has begun considering whether President Leonid Kuchma may run for president in 2004, Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma was elected president in 1994 and re-elected in 1999, but under different constitutions. The Constitution promulgated in 1996 forbids an individual from serving more than two terms in a

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## Kuchma dismisses...

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ing of Haiduk," explained Mr. Hudyma. "His position and that of Energy Minister Yermilov not to allow Chubais into Ukraine's electrical energy market caused the Russian financial-industrial group led by [Russian President Vladimir] Putin and Chubais to demand the firing."

But Mr. Haiduk had also opposed Russian policy toward the Odesa-Brody pipeline and the development of a natural gas consortium with Russia. Other politicians laid the blame for his dismissal on these positions.

National Deputy Yulia Tymoshenko said that, in addition to these matters, Mr. Haiduk also had insisted that President Kuchma veto several amendments to the law on the energy sector that some lawmakers had gotten through the Parliament for their own financial benefit, inasmuch as the changes would allow for some financial operations in the industry to return to the shadows.

Mr. Haiduk criticized the gas consortium initiative during a press conference on December 5, held hours before he was fired. He stated that he saw no benefit that the consortium could give Ukraine, a conclusion he said he had drawn based on reports by independent consultants. Those analyses, he said, showed that giving a concession to Russia in the gas transport system was inexpedient because the cost of the value and the necessity for Ukraine to do so was not clear.

"The question of a consortium to manage the existing gas transport system in Ukraine has been removed from the agenda," announced Mr. Haiduk and then added, "Can't we deal with the management? Is the gas transport system in such bad shape?"

The statement was followed within hours by a whole slew of reaffirmations by representatives from both countries that negotiations on the development of the consortium were not dead in the water, as Mr. Haiduk had proposed, but were in fact continuing.

In Symferopol, Prime Minister Yanukovich rejected Mr. Haiduk's assertion as "simply the opinion of experts," reported Interfax-Ukraine. In Russia, Serhii Kuprianov, chief executive officer of the Russian natural gas giant Gazprom, said the firm had received no official word of Ukraine's withdrawal from negotiations. The corrections and

reaffirmations continued into the weekend. On December 7, Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that not only was a deal still in the works, but that "preparations are almost finished."

The way in which Russia had pushed to utilize the Odesa-Brody oil pipeline also had not sat well with Mr. Haiduk. He had come out in support of continuing to have crude oil flow through the Odesa-Brody pipeline in the manner originally intended – from the Caspian Sea to Poland – and not in reverse fashion, as Russia's TNK-BP oil company wanted.

Mr. Haiduk noted during his final press conference as vice prime minister that contrary to claims that Ukraine could not find a multinational company willing to commit to moving Caspian crude to Europe through the Odesa-Brody pipeline, Chevron, in a joint venture with the government of Kazakhstan, had expressed such a desire.

The vice prime minister for energy explained that Chevron had confirmed to him that it was ready to commit to moving oil from the Caspian region to its refineries in Germany. He said the multinational company had also told him it was ready to reverse its own oil pipeline, which currently runs from Ingolstadt, Germany, to the Czech towns of Kralupy and finally Litvinov in order to connect with the Druzhba pipeline and the Odesa-Brody transport structure.

Chargé d'Affaires Yergali Buligenov of Kazakhstan's Embassy in Ukraine told The Weekly on December 9 that in fact such a decision was made during a meeting in Kyiv on July 17. Kazakhstan has a 20 percent stake in the Caspian Sea joint venture with Chevron.

Mr. Buligenov also noted that at the same meeting Kazakhstan had expressed its willingness to finance the completion of the Brody-Plotsk portion of the pipeline should economic and technical underpinnings show such a project to be feasible. Poland and Ukraine have said the only matter holding back the beginning of construction, which Warsaw supports in principle, is funding.

Mr. Buligenov told The Weekly Kazakhstan never received a response to its July proposal. "We never received any documents showing either the technical or the economic requirements to do the project," explained Mr. Buligenov.

On December 10, President Kuchma appointed Andrii Kliuyev to replace Mr. Haiduk. Mr. Kliuyev was a lawmaker in the Verkhovna Rada, where he chaired the Committee on Fuel and Energy.

seven-kilometer-long, one-kilometer-wide piece of land to lose 100 square meters daily. Announcing the project, Mr. Kirpa said that by creating the channel, water levels would fall and soil erosion would cease.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian and Russian diplomats have continued to meet to find agreement on how to divide the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait. Ukraine's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Oleksander Motsyk said on December 8 that talks four days earlier between the two sides in Kyiv had given reason to hope that disagreement could be overcome. Mr. Motsyk said a new round of talks would be held after Christmas.

"We understand that Russia's interest must be taken into account. We need to proceed from the fact that Russia's wishes as to fishing rights and shipping must be considered," explained Mr. Motsyk.

The Ukrainian diplomat also noted that Russia, which had earlier questioned the deployment of border troops on Tuzla, had not protested Ukraine's decision to develop a permanent post on the island.

## Tuzla still in the news...

(Continued from page 1)

diately traveled to Tuzla and stated that he would not concede the territory to Russia. The same day President Putin ordered construction halted.

While the dike-building project remains suspended, local government officials from Russia's Krasnodar Krai, who oversaw the operation, have stated that they remain committed to restarting it. Ukraine, however, has said it will never allow the dike to reach the island. Recently it announced that a permanent border station, manned by 50 troops, had been developed on the island.

Nonetheless, Ukrainian scientists and political leaders have said that the priority for the island was to stop the heavy erosion of the island's shores, which former Minister of Defense Oleksander Kuzmuk had predicted, even as the controversy was escalating, would lead to the island being washed away.

The dike as it stands now, has redirected water currents in a fashion that environmental experts estimate is causing the

## In unity there is strength...

*Below is the text of a statement from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America regarding the Ukrainian National Association's announcement that it was restoring its relationship with the UCCA.*

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) warmly welcomes the initiative of the Ukrainian National Association (UNA) to restore its membership in the UCCA, thus strengthening our central umbrella representative organization. Unification of the Ukrainian American community is one of the principal tasks of the UCCA. Only through unity and mutual cooperation will we be able to continue implementing the dreams of our forefathers and maintain a strong vibrant community. Having come to the United States for a variety of reasons, our forefathers struggled to preserve our language, culture and history, while aspiring to achieve independence for Ukraine. We are fortunate to be living in a time when Ukraine has restored its independence, but the state-building process requires all our efforts.

Before us now are many new important tasks and challenges. In our community, we must continue teaching the younger generations the roots of our ancestors, the Ukrainian language, and instill an awareness of our culture and traditions of our nation. Together, we have to continue helping Ukraine re-establish a democratic polity and market economy. Only through cooperative means will we remain a vibrant

civil advocate for the Ukrainian community in the United States, as well as assist our brethren in Ukraine.

We warmly welcome the UNA's decision to reunite with the UCCA and hope that other Ukrainian organizations will follow its lead. This uniting step in the Ukrainian community will serve as an example for Ukraine in the crucial presidential pre-election campaign period. Thus, this American step towards unity proves most significant when Ukraine stands at the crossroads: to continue building a true democracy or slip back into an authoritarian system. Having common goals, including the unification of our community organizations, will make our work much more effective and allow us to achieve better results for the greater good of the Ukrainian American community.

The UCCA is certain that our combined efforts will produce even more tangible results for the benefit of the Ukrainian community and Ukraine. We are pleased that the community has put unification in the forefront – let us achieve this goal!

*On behalf of the Executive Board of the UCCA:*

**Michael Sawkiw, Jr.**  
President

**Marie Duplak**  
Executive Secretary

December 8, 2003

## Patriarch Filaret...

(Continued from page 1)

the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian government continued to downplay the significance and even the fact of the Great Famine, especially lately, when the tragedy that Stalin and his henchman had inflicted on the Ukrainian nation had become better known around the world.

"Inasmuch as Russia does not want to recognize that there was a murderous famine, much less accept that it was genocide and a catastrophe for the Ukrainian nation, and inasmuch as the UOC-MP is part of the Russian Orthodox Church, I believe that the ROC simply did not allow its Ukrainian brethren to take part in any actions that made Russia out to be responsible," explained the Ukrainian patriarch.

Patriarch Filaret expressed the view that perhaps the greatest result of the 70th anniversary tributes was the increased level of awareness around the globe as a result of a concerted effort by Ukrainians in the homeland and abroad. He emphasized the significance of the United Nations statement on the Great Famine and explained that, while the international body had not gone so far as to describe the calamity visited upon the Ukrainian nation in 1932-1933 as genocide, it did at least call it a national tragedy that led to the murder of millions perpetrated by the Soviet leadership.

Turning to the matter of the fractured status of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine, Patriarch Filaret said he believes that political forces supporting the UOC-MP had caused the breakdown of negotiations on a union with the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, after an initial agreement in principle was reached between the two Ukrainian confessions and signed in the presence of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Constantinople.

"That agreement was never implemented and Archbishop Mefodii halted any further talks," explained Patriarch Filaret,

who did not want to name the political figures responsible for pressuring the UAOC head to abandon negotiations.

The head of the UOC-KP said that because the UAOC has splintered again, he sees little hope for the future of that particular Church. He noted that many UAOC parishes in Dnipropetrovsk and Vinnytsia oblasts had gone over to the UOC-KP, even without their respective bishops following suit.

Turning to the situation between the Kyiv Patriarchate and the rival Moscow Patriarchate, the UOC-KP leader said he did not believe that any type of consolidation with the UOC-MP could come any time soon.

"It is more a political question than a religious question. Russia will not let go of the UOC-MP," explained Patriarch Filaret. "No single document will reunite the two Churches. It could only happen through an evolution. It could happen gradually with individual parishes joining the UOC-KP."

Finally, assessing the state of relations with the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, the UOC-KP leader said they are good. However, he called the chances of the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches ever uniting – a thought expressed by UGCC Cardinal Husar – "nearly impossible." Cardinal Husar has talked of the need to eventually reunite and return to the Roman Catholic Church, with which Constantinople broke in 1054.

"To talk of the chance of establishing an all-Ukrainian 'Pomisna' Christian Church is muddying the waters because there are several Christian confessions in Ukraine, including Protestants," explained Patriarch Filaret. "This however, could occur with the Greek-Catholic Church if the Orthodox Church of Ukraine first achieved reunion, but only if both parties agreed to return to the situation as it stood in the 16th century, before the Union of Brest" (by which a portion of Ukrainian Orthodox bishops and their faithful declared their allegiance to the Church of Rome.)

## Engineer speaks on his assignment in Iraq as interim minister of irrigation

by Ivan Durbak

NEW YORK – Dr. Eugene Z. Stakhiv, chief of the Planning, Policy and Special Studies Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Institute for Water Resources (IWR), and recent interim minister and senior advisor to Iraq's Ministry of Irrigation, delivered a presentation on "Water Resource Management: Theory and Practice in the Iraqi Reconstruction Project" to a packed audience on October 28 at the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of New York City lecture series at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

As interim minister in Iraq from April through August, Dr. Stakhiv was responsible for managing 18,000 employees, 11 state-owned companies and five state commissions. This included responsibility for 10 major dams, 22 large barrages, 271 pumping stations; generation of 2,500 megawatts of hydropower; providing irrigation water for 9 million acres, and delivering water to all of the larger municipalities in Iraq.

In his informative and entertaining lecture with over 200 colorful slides, Dr. Stakhiv began with a lively treatise on ancient hydraulic systems in Iraq going back to the Iridu civilization in 5,000 B.C., followed by a comprehensive overview of the vast water resource system in Iraq.

He then detailed the chronology and planning efforts leading to his arrival in Iraq on April 25, his work with Ambassador Paul Bremer, and the strategic initiatives to repair all hydraulic and irrigation resources in Iraq, as well as reconstruction of many looted office buildings in Baghdad and over 100 district offices, and emergency security for and replacement of pumps, generators and dam safety repairs, and all warehouses.

Other highlights included the 100,000-man irrigation jobs program and the fascinating restoration of the huge southern marshes of Iraq. In his slides and diagrams, Dr. Stakhiv focused in particular on the intricate engineering challenges of the marsh restoration projects, together with the political and cultural complexities of working daily with the Marsh

Arabs. Dr. Stakhiv further explained in detail how much of the \$87 billion recently approved by Congress had been planned out early this year, well before his arrival in Iraq. The evening finished with informal and convivial discussions over food and drinks.

In addition to his stint in Iraq, Dr. Stakhiv also has extensive international experience serving as senior advisor to the water Ministries of Bangladesh, Ukraine, Armenia and the Aral Sea Basin countries, with over 30 years' experience in regional and river basin planning, reservoir operations studies, ecosystem restoration studies, climate change and climate variability studies. He has served as study manager for several large comprehensive river basin studies and metropolitan water supply studies, including Washington and New York City, and currently co-directs a five-year \$20 million effort of the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence Study Board.

Dr. Stakhiv has a doctorate in water resource systems engineering from Johns Hopkins University, has authored over 100 published papers, and is a member of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America.

This was the first in a series of engineering and scientific lectures presented by the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of New York City during the 2003-2004 year. (The next lecture will be held on December 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian Institute of America on the topic of "Product Assurance – Reliability Engineering and Quality Control." The speaker will Bohdan Kramarchuk, Manager, Product Assurance and Performance Management, ITT AVIONICS.)

The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) is an association of technical/scientific professionals and students, including engineers, scientists, architects and businesspeople. Its mission is to help advance members' professions, foster interest in technical and economic issues in Ukraine, and provide a social and professional network of mutual support. To learn more about UESA, readers may visit the website at [www.uesa.org](http://www.uesa.org) or write to UESA, 2 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10021.



Dr. Eugene Z. Stakhiv (right) in Iraq with U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.



Dr. Zenon Stakhiv poses against the backdrop of the Republican Palace, one of Saddam Hussein's many palaces. The palace is topped by four three-story-high busts of Hussein (two of which are seen above); those busts are now being removed.

## Correction

Due to a technical error in the production process, a segment of two paragraphs in the news story about the Shevchenko Scientific Society's symposium on the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine (November 30) was omitted. The paragraphs should have read:

"The scheme involved the decimation through Famine of Ukraine's peasant population, which represented the bulwark of the Ukrainian nation. This was followed, however, by the liquidation of the leadership of the Communist Party of Ukraine and much of the patriotic intelligentsia. Significantly, the mass murder was accompanied by an assault on the Ukrainian language as well. You didn't have to change the Ukrainian orthography to help collectivization, commented Dr. Mace. Not coincidentally, the engineered Famine was extended also to the Kuban region of Russia, which at the time was 80 percent Ukrainian-speaking, where it was accompanied by the prohibition of the Ukrainian language in print, schools and administrative offices.

"The Famine-Genocide and its cover-up in the USSR until the late 1980s accomplished the de-Ukrainization of Ukraine, the evidence of which is plentiful today. It led to the anomaly where today patriotic Ukrainians are a minority in their own country. Thus, it was genocide against the Ukrainian people, concluded Dr. Mace."

## Canadian professionals/businesspersons honor Romanow

by Roman Nazarewycz

TORONTO – Roy Romanow, former premier of Saskatchewan, received the Fifth President's Award from the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association (UCPBA) of Toronto on November 5.

Previous recipients are Gerald Fedchun, past CEO of ITT Canada; Businessman Edward Topornicki, President of the Topper Group of companies; James Temerty, CEO of Northland Power; and Ihor Walter Bardyn, Councillor of St. Paul University. The President's Award, titled "The Sower," is awarded by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Toronto to individuals who have made a significant contribution to Canada.

"The Sower" was designed by Oleh Lesiuk, a graduate of the Lviv Academy of Art and produced by Myroslav Trutiak of MST Bronze Ltd. of Toronto.

Mr. Romanow, a former premier of Saskatchewan and chairman of the Royal Commission on Medicare, was a member of the group dubbed by the media as the "Tuque and Uke Show," which resolved the impasse over the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution from Great Britain. The "Tuque and Uke Show" group was composed of Mr. Romanow, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Justice

Roy McMurtry.

The president of the Toronto UCPBA, Roman Nazarewycz, presented the award to Mr. Romanow and paid tribute to Mr. Romanow's roots in Saskatchewan and his continuous association with the Ukrainian Canadian community in Saskatoon.

Mr. Bardyn, past president of the Toronto association and a previous recipient of the President's Award spoke about the history of the President's Award, and several of the recipients. He said in part: "I would like to take a slightly different approach in paying tribute to our guest of honor, and to pay tribute to the place from which the speaker has come."

"Over the years, I have heard from Albertans that the early Ukrainian settlers who were dumped in the Winnipeg rail yards, at the turn of the previous century, and made their way in a wide, more or less diagonal, line across Manitoba, Saskatchewan and into Alberta, state that some of the best of these settlers made their way into Alberta and this is where the strength of the community lies. And maybe there is some truth to this conclusion.

"But there is a more compelling body of information that attests to the fact that the group of Ukrainian settlers who stopped at the half way point, in Saskatchewan, created a community

from which individuals such as Justice Walter Tarnopolsky; former Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Pastor Stanford Lucyk; Justice Kenneth Lysyk of the Supreme Court of British Columbia; Chief Justice Edward Bayda of the Supreme Court of Saskatchewan; Sen. Paul Yuzyk; activist Bohdan Panchuk; Lt. Gov. Sylvia Fedoruk; Lt. Gov. Stephan Worobec; Supreme Court Justice John Sopinka; Timofiy Pavlechenko; Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn; John Stechishin; Savelia Stechishin; Mary Tkachuk; Konstantyn Andrusyshyn; Brig. Gen. Joseph Romanow; Jazz Pianist, John Stech; Sen. Raynell Andreychuk; Dmytro Cipywnyk; Leon Kossar of Toronto's Caravan fame; Volodymyr Kossar; our own Wasyl Kereliuk; and tonight's chair, Christine Cherneskey; and, of course, our honored guest, Roy Romanow, claim their roots. And this is just the tip of the iceberg of a number of very articulate, thoughtful and pleasant people who have come from the heartland of the Ukrainian community in Canada from Saskatchewan."

Mr. Bardyn's remarks received a standing ovation in tribute not only to the guest of honor but to the long list of outstanding Canadians of Ukrainian heritage who have made a lasting and permanent contribution to Canada.

## OBITUARY: Maria Cisyk, 58, pianist, music teacher, consultant

by **Khristina Lew**

METUCHEN, N.J. – Maria Cisyk of Ridgefield, Conn., pianist, teacher, performance coach and performing arts medicine consultant, lost her 15-year battle with breast cancer at Danbury Hospital on December 6. She was 58.

Ms. Cisyk was born on August 18, 1945, in a displaced persons camp near Bayreuth, Germany, and immigrated to the United States when she was 4 years old.

Her father, Wolodymyr Cisyk, a virtuoso violinist, was her first music teacher at their home in Queens, N.Y. She later studied at Manhattan's High School of Performing Arts and Juilliard Preparatory College and graduated from the Juilliard School. As an undergraduate, she was a student of M. Munz and Rosinna Lhevine and as such could trace her musical lineage directly to Franz Liszt.

Ms. Cisyk also held post-graduate degrees from both Yale University and Juilliard, where she was a teaching fellow in music history and literature, and materials of music.

A dedicated educator, Ms. Cisyk was a former director of the Preparatory and Extension Divisions of the San Francisco Conservatory and served at various times on the faculties of Juilliard, Yale, the State University of New York at Binghamton, New York University, Lone Mountain College and Western Connecticut State University.

For the past 25 years Ms. Cisyk actively maintained private teaching studios in the Carnegie Hall Building in Manhattan, and at her home in Ridgefield, Conn.

An active soloist and chamber artist, Ms. Cisyk performed by invitation both abroad, for example in Kyiv and Lviv, and in numerous cities in the United States, including Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Boston, Washington, Baltimore and Hartford, Conn., and quite frequently in New York City.

In 1993 she appeared in recital at the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium at the United Nations.

She also accompanied her sister, Kvitka Cisyk, on the popular singer's two albums of Ukrainian folk songs, "Kvitka" (1980) and "Kvitka Two Colors" (1989).

Ms. Cisyk was in demand by professional teaching associations as a lecture-recitalist in piano pedagogy, piano literature and performing arts medicine. Some



**Maria Cisyk**

of her most popular lecture-recitals included "The Color Theories and Music of Scriabin," researched and first performed during her time at Yale University; "From Bach to Schoenberg: Passion and Reason Through the Centuries," given at Vassar College in 1999; and "The Impressionist Aesthetic in Music and Art," the subject of a 1997 lecture-recital at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan.

She is survived by her daughters, Alexandra and Samantha Merley; Jeffrey Baker, her companion of 20 years; her brother-in-law, Edward Rakowicz; her nephew, Edward Wolodymyr Rakowicz; her uncle, Wasyl Lew, with his wife, Oksana; and cousins: Maria Cisyk; Khristina Lew, with her husband Adrian Gawdiak, and their son, Gregory; Olesia Lew, with her husband Peter Hausler, and their daughter, Zozulka; Ruta Lew; and Maya Lew.

A memorial service was scheduled to be held in Ridgefield, Conn., on December 14. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Because Life is Beautiful, a breast cancer awareness program that is purchasing mammography equipment for Ukraine. Checks may be made out to Public Education International, account No. 101303-000, and mailed to Self-Reliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, 2332 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622. Please note on the check "in memory of Maria Cisyk."

## Chicago Business/Professional Group hosts delegation of journalists from Ukraine

by **Theodora Turula**

CHICAGO – The Chicago Business and Professional Group on November 1 hosted a panel discussion for a group of 10 print journalists from western Ukraine who were visiting Chicago as part of a U.S. State Department Community Connections study tour.

The evening was moderated by Mariyka Klymchak, assistant director of the Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago. Also in attendance were Marion Reich and Peggy Parfenoff, representing the International Visitors Center of Chicago (IVCC).

Anna Shaleva, member of the board of the Chicago Group, greeted participants and introduced the panelists. Peggy Parfenoff, executive director of the IVCC, explained the work of the center, which in the past decade has hosted a number of groups and individual visitors from Ukraine, among them students, medical professionals and entrepreneurs.

The Community Connections program places visitors with home hosts, providing for a more in-depth experience. Most of the journalists were housed with Ukrainian families. Several of the home hosts in attendance talked of the experience, describing it as very satisfying and not burdensome, and recommending that others volunteer share their homes with future Community Connections visitors.

Participants of the study tour were: from Lviv: Andriy Bilous, general director and chief editor of Postup; Oleh Stetsyshyn, deputy chief of the sociopolitical department of Express; Olha Yatsenko, journalist with Lvivska Hazeta; Oleksandra Kharchenko, journalist with Vysoky Zamok; from Drohobych – Nataliya Mykytyak, head of the sociopolitical department of Halytska Zoria; from Stryi – Rostyslav Turchyn, head of the news department of Homin Voli; Volodymyr Pavlenko, chief editor of Ridne Pole; from Sambir – Taras Bohovych, journalist with Vysoky Zamok; from Truskavets – Lyubomyr Polyvka, chief editor of Dzerelo Truskavtsia; from Sokal – Oksana Prots, deputy editor of Holos Z-Nad Buhu.

A daylong tour of the Ukrainian Village neighborhood, organized by Daria Yarosevych, and the evening discussion at the institute capped a three-week study tour in Chicago. The journalists met with their Chicago counterparts at daily newspapers and news bureaus, examined the relationship between the press and governmental bodies, and were

able to compare the methodology of news gathering, newspaper editing, printing and distribution. They also visited Polish, Spanish and Ukrainian ethnic newspaper offices. One of the more beneficial visits was at The Daily Herald, a daily newspaper with an extensive circulation in the suburbs of metropolitan Chicago. Here they spent the entire day, observing the process of putting out the paper from start to finish.

During the panel discussion the journalists shared their views of the current situation in Ukraine from their perspective, spoke of the problems faced by the media and addressed the issue of independent vs. state press. They were from various newspapers, from small town weekly publications to the competing daily newspapers of Lviv. The readership of newspapers was on the rise, they reported. The daily newspapers of Lviv have somewhat different viewpoints, and people often purchase more than one publication.

With regard to the difference between publicly and privately owned press, and their ability to provide unbiased news reporting, the comment was that in reality no press was entirely "free." The journalists believed that all were equally balanced in their presentation of the news, and differentiated between news and editorial opinion. With regard to their reporting of political campaigns, they stated that any political candidate was welcome to purchase space, if they wished to have more extensive coverage than the newspaper's editors were willing to provide for free.

For the most part it was the small-town newspapers that were funded by their local governments. They admitted there would be a problem if they published negative stories about the officials who supported them, but there were no constraints on printing unbiased stories about national politicians. They could, for example, criticize a member of the Verkhovna Rada, but not their village mayor.

A remark from the audience about the problems faced by travelers negotiating customs at the Lviv airport led to a lengthy discussion of bribe-taking and giving, the role of the news media in publicizing societal and political problems, and changes needed to make Ukraine an attractive destination for diaspora Ukrainians and other travelers.

The journalists were asked to com-

(Continued on page 24)

## Plast Newark presents \$100,000 check toward Ukrainian Cultural Center

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The Newark Branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization on December 4 presented a check of \$100,000 towards the Ukrainian Cultural Center that is to be built here in northern New Jersey, in affiliation with St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church. Groundbreaking is scheduled for the spring of 2004.

The funds were allocated out of the Plast branch's own building fund to demonstrate local Plast members' commitment to the project, which is being constructed as part of a larger complex that will also include a new church as well as a rectory and belltower.

The check was presented at a special gathering by members of the Plast Newark executive board ("stanychna starshyna") and council ("stanychna rada") to the pastor of St. John's, the Very Rev. Archpriest Roman Mirchuk, and Orest Kucyna and Ihor Lodziuk, parish trustees and members of the Building Committee.

This tangible expression of support is seen by the branch and its members as an investment in the future

(Continued on page 24)



Members of the Newark Plast Branch's executive and council present a check for \$100,000 toward the building fund of the Ukrainian Cultural Center that is to be constructed in Whippany, N.J. Representing the parish and the Building Committee are: the Very Rev. Archpriest Roman Mirchuk, Orest Kucyna and Ihor Lodziuk.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Fried onions ... and holiday thoughts

Many of our readers will probably remember the 1991 movie with the unusual title of "Fried Green Tomatoes." What brought the movie to mind was a recent experience with fried onions. Yes, fried onions. (This is not a typographical error, though these do occasionally slip into any publication...) Or more specifically, fried onions of the Ukrainian variety. Part of the story of "Fried Green Tomatoes" dealt with the friendships and bonds created between women. In the case of our Ukrainian fried onions, however, there was so much more at work besides bonding (though the women certainly did bond, and they had a lot of fun).

Perhaps we should stop right here to explain. The fried onions to which we are referring are those prepared on one night of the week to support the work of the varenyky-makers who come later in the week to make the filling for varenyky and then dexterously insert that filling into the varenyky dough. Thus, the fried onions are only one small portion of the large, and we do mean large, task at hand, considering the sheer numbers of varenyky produced by this crew of volunteers.

These fried onions, and the peeled potatoes, and the ultimately filled varenyky, are in many cases the proverbial foundation of our community life – the stuff upon which our churches and schools were built, upon which they continue to exist and flourish. Even today, those varenyky sales play a huge part in raising funds for our parishes, national homes, community organizations, etc.

Around these parts, the local parish has a Christmas bazaar, not unlike others across North America, which takes advance orders for traditional Ukrainian foods of the Christmas season. Though the varenyky and holubtsi are available throughout the year, the weeks in December are particularly busy, as the orders are particularly large. The orders come not only from parishioners but from locals who have been purchasing the products for years. In fact, many of them stop by the parish hall on Saturdays and Sundays during the year to purchase the varenyky and holubtsi made by the parish's dedicated and experienced team of volunteers. (When you have a craving for varenyky, nothing else will do!)

On "tsybulia night," as we quickly dubbed our encounter, the group consisted of a dentist who completed her dental studies in both Ukraine and the United States, a high-powered legal secretary, a designer, a grandmother and an editor. On other nights it was a lawyer, a teacher in training, several homemakers – well you get the picture. Everyone's involved. And it's not only women, mind you.

So, why are we writing about fried onions before Christmas? Well, since Christmas is the time to remember all the people who make a difference in our lives, it is worth remembering also all the community volunteers out there who make our Ukrainian "hromada" function. We refer to the varenyky makers, of course, but also to the countless other volunteers, ranging from youth counselors to the folks who collect admission at our community events, from those who man phone-a-thons to those who organize fund-raisers, and so on. Keep them in your thoughts, give them a well-deserved thank-you, and, whenever possible, give them a hand. There are so many little ways each of us can help our hromada. Remember: anyone can do fried onions...

Dec.  
15  
1996

### Turning the pages back...

Seven years ago, on December 15, 1996, The Ukrainian Weekly reported that the Russian Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian Parliament, on December 5 passed a resolution that questioned the status of the city of Sevastopol in

Crimea: "unilateral actions by the Ukrainian side aimed at severing from Russia a part of her territory are not only illegal from any viewpoint of international law, but are detrimental to Russia's security."

Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada responded the next day with a resolution of its own and the introduction of a bill on the removal of foreign troops from Ukrainian soil. The Verkhovna Rada voted 227 to 38 with 11 abstentions to bring to the floor a bill on "the withdrawal of foreign troops from Ukraine's territory, which called for the removal of all foreign troops, except for those invited by the government by the year 2000." It also voted to declare that the Federation Council vote was "a claim on the territorial integrity of Ukraine" and that "the status of Sevastopol cannot be changed; it has been and remains Ukrainian territory."

Our Kyiv correspondent Roman Woronowycz reported: "For weeks the Russian Duma, the lower house, had been simmering with disenchantment that the Black Sea Fleet would leave the city of Sevastopol, located in the Crimean autonomous region of Ukraine, with an agreement between the executive branches of both governments seemingly near at hand. It had passed the first reading of a resolution that would have brought the city under the budgetary responsibility of the Duma and officially declared it a Russian city." The vote on that measure was delayed, but the Duma did pass a resolution stating that talks on divvying up the fleet must be halted, which President Boris Yeltsin vetoed.

The Federation Council resolution stated that firmness in upholding national interests and adherence to law would help in "defending and strengthening Russian statehood." It said that actions by Ukraine "hamper the development of good neighborly and mutually beneficial relations between the two fraternal peoples and are detrimental to the international prestige of the two countries." The proposal to issue a statement on the status of Sevastopol was initiated by the powerful mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, who had declared in October that Sevastopol is and will be a Russian city.

At a regular press briefing at Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on December 10, ministry spokesperson Yuriy Sergeyev said the status of the city is not negotiable. "Ukraine's territorial integrity has been recognized by all nations, and none – except for certain political circles in Russia – calls it into question," said Mr. Sergeyev.

Source: "Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada takes action against Russian claims to Sevastopol," by Roman Woronowycz, Kyiv Press Bureau, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 15, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 50.

## REACTION TO PULITZER BOARD'S DECISION

### Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association

*Below is the statement made by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, research director of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, in response to the announcement on November 21 by the Pulitzer Prize Board, which decided not to revoke the award won by Walter Duranty of The New York Times for his reports about events in the Soviet Union during the early 1930s. The UCCLA initiated the international campaign to have Duranty's Pulitzer Prize revoked or returned, and the organization continues to maintain that The New York Times should return Duranty's Pulitzer.*

Walter Duranty knowingly covered up the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine. Many millions were murdered during this politically engineered famine, arguably one of the greatest acts of genocide in 20th century Europe. It is a documented fact that Duranty was Stalin's apologist, a shill for the Soviets before, during and after 1932-1933.

For the Pulitzer Prize Committee to render this tartuffish decision and announce it on the eve of the fourth Saturday in

November, a day officially set aside in Ukraine for national mourning, is base. All who hold a Pulitzer Prize should think about whether what was once the most prestigious distinction in journalism still is. Duranty's Prize soils all Pulitzer Prizes.

We have done what we could to hallow the memory of the many millions whom Stalin and his minions starved. We have tried to expose the greatest of the famine deniers, whom a contemporary, the journalist Malcolm Muggeridge, described as "the greatest liar of any journalist I have ever met." Our objectives were achieved, internationally.

We also prayed the Pulitzer Prize Committee would do the decent thing and revoke Duranty's ill-got award on the 70th anniversary of the Terror-Famine. They were granted a unique chance to champion truth. Instead they have rallied around a liar and by so doing have further slighted the sufferings of millions of innocents. They will be remembered by history for what they have done today. As for Duranty, he will no doubt be pleased to be in their company.

### Ukrainian National Women's League of America

*Below is the text of a letter sent on December 2 to the Pulitzer Prize Board by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.*

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America was founded in New York City in 1925. It is the oldest and largest women's organization in the United States, and an organization that comprises thousands of women who are proud to be Americans and also proud of their Ukrainian heritage.

Seventy years ago, members of our organization worked tirelessly to assist the victims of one of the worst genocides perpetrated during the 20th century. They also worked tirelessly to inform the world of the multifarious evil of a Soviet regime intent on the destruction of Ukrainians through starvation. Their efforts were aided by courageous and honorable journalists like Malcolm Muggeridge and Gareth Jones; they were impeded by cowards like Walter Duranty who conspired with Soviet authorities to hide the truth from the world.

Today, members of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America are appalled at the decision of the Pulitzer Prize Committee not to revoke the Pulitzer Prize awarded to Mr. Duranty. We believe it is our obligation to express our anger and disappointment at this decision and to appeal to the Committee to reconsider a decision we view as an egregious error in judgment.

Recently opened archives in Moscow and Kyiv give ample evidence of the Great Famine in Ukraine, as well as ample evidence of Mr. Duranty's lack of journalistic integrity. These archives show that more than 7 million and possibly as many as 10 million, Ukrainians died during the Famine, which was artificially engineered by Soviet authorities. These archives also show that Mr. Duranty's reports to The New York Times about conditions in Ukraine were deliberately and callously misleading.

The genocide of 1932-1933 was so well engineered that Soviet authorities ordered that dogs and other household pets be slaughtered so that after all grain and livestock had been confiscated, the people would have nothing at all to eat. Mr. Duranty, who visited Ukraine during this heinous time (with the blessing of the

Soviet government), chose to ignore such cruel realities and chose instead to minimize and or even blatantly lie about what he witnessed. We can only imagine what self-serving motives prompted these lies, and we are dismayed that the Pulitzer Prize Committee has chosen to condone them.

The committee claims that the Pulitzer Prize was awarded to Mr. Duranty for articles and reports written at other times and on other themes and that it is for his excellent reports on these other themes that the Pulitzer Prize was awarded. To this we can only reply that a journalist's work must be judged in its entirety and that a journalist who covers up the genocide of millions of innocent people deserves contempt rather than recognition.

The committee's decision not to revoke the Pulitzer Prize awarded to this Stalinist puppet is inexcusable. It is an affront to every reporter and journalist who honors the profession by writing the truth. It is an injustice that defames American ideals and mocks the U.S. Bill of Rights by implying that freedom of the press means freedom to lie, freedom to ignore the truth and freedom to avoid responsibility.

Above all, your decision shows a callous disregard for the victims of the Great Famine. It was the work of people like Walter Duranty that permitted the Soviet regime to slaughter millions with impunity, shielded from public outrage by the lies of stooges who were more concerned with enhancing their own image by cultivating relationships with the Soviet elite. We are deeply saddened that you have chosen to protect this image rather than to expose Mr. Duranty for what he truly was, a man who lacked the courage and integrity to tell the world the truth and a man who disgraced a noble profession.

The decision that was made does credit to no one. In defending the indefensible you have degraded the Pulitzer Prize and made it a meaningless trophy that stands for nothing. We urge you to take the moral high ground in this matter, to have the courage to admit that an error was made, and to revoke a prize that should never have been awarded.

Respectfully yours,  
**Iryna Kurowyckyj, President**  
Ukrainian National Women's League  
of America, Inc.

## REACTION TO PULITZER BOARD'S DECISION

### Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

*Following is the statement of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on the Pulitzer Prize Board's decision not to revoke Walter Duranty's prize.*

On Friday, November 21, the Pulitzer Prize Board decided not to revoke the Pulitzer Prize received by The New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty for a series of reports from the Soviet Union regarding the Five-Year Plan, which The New York Times published in 1931. As the largest Ukrainian representative organization in the United States, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America is affronted by the decision of the Pulitzer Prize Board, which not only sullies the current Pulitzer Prize Board members, but also diminishes the honor of those who have received this prestigious award.

The UCCA conducted a yearlong campaign to prove to the Pulitzer Prize Board and The New York Times that Duranty was deliberately fraudulent in his articles as attested by Duranty himself in 1931, whereby admitting that in an agreement between Soviet authorities and The New York Times, "his official dispatches always reflect the official opinion of the Soviet regime and not his own." In our opinion, the evidence provided to the Pulitzer Committee and The New York Times verifying Duranty's fabrications was clear and more than sufficient to revoke the prize.

In fact, since the Pulitzer Prize is renowned for upholding a standard of excellence in journalism, the Pulitzer Prize Board falls short of its commitments to journalistic integrity and ethics when it surmises that Duranty's articles "fall seriously short" of standards used in journalism today. The lives of as many as 10 million Ukrainians and Duranty's own admission of knowledge about the Famine-Genocide in private conversations with British diplomats are enough reason to revoke the Pulitzer Prize awarded to an immoral journalist who not only

denied the existence of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, but maligned those who had the courage to speak out against the Stalinist government and inform the world of its unfathomable crimes.

The UCCA plans to actively continue the campaign to revoke Duranty's Pulitzer Prize. We will continue to inform the American people about the despicable cruelty with which Stalin murdered the Ukrainian people and attempted to cover up the atrocities, with Duranty's and The New York Times' compliance. To honor the memory of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide victims, we will not stop until the truth is recognized and Duranty's Pulitzer Prize is revoked. We will continue our work to expose the double standards employed by both the Pulitzer Prize Board and The New York Times and strive to clear the name of the prestigious award, which is presently marred by its association with Duranty.

We urge the Pulitzer Prize Board not to compromise its own integrity and review its journalistic ethical standards, for it was the prize's founder, Joseph Pulitzer, who coveted journalism in the "highest moral and intellectual" standards. Furthermore, we urge The New York Times to root out its culture of deception, which has extended from Duranty's 1931 writings to Jayson Blair's 2003 reports. We urge all Ukrainians in the United States to actively continue the campaign against the Pulitzer Prize Board and The New York Times. It is our collective duty to correct this historical injustice and honor the memory of the Famine-Genocide victims by disallowing the Pulitzer Prize Board and The New York Times to include Walter Duranty among its honored.

On behalf of the Executive Board  
of the UCCA:

**Michael Sawkiw Jr.**, President  
**Marie Duplak**, Executive Secretary

## FOR THE RECORD: Congressional Ukrainian Caucus takes a stand on Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize

*Below is the text of a letter sent on November 19 by the leadership of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus to the administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, Sig Gissler.*

Dear Mr. Gissler:

As the bipartisan co-chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, we are writing to you to urge the Pulitzer Prize Board to revoke the prize received by The New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty in 1932.

Reputable academicians and other correspondents have disputed the set of stories on the Soviet Five-Year Plan, which ultimately won Mr. Duranty his Pulitzer Prize, as Soviet propaganda. Later in his career, Mr. Duranty's biased reports and half-truths enabled the Soviet government to cover up a devastating crime, the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, which took the lives of nearly a quarter of Ukraine's rural population in the years of bountiful crops.

In an independent report prepared by Prof. Mark von Hagen of Columbia University's Harriman Institute, Prof. von Hagen concluded that, "It (Mr. Duranty's Pulitzer Prize) should be rescinded for the integrity of the Pulitzer Prize itself and for anybody who gets it in the future and for The New York Times, too." The fact that Mr. Duranty's name continues to be associated with the Pulitzer Prize diminishes the weight of this award and challenges the very principles on which it is based and

revered.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. A few weeks ago, the United States House of Representatives passed H. Res. 356 commemorating the tragedy inflicted upon the Ukrainian nation by the brutal policies of the Soviet government and Joseph Stalin. The resolution unequivocally stated, "Whereas many Western observers with first-hand knowledge of the Famine, including New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty, who was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1932 for his reporting from the Soviet Union, knowingly and deliberately falsified their reports to cover up and refute evidence of the famine in order to suppress criticism of the Soviet regime."

In this commemorative year of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide, the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus appeals to the Board of the Pulitzer Prizes to revoke Walter Duranty's prize. Such an act would demonstrate that journalistic ethics and integrity are inherent facets of the Pulitzer Prize and that the truth, even after so many decades, may not be concealed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Sander Levin**  
Member of Congress

**Curt Weldon**  
Member of Congress

**Marcy Kaptur**  
Member of Congress

## COMMENTARY

### Who's in charge of public education in Ukraine about the Famine-Genocide?

Seventy years after the fact, there are still people in Ukraine who either deny or don't know that their countrymen were tortured to death by the artificially created Famine of 1932-1933, according to a survey published in Den, a daily Ukrainian newspaper on November 22.

The public opinion poll, conducted by the Kyiv Institute of Sociology and the Sociology Faculty at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, surveyed 2020 Ukrainian citizens over the age of 18. When asked which statement best reflects your own thoughts, 40 percent responded that the Famine in Ukraine in the 1930s was a genocide of the Soviet regime against the Ukrainian people; 25 percent said the Famine was a result of the Soviet regime and its actions, directed not only at Ukrainian peasantry, but at peasants from other Soviet republics; 10 percent of the respondents said the Famine was due to natural conditions, and not the result of authorities' actions, and 13 percent said that they do not know anything about the Famine in Ukraine in the 1930s. Twelve percent of those surveyed found the question difficult to answer.

Granted, during Soviet times most people in the Ukrainian SSR could not speak about this tragedy, and only after Ukraine became independent could these eyewitnesses alleviate their pain and begin to tell their stories. But the fear that was instilled in them during Communist times made it difficult for many to relate their stories and thus revisit the horrors they endured.

In the West, a new campaign to let the world know about the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 began in the early 1980s – on the occasion of the Great Famine's 50th anniversary – when more than 15,000 Ukrainians marched past the Soviet Embassy in Washington, to protest this terror by starvation. Although some attempts were made in the 1950s by the Ukrainian diaspora to highlight the atrocities of the Bolshevik regime, it was not until the 1980s and the formation of the U.S. Commission on the Ukrainian Famine that some light was shed on these dark pages in the history of the Ukrainian people.

I come from a family that suffered because of these Stalinist repressions. In the Poltava region, the land of "chornozem" (black earth) my great-grandparents died during the winter of 1933, and my father's aunts and cousins succumbed to death by starvation. The reason that I am on this earth today is because my grandfather saved his wife and two sons from a similar fate by escaping to the big city, Dnipropetrovsk.

Despite this family history, I learned about this "deep dark secret" only in the 1980s from my grandfather's memoirs, written in the 1960s and published by Suchasnist in the 1980s – long after he had died. (This year those memoirs were published in Ukraine as a separate book of remembrance, "Holodomor: The Memoirs of One Family.") To this day I remember my grandmother's eyes welling up with tears as she remembered how she tried to save her family. She died in 1987, never having said more than a few words about the "Holodomor" (literally, death by forced starvation).

But today Ukrainians must know about the Famine; they must speak out about it. It must become part of the national consciousness. Ukrainians must know their history and must learn from

their history if they want to emerge as a strong, proud and dignified people on the map of the world. I cannot imagine a single Armenian who knows nothing about the Ottoman Empire's massacre of Armenians, or one Jew who will not condemn the atrocities of Hitler's regime.

Yet, today, in Ukraine we still have historians who are Stalin's apologists, who bicker over the reasons for the famine and quibble over whether 7 million or 10 million peasants died from hunger in the 1930s. We still have Communists who in May, at a special session the Verkhovna Rada held to member the victims of the 1932-1933 famine insisted that the famine was brought on by a bad harvest.

And unfortunately, we have a Ukrainian government that seems ambivalent about the past. It seems to say the right things, but does little to educate its people about their own history and shies away from contact with its citizens.

Case in point: Although President Leonid Kuchma has decreed that every year the fourth Saturday of November will be a day of commemoration for the victims of the 1932-1933 famine, there has been no government-sponsored public awareness campaign to get this message out to 48 million Ukrainians. There is no museum to honor the victims of this tragedy. The small monument erected in 1993, (it's actually been called a marker, rather than a monument) in memory of those who died 60 years earlier, does not reflect the magnitude of this Ukrainian holocaust. And there are no textbooks, media programs or information services that can provide such materials.

Over 2,500 people came to honor the memory of those who perished in 1932-1933, at a Famine memorial service, organized by Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc on Saturday, November 22. The campaign, called "Light a Candle," was a noble effort and the leaders of this bloc brought together Ukrainians from every region of the country to mourn their brethren. But these numbers represent just a small fraction of the number who perished. Newly released figures from declassified Soviet archives show that about 25,000 people died every day in Ukraine in 1933 (or 17 people every minute).

Unfortunately, on Saturday, members of the Ukrainian government, including Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych and Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, were not there with the people. (President Kuchma is currently in the hospital, recuperating from abdominal surgery.) They did come to lay wreaths at the Famine memorial before the service, but they did not stay to honor the memory of those who died; they did not stay to condemn the actions of the government of the past.

To be fair, the Ukrainian government did sponsor a 40-minute memorial concert – by invitation only – at the National Opera House on November 22, but the government committee to commemorate the 70th anniversary commemorations, formed 10 months ago and headed by Mr. Yanukovych, met only once this year, on November 19.

The lack of Ukrainian government involvement and understanding of such commemorations is worrisome and distressing.

Indeed, it is a great honor that the ambassadors of both the United States

(Continued on page 16)

## THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMINE-GENOCIDE IN UKRAINE

### Philadelphia

by Ulana Mazurkevich

PHILADELPHIA – On Sunday, November 16, the golden-domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception hosted a beautiful solemn concert and panakhyda (memorial service) to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine. Close to 2,000 attended the commemoration.

The program began with the mournful tolling of the cathedral's bells. During the tolling of the bells, students from the Ukrainian Saturday school, dressed in Ukrainian embroidered blouses and carrying white candles with black ribbons, proceeded down the aisles of the cathedral. The candle-bearers were followed by students carrying a symbolic wreath of sheafs of wheat and thorns. The wreath and candles were placed in front of the iconostas.

The combined youth school choir, under the directorship of Maria Kaminska, proceeded to the front of the cathedral and raised their voices in song, singing "Our Father" and Taras Petrynenko's song "Ukraina."

Metropolitan Stefan Soroka welcomed the assembled, noting that he was pleased to see the pastors of the Ukrainian Evangelical-Baptist Church and the representatives of the American Jewish community who joined this commemoration. The metropolitan said: "Much of the world chose to remain passive or ignorant of the man-made Famine in Ukraine while it was occurring, resulting in the horrific deaths of over 7 million ... "when we chose to be passive in response to injustices, then we effectively help oppressive regimes succeed ... we are called to be a living conscience of those who have suffered from such injustices."

The First Ukrainian Evangelical and Baptist Choir composed of male and female voices under the baton of Borys Voyevoda, accompanied on the piano by Oksana Schklar, rendered three liturgical hymns: Lysenko's "Great Eternal God," Bortniansky's "Angel of God" and Ipolit's "Praise the Name of the Lord."

The president of the Commemoration Committee and former public member of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, Ulana Mazurkevich, acknowledged the survivors of the Holodomor and said that their memory will live on forever. Ms. Mazurkevich stated that when the

Commission on the Ukraine Famine was established in 1986 its purpose was to gather all available information on the Famine and submit a report to Congress.

The final report, which was adopted by Congress, states "The Famine which occurred in Ukraine and took millions of lives was the result of deliberate policies of the government of the Soviet Union. This man-made famine, the report stated, is truly an act of genocide by the Soviet government against the Ukrainian people."

The Ukrainian Composers Ensemble, under the musical directorship of Thomas Hrynkiw, performed a moving tribute to the victims of the Famine. Ihor Shwec on the violin, Nestor Cybriwky on cello and Toma Hrynkiw on piano played Petro Hlushkow's composition in memory of Taras Shevchenko. Their performance was interspersed with readings of short testimonies of the survivors of the Famine by the students of the Ukrainian school. After each reading a candle was lit.

Tenor Bohdan Chaplynsky filled the cathedral with a stirring rendition of Schubert's "Ave Maria" and Verdi's "Requiem." Roksolana Harasymowych accompanied on the piano.

The Ukrainian male choir Prometheus, almost 50 voices strong, under the musical directorship of Nestor Kyzymyshyn did a stirring rendition of Bortniansky's "How Great is God" and "We Fly to Your Patronage." The final musical composition was Artemowsky's "Lord of Heaven and Earth." Bohdan Chaplynsky sang the moving solo, accompanied by Halia Mazurok-Reh.

The commemorative concert concluded with everyone joining in singing the religious hymn "O God, Great and Eternal."

Following the concert an ecumenical memorial prayer service for the more than 7 million victims of the Famine-Genocide was celebrated by Metropolitan-Archbishop Soroka, Archbishop Antony from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A., Archbishop Stephen Sulyk, Bishops Michael Kuchmiak and Walter Paska, and many Catholic and Orthodox clergy. During the panakhyda flag-bearers from the youth organizations Plast and SUM stood guard.

The commemorative services in the cathedral were preceded by a campaign launched by the committee to bring awareness of the Famine-Genocide to the general public. The result was the airing of the documentary film on the Famine, "Harvest of Despair," in the tri-state area.

ing the Famine-Genocide.

Following the presentation the attendees, in respect and memory of the millions of Famine victims, sang "Vichnaya Pamiat" (Eternal Memory).

Sen. Raynell Andreychuk next spoke, recapping some of the historical as well as the successful efforts of getting the Canadian Senate to pass a resolution calling on the government of Canada, among other things, to recognize the 1932-1933 Great Famine in Ukraine as genocide. As she completed her address, the crowd spontaneously rose and gave her a standing ovation.

The evening wrapped up with the attendees lingering for a lengthy period and discussing the 1932-1933 events. No food was served, just coffee, in respect for the millions who perished as a result of Stalin and his collaborators'.

Earlier in the day memorial services were held at Regina's Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches. During the past several weeks parishioners and others were encouraged to bring food items in memory of the victims as donations to the Regina and District Food Bank.



Children bearing candles participate in the procession.



Hierarchs seated during the observances: (from left) Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, Archbishop Antony, Archbishop Stephen Sulyk, Bishop Michael Kuchmiak and Bishop Walter Paska.

### Montreal

by Marta D. Olynyk

MONTREAL – The Montreal book launch of "Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, 1932-1933. Western Archives, Testimonies and New Research," edited by Wsewolod W. Isajiw, and published by the Toronto-based Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center, took place on Monday, November 10, at the Faculty Lounge of Concordia University.

Prof. Roman Serbyn, who recently retired from the History Department of the University of Quebec at Montreal, opened the event with a few introductory remarks about the book. This latest publication on the Famine-Genocide is a collection of papers, all but two of which were originally presented as papers at a conference held in 1990. Some of the articles in this volume analyze the reports on the Famine found in the archives of three Western governments: Germany, Italy, and Great Britain. The book also contains "Testimonies from Kyiv."

Prof. Serbyn then introduced Dr. Kurt Jonassohn, a professor in the department of sociology and co-director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide Studies (MIGS) at Concordia University, who urged researchers of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide to make survivors' testimonies available in English. Dr. Jonassohn said that MIGS, founded in 1986 and based in the departments of history and sociology, would publish any short or long (20 to 200 pages) English translations of eyewitness reports on the Ukrainian Famine on its website ([www.migs.concordia.ca](http://www.migs.concordia.ca)). Surprisingly, a visit to this site revealed that although sever-

al genocides are listed, the 1932-1933 genocide in Ukraine is not among them.

The last speaker was Frank Chalk, a professor in the department of history and co-director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia University. He discussed the differences between the terms "genocide" and "crime against humanity," and mentioned that the man who is acclaimed as the coiner of the term "genocide" was a Jew born in tsarist Russia, in the village of Bezvodne, now in Belarus. (On November 13 Prof. Chalk was one of the speakers at a session entitled "Famine as a Weapon and Lessons for Prevention: Genocide, Atrocities and Ethnic Cleansing," during the Washington conference on "The Ukrainian Man-Made Famine of 1932-1933.")

The book launch, which was sponsored by the Montreal Institute for Genocide Studies at Concordia University, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Montreal branch, and the McGill and Concordia Ukrainian students' clubs, would have been a resounding success but for the very low attendance. Including the three speakers, there were only 10 people in the lecture room, among them a representative from the Canadian Polish Congress in Montreal. Not a single student, either from Concordia or McGill universities was present.

The book launch is one of a series of events taking place in Montreal to mark the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide. Also part of the commemorations were a screening of the award-winning documentary film "Harvest of Despair" at McGill University, and a commemorative community service and concert held at the Ukrainian Youth Center.

### Regina

REGINA, Saskatchewan – The evening of Sunday, November 23, in Regina was bitterly cold, eerily appropriate for the observance of the 70th anniversary of the forced Famine-Genocide in Ukraine. The observance organized by the UCC-Regina Branch and its member-organizations was held at the Ukrainian National Federation Hall and attended by over 120 people, many of whom were painfully aware of the 1932-1933 horrors in Ukraine. Others attended to learn more about Stalin's atrocities aimed at forcing collectivization and stamping out Ukrainian nationalism, while some were hearing about the Famine-Genocide for the first time.

Vera Feduschak, past president of the UCC-Regina Branch, opened the evening's program by welcoming everyone and recounting a brief overview of the Famine and its emotional impact on her personally. This was followed by an opening prayer and a presentation by Ed Lysyk on the historical events surround-



## THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMINE-GENOCIDE IN UKRAINE

### Munich

by Mykola Danchuk

MUNICH – Germany commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine. Dr. Ivan Myhul, dean of the Faculty of Government and Political Economy, opened the solemn occasion and introduced the key note speaker, Dr. Mykola Shafowal.

Dr. Shafowal's discourse, titled "The Year 1933," presented the Famine-Genocide in a broad perspective of events which occurred that very year simultaneously in Soviet and western Ukraine. The UFU Registrar underlined that all nations of the world have crucial breaking points in their history. If for Americans the year is 1776, for the French 1789, and the Italians 1870, indisputably, for the Ukrainian nation, 1933 is a crucial date.

Dr. Shafowal stressed that, despite a good harvest in 1932, forced requisition of foodstuffs and grain by the Soviet regime contributed to massive deaths. One out of every five Ukrainians perished during the first five months of 1933.

Furthermore, asserted Dr. Shafowal, 1933 also signaled the death of a specific

Ukrainian political utopia, that of Ukrainian national communism. Moscow decimated the Communist Party (Bolshevik) of Ukraine. Regular members of the party, as well as cadres, were purged and liquidated. Key Ukrainian Communists, who attempted to implement the by then discredited policy of Ukrainization, committed suicide. The speaker reminded those present of the reaction to the Famine outside of the USSR – or as was the case more often, the lack of it.

Dr. Shafowal pointed out that it would be too easy, but erroneous, to place the entire blame of the Great-Famine on Stalin, and his personality. The true culprit, he argued, is the Russian messianic imperial idea, of which Stalinism was but a variant.

In his concluding statement Dr. Shafowal read moving statements and recollections of witnesses and survivors of the Famine. Finally, the speaker quoted Mother Theresa of Calcutta who said the worst suffering that humans can endure is hunger or famine.

The commemoration of the Famine-Genocide was held in the main hall of UFU, and was well attended by Ukrainians, Germans and Ukrainians of the Jewish faith.

### Whippany

by Antin Bilanych

WHIPPANY, N.J. – On November 15, a bus organized by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Morris County Branch, and paid for by Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, traveled to St. Patrick Cathedral for solemn observances of the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

"We are, we were and we will be!" was the theme of the program commemorating the "Holodomor" the following day, November 16, at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church hall in Whippany, N.J. Gregory and Zuzana Hywel, and Zoryana Kovbasniuk, special events representative for the Whippany UCCA Branch, decorated the stage.

The program started with youth from the Newark Branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization reading a section of the poem "Ne druham" by Yakiv Hudemchuk. Nusia Denysyk, special affairs representative of the Plast Newark branch, helped prepare the performers, Deanna and Andrea Shypailo, and Paul Hadzewycz.

Next on the program came the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), Whippany Branch. Lesia Cebrij Rago, counselor and president of the

branch, prepared a montage of poems that were read by Steven Rizzo, Christopher Rizzo, Andrew Rago, Adam Klymko, Roman Kovbasniuk and Mykola Kucyna. From this montage came the words "We are, we were, and we will be!" – the program's theme.

The local singing quartet Samotsvit – Oksana Telepko, Zoryana Kovbasniuk, Orest Kucyna and Michael Koziupa (the latter also accompanied the group on the accordion – then took the stage. Ms. Telepko started with a stirring reading of a poem, "Ne domyslyv Bohdan" by V. Kryshchenko. Then the quartet sang two melodies "Zibralsia vsi burlaky" and "Nema hirsh nikomu, yak tii syrotyni," and the ladies performed a beautiful duet "Chorna rillia izorana." All the songs were Ukrainian national songs.

The main speaker was George Kurylko, who was a boy of 10 in Poltavshyna, Ukraine, in 1933. He and his family were deported to northern Russia and lived through the Famine years. His personal recollections of the years of Stalin's terror truly moved the audience.

The stage portion of the program ended with everyone in the hall standing and singing the prayer "Bozhe Velykyi."

A showing of the film "Holod 33" by Oles Yanchuk, which depicted the life and death of one family during the Holodomor, followed the program.

### Cherry Hill

by Olga Prychka

CHERRY HILL, N.J. – On November 16, parishioners of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Cherry Hill, N.J., celebrated the 80th anniversary of the founding of the parish in Camden, N.J. Additionally, the parish commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Holodomor. A commemorative "mohyla" (burial mound) planted with periwinkle was constructed on the church grounds.

The mohyla was unveiled, dedicated

and blessed by Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, Bishop Walter Paska, and the pastor, the Very Rev. John Ciurpita.

Parish children, dressed in Ukrainian blouses and shirts, placed a memorial wreath at the foot of the mohyla and white carnations were strewn alongside.

After the blessing and prayers, Olga Prychka read an original poem, and the choir sang "Vichnaya Pamiat." Then parishioners and visitors gathered for refreshments in the parish hall.

This project was a joint endeavor of St. Michael's Parish and the Committee to Aid Ukraine.



Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, Bishop Walter Paska and the Rev. John Ciurpita officiate at the dedication of the memorial to Famine victims.

#### The Weekly's collection of materials about the Famine

The Ukrainian Weekly's official website contains the largest collection of materials on the Internet dedicated to the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. Located at [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com), the special section is completely searchable.



The Samotsvit quartet performs during a concert dedicated to the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

On the evening of  
**Saturday, May 8, 2004**

**The Friends of  
Columbia University  
Ukrainian Studies II**

("FOCUUS II")

Fund-Raising Dinner  
Will Take Place In  
Low Library at Columbia University

*PLEASE SAVE THAT DATE*

## Weddings & Engagements



*Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Jakowiw of Jewett, N.Y., are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Switlana Jakowiw, to Jeffrey E. Breigle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Breigle of Windham, N.Y.*

*Switlana is a 1992 graduate of Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School and a 2000 graduate of Maria College with an Associate's Degree in Nursing. She is currently employed as a registered nurse at Capital Cardiology Associated Transfer Center in Albany, N.Y.*

*Jeffrey is a 1986 graduate of Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School and a 1988 graduate of SUNY Cobleskill with an Associate's Degree in Landscape Development. In addition, he is also a 1992 graduate of New York State Ranger School at Wanakena with an Associate's Degree in Forestry Tech and Resource Management. He is currently employed as a New York State Forest Ranger.*

*A June 2004 wedding is planned. Both are currently living in the Windham area and plan to continue to live in the Windham area after the wedding.*



*Richard and Marta Legeckis and Dr. Jaroslaw and Marta Jarymowych take great pleasure in announcing the marriage of their children, Vanessa Elena Legeckis and Alexander Stefan Jarymowych, on October 4, 2003.*

*The ceremony took place at the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity in Kerhonkson, N.Y., followed by a reception at the UNA resort Soyuzivka.*

*Rumor has it that a great time was had by all.*



*Christina Jancew of Clifton, New Jersey, and Christopher Richard Iwanik of Newington, Connecticut, were united in marriage on September 27, 2003, at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Britain, Connecticut. Reverend Stefan Bereza of New Britain, Connecticut, Reverend Andrij Figol of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and Very Reverend Marijan Procyk of Buffalo, New York, all officiated at the ceremony.*

*Christina is the daughter of Vasil Jancew Sr. of Clifton, New Jersey, and of the late Jaroslawa Jancew. Christopher is the son of Richard and Olga Iwanik of Newington, Connecticut.*

*Attending the bride was Maid of Honor Natalia Czuczak, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Patricia Platosz, sister of the groom, Christina Andruch, MaryAnn Znak, Renata Posnachiwsky, Larysa Yurcheniuk, Orysia Czebiniak, Elizabeth Kobylecky and Oleksandra Kobylecky, all friends of the bride. The flower girl was Natalie Reid, goddaughter of the bride.*

*The Best Man was William Platosz, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Bohdan Platosz, brother-in-law of the groom, Vasil Jancew Jr., brother of the bride, Stefan Pawlak, Raphael Kogan, Andrew Pawlak, Keith Snyder, Alexander Sokolsky, all friends of the groom, and Benjamin Haberern, cousin of the groom. The Ring Bearer was Samuel Haberern, cousin and godson of the groom.*

*The reception was held at the St. George Greek Hall in New Britain, Connecticut. Providing music for the reception were Zolota Bulava of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Vorony of Syracuse, New York, and special guests Burlaky, originally from Montreal, Quebec, Canada.*

*The couple now resides in Farmington, Connecticut in the Village of Unionville.*

*The couple wishes to express a special thank you to all of their friends who were able to join them from near and far, and who helped make this one of the most memorable events of their lives.*

## Ukrainian authorities...

(Continued from page 2)

ability to monitor and control Internet traffic. These efforts seem to be following along the lines of similar legislation adopted in Russia in 1995 and 1998 that created the System for Operational-Investigative Activities (SORM) that has since permitted the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) to monitor the Internet. Under the laws, all ISPs must install SORM equipment that enables the FSB to monitor e-mail and Internet traffic.

On July 17, the Ukrainian State Telecommunications Committee requested that all telecoms and ISPs install similar equipment to monitor Internet traffic. This request, however, has not been implemented because the legislation requiring compliance has not yet been adopted by Parliament.

The government submitted a bill to parliament in July titled "On Activity in the field of Information Technology." According to the bill, its goal is to "ensure the legal regulation of the national component of global information systems, including the Internet." The bill has been condemned by opposition deputies, who suggested it should be renamed the law "On the Struggle Against Internet Media." The parliamentary Freedom of Speech and Information Committee, headed by opposition Our Ukraine member Mykola Tomenko, rejected the government's bill as an assault on media freedoms and an infringement on existing Ukrainian laws guaranteeing freedom of speech.

The Ukrainian Internet Association, which unites six Kyiv-based ISPs, condemned what it described as illegal government attempts to monitor Internet traffic. It demanded that "infringements of the [Universal] Declaration of Human Rights" be immediately halted.

The government's latest efforts are occurring against the background of preparations for what appears to be the country's most-contested presidential election ever. The authorities already control most electronic and print-media outlets through the financial control of the state and pro-presidential oligarchs and through administration-issued "temnyky," which journalists obey out of fear of losing their jobs.

The Internet remains one of the last bastions of media freedom in Ukraine, and it has grown fivefold since 1999. In 2001-2002, during the height of the so-called Kuchmagate crisis, Internet use grew by 30 to 40 percent, with an average monthly growth of 5 to 10 percent. A 2002 brams.com survey funded by the NGO Ukrainian Information Community Fund predicted that Internet use will increase by 50 to 100 percent this year.

Estimates put the number of Internet users in Ukraine at up to 10 percent of the population. Government statistics usually underestimate Internet usage, which is not surprising in a country where as much as one-half of all economic activity remains in the shadows. A March survey by the private pollster GfK-USM found 3.1 million "active Internet users" – about 6.4 percent of the population. The same survey also found that 9 percent of Ukrainians (4.32 million people) have access to the Internet. A July poll by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) similarly found that 3.2 million Ukrainians use the Internet. Among the urban population, the figure is between 9 percent and 15 percent.

Among urban Internet users, the largest numbers can be found in western and central Ukraine (16 to 17 percent), where civil society is the most well developed, and the opposition is strongest. In eastern Ukraine, where there is greater public apathy, Internet usage is only 6 to 9 percent. This is somewhat surprising, as eastern Ukraine is generally wealthier than the western regions.

The Internet is used most frequently by young people, who also tend to sympathize with the opposition. The KIIS poll found that the highest number of users comes from the 18-29 age group (23 percent). This compares to only 7 percent and 1 percent, respectively, for those age 30-49 and over 60.

The differences in Internet usage by age group will, in turn, be reflected in the political domain. The Communists, whose typical members are pensioners, have few Internet users among their supporters, while Viktor Yushchenko's center-right Our Ukraine and the populist Yulia Tymoshenko bloc boast the largest number of web-savvy backers.

The authorities first began to try to take control of the "ua" domain in 2001 after the Internet received a popularity boost during the Kuchmagate crisis, which was sparked by the murder of popular Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze. The Internet went on to play a major role in the March 2002 parliamentary election campaigns and, based on its popularity, seems set to play an even more important role in the October 2004 presidential poll. Unless the SBU has its way, that is.

## Vitali Klitschko batters Kirk Johnson to set up possible rematch with WBC champ Lewis

by Roman Kernitski  
and Andrew Nynka

NEW YORK – Using only two rounds and a combination of punishing punches, Vitali Klitschko knocked out Canadian Kirk Johnson in front of 10,823 screaming fans at Madison Square Garden on December 6. The Ukrainian so thoroughly routed Johnson that many people in the world of boxing now see the 6-foot-8-inch heavyweight as the man to beat.

“All the good things came together on Saturday and multiplied. I was very well prepared. And I wanted to prove to the world that I am the best heavyweight. I am not afraid of anybody,” Klitschko said after the fight.

“He was the better man tonight,” said Johnson during a post-fight press conference. “I had a sluggish night against a guy you can’t afford to have a sluggish night against. He stuck to his game plan and I came off my game plan.”

Klitschko, a stand-up European-style fighter not known for dancing in the ring, hammered Johnson with a series of calculated lefts and rights throughout the fight. Johnson survived the first round, but hit the canvas with 45 seconds left in the second round. After a standing eight count from referee Arthur Mercante Jr., Johnson resumed the fight with blood coming from his mouth.

Klitschko then pushed the Canadian onto the ropes with a series of strong left jabs and a shot to Johnson’s belly. Johnson tried to retreat and covered his head with his hands while the chant of “Klitschko, Klitschko” echoed in the Garden. Klitschko pounced on the overmatched Johnson and, with six seconds left in the second round, sent a final straight right to the jaw, knocking Johnson out to end the fight.

The crowd, filled with yellow “Go Vitali!” and “Dr. Iron Fists” t-shirts, waved large Ukrainian flags and chanted Klitschko’s name before the fight began and “Ukraine” as the second round started, and then erupted when Johnson was dropped to the mat.

Klitschko’s younger brother Volodymyr, who, as usual, was in his older brother’s corner during the fight, ran out to the center of the ring to congratulate Vitali when the fight was waved to a close. Vitali climbed the ropes at each of the four corners of the ring and blew kisses and gestured a thank you to the crowd.

Johnson, from North Preston, Nova Scotia, had lost only once previously and was a top contender coming into the bout with Klitschko, but the Ukrainian never let him get into the fight. Johnson appeared tentative and hardly landed a punch as Klitschko pursued him relentlessly around the ring. Johnson’s only previous defeat came at the hands of John Ruiz during a World Boxing Association title fight.

Klitschko (33-2-0, 32 knockouts) had

not fought since June 21, when he took on World Boxing Council heavyweight titleholder Lennox Lewis. He appeared well prepared for the fight with Johnson.

“I was prepared to be world champion on June 21 (against Lewis) and I was 100 percent ready for this fight,” Klitschko said.

The win made Klitschko the official No. 1 heavyweight challenger for the WBC belt, and it also appears to prove that his performance this past summer against Lewis was no fluke. There has been some recent speculation that a rematch between Lewis and Klitschko could net the aging 38-year-old British boxer nearly \$20 million, although the Lewis camp has hinted that Lewis might retire prior to a rematch.

“Hello, Lennox. I know you saw this fight,” Klitschko said in the ring immediately after the fight, addressing the HBO camera. “You’re a great heavyweight champion, but I can beat you.”

Lewis won their previous fight after a ringside doctor stopped the bout after six rounds because of a major cut above Klitschko’s eye. Klitschko was leading on all three judges’ scorecards at the time.

HBO commentator Larry Merchant said after the Johnson fight that Klitschko “harpooned the whale,” referring to Johnson’s 260-pound overweight physique, and Dino Duva, Johnson’s promoter, said Klitschko’s performance would “give Lennox Lewis motivation to fight Vitali.”

Klitschko, who landed 55 punches to Johnson’s nine, had much of the crowd’s support behind him. “I was surprised and really glad when I entered the hall and saw that they all supported me. Many of the fans had come all the way from Germany, Ukraine and Russia. It was wonderful to have them all united at the place where Ali, Frazier and all the others made boxing history,” Klitschko said.

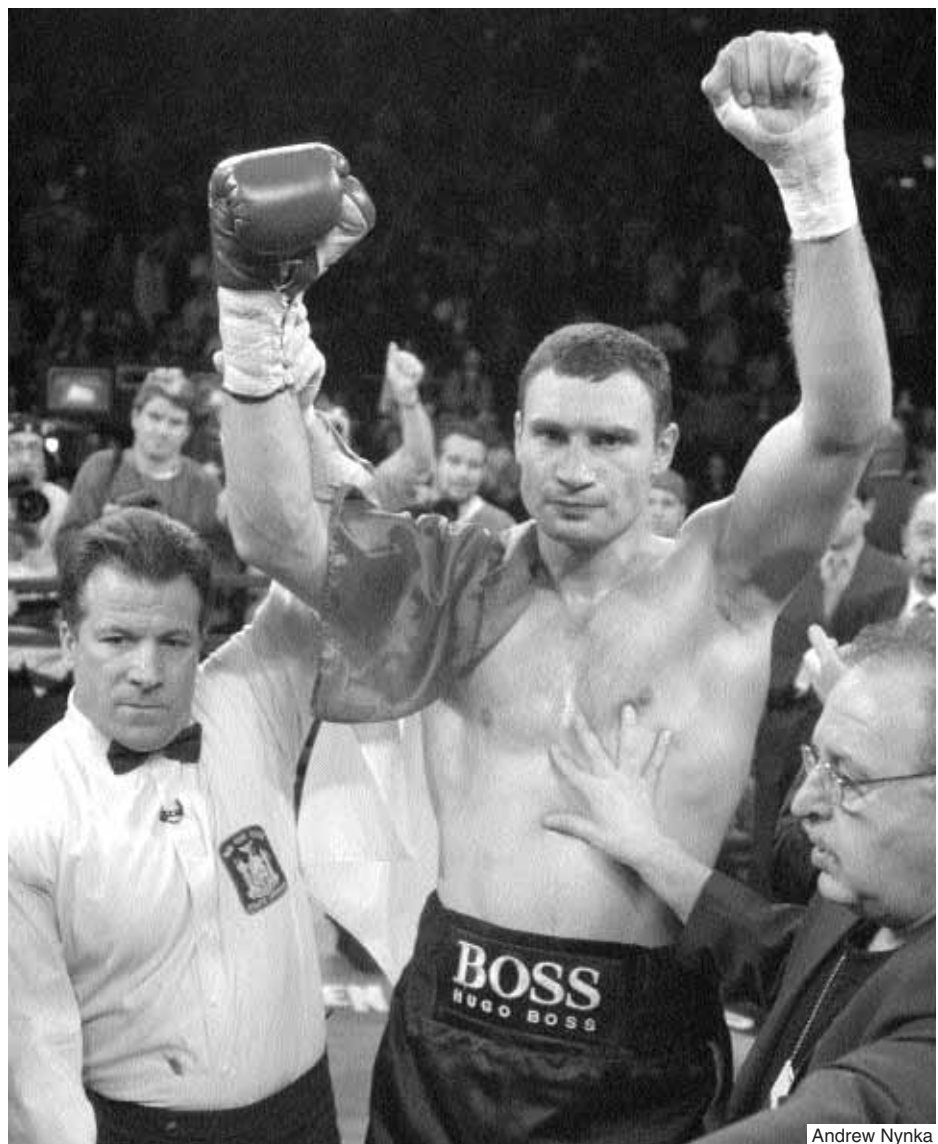
Klitschko was originally scheduled to fight Lewis on December 6, but the Briton backed out of the fight and the WBC decided to have an official elimination contest instead. Lewis said he wasn’t ready to fight again this year and needed time to think about whether he would ever fight again. Klitschko needed an opponent for the December 6 fight and he took what many regarded as a tough one in the once-beaten Johnson.

“To fight a nobody would be a step back,” Klitschko said.

If Lewis chooses to retire, Klitschko could potentially fight Corrie Sanders, who beat Vitali’s younger brother Volodymyr earlier this year, for the vacant title.

Former heavyweight champion George Foreman weighed in on the likelihood of a Klitschko-Lewis rematch, saying: “If Lewis does not sense the money at stake, then he must be sent to a psychiatrist right away. He must face the challenge to go down as one of the greatest champs in boxing history.”

Speaking at the post-fight press confer-



Andrew Nynka

Head referee Arthur Mercante Jr. (left) raises Vitali Klitschko’s arms, officially proclaiming him the winner of the December 6 bout against Kirk Johnson.

ence, where the controversial heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson also made a rather strange appearance, Johnson addressed his performance in the ring. “I’m not making excuses – he beat me fair and square. But I helped him beat me because I did everything he wanted me to do – stand there and

throw big, giant punches at him.”

Klitschko, who later entered the press conference, approached Johnson from behind and put his arms around the seated Johnson. He told the Canadian he was sorry and Johnson replied, “Don’t worry. It’s just business.”



Vitali Klitschko celebrates his victory in the ring with the mayor of Kyiv, Oleksander Omelchenko.



Klitschko supporters hold a large Ukrainian flag while, in the background, smaller flags are scattered throughout the arena.



A group of fans, who chartered a bus from northern New Jersey to Madison Square Garden, support Vitali Klitschko with “Go Vitali!” t-shirts.

## Slobodyanik's students to perform recital marking 100th anniversary of Horowitz's birth

MONTCLAIR, N.J. – The students of renowned concert pianist Alexander Slobodyanik will perform a recital celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of legendary pianist Vladimir Horowitz (who was born in Kyiv in 1904 and died in New York in 1989). The concert will be presented by the music department of Montclair State University (MSU), where Mr. Slobodyanik serves on the faculty. Performing will be Amanda Von Goetz, Daniel Shleyenkov and Michael Berkofsky – star pupils who have achieved major accomplishment under

Mr. Slobodyanik's tutelage.

The students will perform works of Scarlatti, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky and Bizet-Horowitz. The recital will be held on Wednesday, December 17, at 8 p.m. in the recital hall of the McEachern Music Building at Montclair State University. Admission to the concert is free.

Ms. Von Goetz has been studying with Mr. Slobodyanik since age 12. She was the youngest winner, at barely, 14, of the New Jersey Symphony Young Artist Competition in 1996. She has performed

with Yuri Bashmet and the Moscow Soloists and at Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops Orchestra.

After being awarded a special prize (1999) in the Horowitz International Piano Competition in Kyiv, Mr. Shleyenkov came to the United States to study with Mr. Slobodyanik. This November he performed at NJPAC with the New Jersey Symphony as the winner of the 2003 NJSO Young Artists Competition.

Mr. Berkofsky has been working with Mr. Slobodyanik for the last three years

in which time he has performed abroad and won several competitions, of which one led to a performance with the Toronto Symphony.

Ms. Von Goetz and Mr. Berkofsky will both graduate from Juilliard in May 2004 as well as from a special performance program at Montclair State University. Mr. Shleyenkov is working towards a graduate degree at MSU.

A specially commissioned portrait of Vladimir Horowitz by Ukrainian artist Yuri Tchary from Lviv will be displayed at the concert.

## Ukrainian pioneer and potter recognized in newly revised book

SASKATOON – In December the new revised edition of the book "Made in Saskatchewan: Peter Rupchan, Ukrainian Pioneer and Potter" by award-winning author Judith Silverthorne was launched. This exciting biography highlights the innovative, eccentric and industrious nature of one of Saskatchewan's first prominent potters.

Rupchan was more than just another pioneer trying to survive the hardships and personal tragedies of early settlement. Considered a folk hero by some, by others a genius in his own time, Rupchan worked his clay with a passion, fulfilled a dream and left behind a meaningful historical legacy.

Rupchan established his pottery works just north of the northeastern Saskatchewan community of Usherville. From there he traveled extensively, selling and bartering his wares during the

depression and early 1940s. The book also captures other innovations and the humor of this unique pioneering spirit. It is this stalwart character and his adventurous experiences that the author, Ms. Silverthorne brings to life in this remarkable portrayal of his life.

The book, "Made in Saskatchewan: Peter Rupchan, Ukrainian Pioneer and Potter" features the world of Rupchan (1882-1944) as he struggled to find local clay, build his kilns, and capture wind power for grinding his clay and glazes to produce his valuable art.

The book's author was recently honored with the Saskatchewan Book Award for Children's Literature. She is a two-time recipient of this award, and has several books to her credit. She has also written various articles for Saskatchewan's weekly newspapers.



A historic photo shows Peter Rupchan at work.

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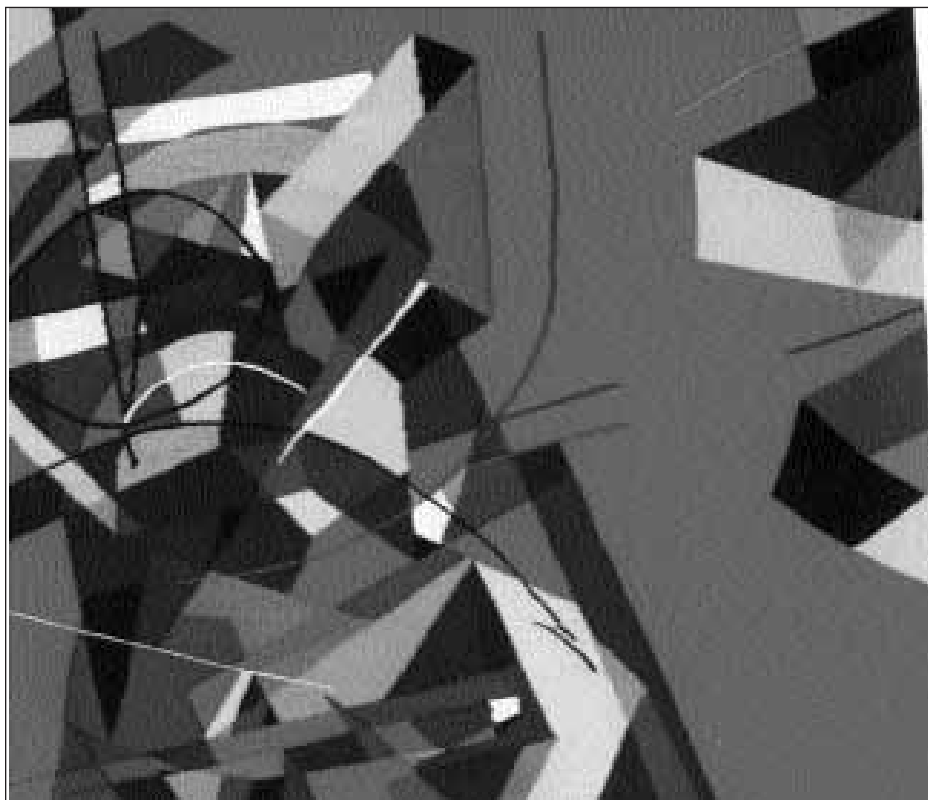
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## "Tapestries" exhibit featuring works by Lialia Kuchma on view in Chicago



"# 135 Red" (42 by 49 inches), 2003.

CHICAGO – An exhibit by Chicago artist Lialia Kuchma, titled "Tapestries," opened at the Chicago Cultural Center on November 22 as part of three new exhibitions at the prestigious Michigan Avenue Galleries. The exhibit, organized by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, will be on view through January 25, 2004. An opening reception was held on November 21 and a gallery talk with the artist took place on December 4.

The Chicago Cultural Center exhibit presents a sample of Ms. Kuchma's stylistically diverse tapestries.

Experimenting with brilliant and contrasting colors, Ms. Kuchma's sensual treatment of her medium results in stunning abstract and expressionistic works, while still remaining true to the history of the art form in its technical aspects.

Ms. Kuchma offers the following conceptualization of her work:

"The slow mechanical generation of a tapestry piece allows for contemplation and the unconscious arrangement of ideas that often begin to shape the next work. The fugal aspects of line and color and the animate hand reach deep into the evolution of the physical texture of the natural elements of the wool and cotton integrating in the final mechanical process at the loom. The emotive aspects pour and burst in color in contradiction to the logic of the line. The figurative seeks a form in the object world and the abstract the inherent projection of organization/chaos from cells of experience/relationships in conflict, love, fear and consolation.

"To confront the logic of the line with the pulse of color.

"To confront the reason of color with the pulse of the line.

"In their formality and in their ontology they are what has not been and what is."

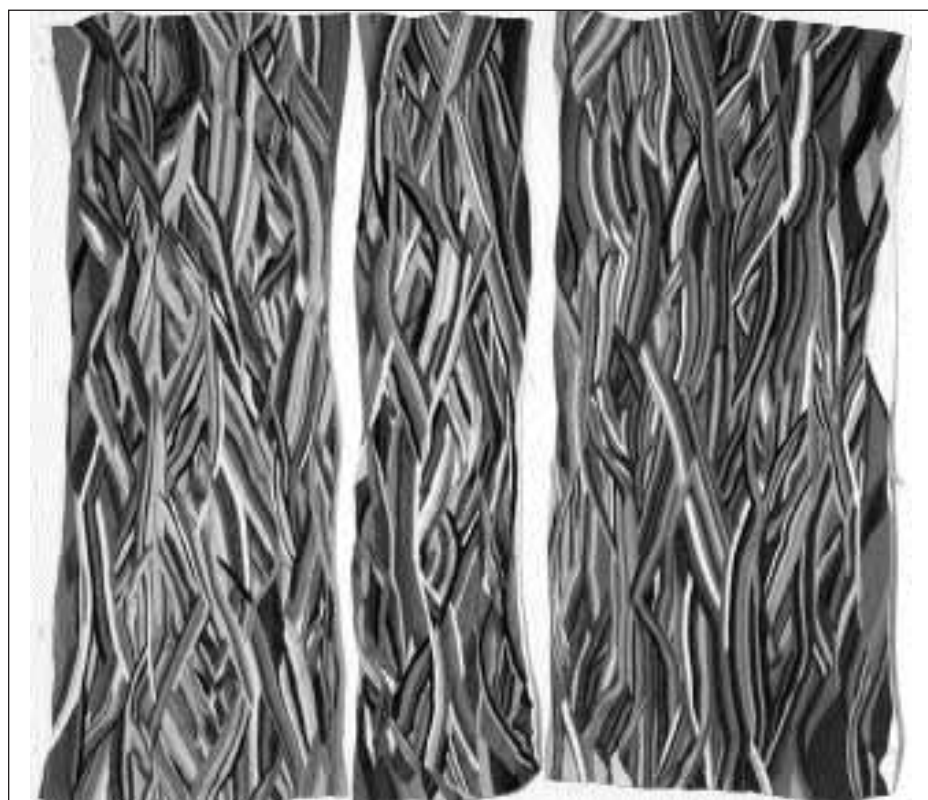
Also featured at the Center are two other exhibits by Chicago photographers Larry Snider and Sarah Faust titled, respectively, "A World Away: Photographs by Larry Snider" (11/15/03-1/18/04) and "Sarah Faust: Bodies Beheld" (11/22/03-1/25/04).

The Chicago Cultural Center is located at 78 E. Washington St; telephone, (312) 744-6630; website, [www.chicago-culturalcenter.org](http://www.chicago-culturalcenter.org). Admission is free.

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Born in Ukraine, Ms. Kuchma was raised in the Ukrainian Village section of Chicago. A graduate of the University of

Illinois at Champaign, Ms. Kuchma subsequently focused on printmaking and did independent studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and with masters of calligraphy and Ukrainian wood inlay.



"Grove (My Father's Orchard)" (96 inches high by 36 inches/22 inches/42 inches), 1997.

The transition toward tapestry began in 1975 and has been the primary medium through which Ms. Kuchma has followed her muse – creating dynamic images, both abstract and figurative, in vivid color. Other art forms, in particular

photography, have provided an on-going counterpoint.

Ms. Kuchma's tapestries and photographs have been extensively exhibited, both nationally and abroad. This year the  
(Continued on page 16)

## Recent oils by Anatole Kolomayets on exhibit

CHICAGO – The Ukrainian National Museum (UNM) held an exhibit of recent oil paintings of Anatole Kolomayets on November 7-22 at its newly expanded exhibition hall on Superior Street in Chicago's Ukrainian Village. An enthusiastic crowd of over 300 art lovers filled the space to capacity on opening night, viewing Mr. Kolomayets' works and listening to the artist explain his philosophy and approach to the creative process.

Mr. Kolomayets infuses his oils with energetic swaths of modern and vibrant colors, focusing his energy on acute angles suggesting cubist influence. He does not shy from experimenting with form: soft, delicate lines intersect with emphatic spheres and curves. All of the lines harmonize in a resonant whole, imparting an almost tactile sensation to the visual experience.

Anatole Kolomayets was born in Ukraine in 1927. He received his training at St. Luke's Institute (1948-1952) and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (1952-1953), both in Liege, Belgium. Since coming to the United States in 1953, he has resided in Chicago. More than 400 of the artist's works are in numerous private collections and galleries in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, England, France, the United States, and Canada as well as Ukraine.

Mr. Kolomayets has had one-man exhibits in Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Washington, Philadelphia, Toronto, New York, Los Angeles and Denver. This is his 33rd individual exhibition.

Mr. Kolomayets is one of the co-founders of the Ukrainian artists' group "Monolith," which came into existence in Chicago in 1954. His works have been reviewed in various magazines and journals, among them *Suchasnist* and *Ukraina*.

During the opening night formalities, Mr. Kolomayets received a written commendation from the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture and personal congratulations from National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko

of Kyiv, on the occasion of the artist's 50th anniversary of creative professionalism since finishing his formal training.

Son Andriy and daughter, well-known correspondent Marta Kolomayets, delivered the congratulations personally.



"Cellist," (oil).

# A pilgrimage to Sandarmokh and the Solovets Islands

The Solovets Islands – a group of islands in the White Sea that are part of the Arkhangelsk oblast in northwestern Russia – consist of three large islands: Solovets, Bolshoi Muksalma, and Anzersky, as well as several smaller ones.

The archipelago, defined by an inordinate beauty and variety of landscapes has, unfortunately, another association, albeit one not widely known – as a former penal colony dating back to tsarist times and, more recently, as “one of the cruelest concentration camps of the era of Communist rule.”<sup>1</sup>

Subsequent to the breakdown of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the emergence of the new independent states, a degree of access to original documents of the Soviet secret police and to previously restricted materials became possible, providing new revelations about Stalin’s crimes and the political terror of the early 1930s.

Accordingly, the circumstances behind the mass killings of 1,111 Solovets internees – including some 300 members of the Ukrainian intelligentsia, who were transported under prison convoy from the main island in 1937 – was finally ascertained, six decades later, in 1997.

A three-volume scholarly documentary publication titled “Ostannia adresa. Do 60-richchia solovetskoï trahedii” (The Last Address. Toward the 60th Anniversary of the Tragedy on the Solovets Islands), that came out in Kyiv in 1997-1999, contains details of the executions of the prisoners at the Sandarmokh woods, some 19 kilometers outside of Medvezhiegorsk in Karelia.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Yuri Shapoval, leading authority on the history of Communist rule in Ukraine and head of the Center for Historical and Political Studies at the Institute of Political and Ethnological Studies at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv, in a lecture delivered in July 2001 on the invitation of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Dr. Shapoval is the author and co-author of many publications based on archival documents of the Soviet secret police known successively as the Cheka, GPU, NKVD and KGB, as well as other Communist Party organs. He is co-author, with V. Prystaiko and V. Zolotariov, of the book “ChK-GPU-NKVD v Ukraine: Osoby, Fakty, Dokumenty” (The Cheka-GPU-NKVD in Ukraine: Personalities, Facts, Documents), which came out in 1997.

Sandarmokh, referred to in NKVD files as “the habitual site for executions,” was first opened for visitation in 1997. The first “Days of Remembrance” were held that year at Sandarmokh and the Solovets Islands at the initiative of the St. Petersburg Memorial Society.

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Nadia Svitlychna is a philologist, former political prisoner and human-rights activist and member of the External Representation of the Helsinki Group. Upon renouncing her Soviet citizenship, she was finally granted permission to emigrate to the United States in 1978. Ms. Svitlychna undertook a trip or, more properly, a pilgrimage this past summer to Sandarmokh and the Solovets Islands as part of a group that set out from Kyiv to take part in the Days of Remembrance for the victims of political terror and repression of the Stalin era.

Since coming to the United States in 1978, Ms. Svitlychna has worked for the Ukrainian service of Radio Liberty until her retirement and also as editor-in-chief of *Vira* (Faith), a quarterly publication of the United Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhoods based in New Jersey.

Ms. Svitlychna gave an illustrated presentation about her journey at the New York-based Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. on November 2; an account of her journey appeared in *Vira* (No. 4, 2003).

Ms. Svitlychna’s account for *The Weekly* follows, in translation by Ika Casanova.

by Nadia Svitlychna

A 10-day bus trip to the far north, organized by the Our Ukraine political bloc was undertaken on the morning of August 2 from the Podil district in Kyiv’s city center by a diverse group of people who came together, setting out on a journey to commemorate the victims of Communist terror and political repression. Among those assembled were the Rev. Valerii Kopyika of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the Rev. Volodymyr Cherpak of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, who concelebrated a moleben service at the Church of St. Mary the Protectress, asking for God’s blessing on the participants of the journey.

The group comprised members of the Vasyl Stus Ukrainian Memorial Society, several journalists, six people whose

forebears perished in the Gulag (the Russian acronym for Glavnoe Upravlenie Lagerei, or main camp administration), an Orthodox priest, a film director, as well as several students – in all, not more than 50 people. I was the only Ukrainian on the trip from abroad; last year, Benjamin Trokhymenko, who resides in the United States, undertook the trip upon learning in 1998 that his father, the noted philologist Mykola Trokhymenko, was executed at Sandarmokh.

It fell to Vasyl Ovsienko, former political prisoner and recipient of the Vasyl Stus Award, as a veteran of Solovets trips, to organize as well as bring some kind of order to the disparate group, which varied in age as well as interests, and needless to say, in terms of personalities.

Heeding Mr. Ovsienko’s instructions and advice, we took with us, apart from personal belongings and necessities, the following: a national flag of Ukraine, a flag of the Our Ukraine party, as well as smaller flags, icons, candles, bread, boughs of guelder rose, or “kalyna” (used in parts of Ukraine as a national symbol) and earth from the gravesites of the more recent victims of political repression who have been laid to rest in Kyiv’s Baikove Cemetery. We also took with us publications pertaining to this particular stage of Ukrainian history, as well as the latest publication of Memorial to present to the Ukrainian community of Karelia and for the museums of the region.

The aim of our journey was to take part in the Days of Remembrance for the victims of Stalin’s terror and political repression. The Days of Remembrance came into being on the initiative of the St. Petersburg Memorial Society. They are held annually on August 5 at Sandarmokh and on August 7 on Solovets.

The very name “Solovets” (or “Solovky” as the archipelago is commonly referred to in Ukrainian) has been indelibly ingrained in the general consciousness, not only of Ukrainians but of all the peoples of the former Soviet republics, as being synonymous with imprisonment and the ruthlessness of the Stalinist system.

It was only six years ago – thanks to the efforts of the late Benyamin Yofe, head of the St. Petersburg Memorial (after whom the chapter is now named) and Yuri Dmytriev, president of the Socio-Juridical Academy for the Defense of the Republic of Karelia – that light was shed on what happened at the Sandarmokh woods near

Medvezhiegorsk in Karelia. Their investigations have served to fill in one of the blackest of the so-called “blank pages” of recent history – the uncovering of over 9,000 victims of mass executions whose remains were found in 150 mass graves. Among the victims were 1,111 Solovets internees who were transported from the island in 1937 whose fate had remained unknown for decades.

Having access to documents of the St. Petersburg KGB archives, the St. Petersburg Memorial was able to procure lists of the Solovets internees who were executed at Sandarmokh. Among the executed were some 300 Ukrainians.

With access to original documents and previously restricted materials, a three-volume scholarly documentary publication titled “Ostannia Adresa. Do 60-Richchia Solovetskoyi Trahedii” (The Last Address: On the 60th Anniversary of the Tragedy on the Solovets Islands), came out in Kyiv in 1997-1999.

Subsequently, a series of documentary films was produced, but these films are relatively seldom screened in Ukraine due to generally unsupportive government policies.

Then again, it is difficult to account for the apparent indifference on the part of the Ukrainian diaspora to the appearance of these documents.

Among other publications that have come out since “The Last Address” are such works as “Ukrainski Solovky,” an overview co-authored by Dmytro Viedienev and Serhii Shevchenko, which was published in Kyiv in 2001, and “Rubaly Lis...” (They Were Cutting Down the Forest...) a memoir by Larysa Krushelnyska, which came out in Lviv in 2001; the title is a reference to a novel by the author’s grandfather titled “Rubayut Lis” (They are Cutting Down the Forest).

In continuing with my account of this year’s expedition to Sandarmokh and the Solovets Islands, I will limit myself to the Days of Remembrance, and any relevant background information. I will not dwell on the first three days of our trip, apart from noting that this part of the journey entailed stops in St. Petersburg and Petrozavodsk, as well as meetings at the Consulate General of Ukraine and with the Ukrainian community in Karelia, the latter as represented by the Kalyna Ukrainian Association.

We started our trip on the morning of

(Continued on page 15)



Vladyslav Charuta

The inner court of the Transfiguration of Christ the Saviour Stavropigian Monastery in Solovets. The cathedral (on the right), which constitutes the principal part of the monastery complex, was built in 1558-1567 under the tenure of Hegumen Fylyp Kolychev, with Ihnatii Savka of Novgorod, as architect. The monastery served as a camp for political prisoners in the 1930s on the archipelago that has come to be known as “one of the cruelest concentration camps of the era of Communist rule.”

## A pilgrimage...

(Continued from page 14)

August 5. Upon arriving in Medvezhiegorsk, we were struck by the beauty of the Karelian landscape – the majesty of Lake Onezk, the Kivach Waterfall on the Suna River, the richness of vegetation, the rugged rock formations.

At 11 a.m., we set out for the Sandarmokh woods, traveling along a 19-kilometer stretch of road, heading in the direction of Povenets. The buses dropped us off at the entrance to the woods-cemetery.

Upon approaching the site, the first thing one sees is a boulder with a bas-relief and the inscription – “Do Not Kill One Another.” A little further, there is a rock from Solovets, with an affixed plate which states that 1,111 people who were held as prisoners in Solovets were executed at this site in 1937 on October 27 and November 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The reason that August 5 has been designated as a Day of Remembrance at Sandarmokh has the following explanation. On July 2, 1937, the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (of bolsheviks) (CC AUCP[b]) passed a resolution concerning “anti-Soviet elements” which, in effect, served as the doctrinal basis for the Great Terror.

The resolution required all CP secretaries on the oblast, regional [krai] and republic levels, as well state security agents at the NKVD to organize, within five days, special troikas that were to come up with quotas designating the number of people who were to be executed or sent into exile.

This nefarious resolution was enacted on August 5, 1937, in accordance with Order No. 00447. The operation was to be in effect for four months. In actual fact, the operation continued through November 15, 1937, in accordance with a decision taken by the CC AUCP(b). The implementation of said resolution constituted the most massive purge carried out by the Kremlin leadership in the history of the Soviet Union.

The work of the troikas encompassed all sectors of the population: the kurkuls, or rich peasants, so-called “criminals,” “counter-revolutionaries” of various hues, “guerrilla/resistance fighters,” “tserkovnyky” (religious believers), “spies,” “Trotskyites,” “dyversanty” (subverters), “shkidnyky” (those who disturb public order from the system’s point of view) and “bourgeois nationalists” – among the latter, the Ukrainian intelligentsia which, according to Stalin, “did not deserve to be trusted.”

The quotas were set according to two categories: Category I – execution; Category II – imprisonment; the ratio of executions to imprisonment was 3 to 1.

Reports of over-fulfilling the quotas started coming in from the “lower echelons,” fostering, in turn, a sense of competition endemic to the socialist order, soon to be followed by requests to increase the quotas, especially with regard to Category I.

Thus, Israel Leplevsky, a People’s Commissar at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, called for an increase in quotas on three occasions, and the newly appointed People’s Commissar Aleksandr Uspensky, submitted two such requests. Moscow did not disappoint them.

In the course of 15 months of this campaign – with no due process (i.e., without legal investigation, defense or trial), and, for the most part, in the absence of the accused – 681,692 death sentences were issued on the basis of the lists drawn up.

The sentences were carried out immediately – in the spirit of Lenin’s exhortation to be exemplary in one’s ruthlessness, to shoot without any idiotic muddling or lack of resolve.

With the passage of the aforementioned resolution, purges were also conducted in the concentration camps. Thus, the head of the special-regimen camp in Solovets (Russian acronym, SLON, subsequently,

STON), a man by the name of Eichman, received an order to draw up a list for executing 1,850 prisoners. Included in the lists were the 1,111 Solovets internees whose names have become known today.

An NKVD captain by the name of Mykhail Matveyev almost single-handedly shot the prisoners using a pistol at the Sandarmokh woods during a span of five days. After the first day of this slaughter, which took place on October 27, 1973, the executions had to be postponed until November 1 due to an ambush on the convoy by the sentenced prisoners in an attempt to escape.

The transport of subsequent groups of prisoners from the transit prison to the final destination, the so-called “final address,” i.e., place of execution in southern Karelia, was perfected soon enough: henceforth, the prisoners were stripped to their underwear and bound in pairs.

Capt. Matveyev (born in 1892) lived to a ripe old age. Initially, he was given official recognition for his part in the executions during the 20th anniversary celebrations of the October Revolution; later, he was sentenced on criminal charges, without possibility of rehabilitation. He lived until the age of 81 and died a natural death.

For the Solovets contingent of internees, the previously mentioned Eichman selected members of the intelligentsia of practically all the nationalities that comprised the USSR. Among the imprisoned were some 300 Ukrainians. Their numbers included such prominent figures as the neoclassicist poet and critic Mykola Zerov; the founder and director of the famed Berezil Theater Les Kurbas; playwright Mykola Kulish; the historians Matvii Yavorsky and Serhii Hrushevsky (the latter, the brother of Mykhailo Hrushevsky), Minister of Education of the Ukrainian National Republic Anton Krushelnytsky and his sons, Ostap and Bohdan (other members of the family perished in other camps); writer and critic Hryhorii Epik; the writers Oleksa Blyzko, Valerian Pidmohylnyi, Valerian Polischuk, Mykhailo Semenko, Oleksa Slisarenko, Marko Voronyi, Mykhailo Yalovy; (the writer Yevhen Pluzhnyk, one of the finest Ukrainian poets of the 1920s, did not live to be executed; he died of tuberculosis in a prison hospital); and Catholic priests, among them, the Rev. P. Weigel, who was sent by the Vatican to assess the persecution of believers in the USSR.

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For this year’s observances of the Days of Remembrance, which are held under the aegis of the St. Petersburg Memorial, people arrived from a variety of places, among them, Finland, Poland, Russia, Belarus and Great Britain as well as from various parts of Karelia. The Ukrainian contingent was the most numerous, but, unfortunately, without any official representation. Even those Ukrainian national deputies to the Verkhovna Rada who had signed up for the trip, did not show up. So, our group was a bit discomfited when listening to such representatives as the general consul of Poland, a deputy of the Russian Duma, and government representatives of Finland.

Serving as spokesmen for our group were Mr. Ovsienko, Valentyna Bovsunivska and Stanislav Volkov – the latter two, descendants of the victims of the Great Terror who perished in Solovets. As part of the commemoration, Antonina Lystopad from Krasnodon read her poem, titled “Solovetskyi Rekvjem” (The Solovets Requiem). The Rev. Volodymyr Cherpak of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Kyiv Patriarchate said a panakhyda (memorial service) at the site of the wooden cross, the work of Mykola Malyshko, which was brought to Sandarmokh in 1997 by the Ukrainian literary critic and former Soviet political

prisoner Yevhen Sverstiuk. Subsequently, two additional panakhyda services were said on the main island of Solovets.

The pilgrimage to the at once hallowed and damned Solovets archipelago deserves a separate retelling. I will limit myself to relating what created the strongest impression. Foremost was an unfathomably overwhelming sense of contrast – a most jarring dissonance occasioned by, on the one hand, the visible traces of the former “vale of suffering and despair,” and, on the other, the richness and beauty of the natural landscape – reinforced, in turn, by the inordinate beauty of such architectural landmarks as the 16th century monastery of the Stavropigian Order and its monumental towers, which during the 1930s had served as a camp for political prisoners; and the Church of the Ascension on Siekirnaya Hill, illuminated by the Solovets lighthouse, which formerly served as a place for solitary confinement.

The iconostases, where the “parashas,” or toilet buckets, were customarily placed, have already been restored. The writings and markings on the church walls have been, for the most part, removed and painted over, although occasionally one can still discern the names of prisoners on some of the walls. And, there is still a peephole in the dilapidated doors of a now once-again active church.

Another very strong impression was made during a visit to the prison cell of the last kish (central administrative body of the Zaporozhian Sich) otaman of the Zaporozhian Sich, Petro Kalnyshesky (1765-1775) – the first “Ukrainianizer” of Solovets. Russian Empress Catherine II, having ordered the abolition of the Zaporozhian Host (1775), had Kalnyshesky imprisoned in a cell beneath the tower of the Solovets kremlin, or fortress, from which he was freed 25 years later by decree of Tsar Alexander I. After his release, Kalnyshesky became a monk at the age of 110; he died two years later, on October 30, 1803, on the island of Solovets.

Although access to Kalnyshesky’s cell is off limits to laymen, a number of people from our group were able to gain access to this sacred site for Ukrainians. We adorned the cell with branches of guelder rose, lit the candles we had brought, set out the bread and said a prayer to the singing of the Kyiv kobzar (bard) Taras Kompanychenko and, among others, Iryna Atamaniuk, Ivan Kushnir and Oles Obertas.

It is worth noting that among this year’s group of travelers to Solovets was a substantial number of young people, including some 10 journalists. Again, this is a topic for a separate account.

Upon our return to Ukraine, small conifers from the Solovets Island were transplanted in Kyiv’s Baikove Cemetery at the gravesites of the most recent Ukrainian political dissidents and prisoners (associated with the human-rights movement in the mid-1960s through the 1980s): Yurii Lytvyn (1934-1984), participant in the Ukrainian nationalist movement and active in the production of samvydav literature and poetry; teacher and founding member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group Oleksa Tykhyi (1927-1984); a leading poet of the ’60s generation and literary critic Vasyl Stus (1938-1985); and noted literary critic Ivan Svitlychny (1929-1992). Also placed at the cemetery was earth from the symbolic resting places of Kish Otaman Petro Kalnyshesky (1690-1803) and the writer Yevhen Pluzhnyk (1898-1936), and stones from the sites of execution in Solovets and Sandarmokh.

Recently, an unofficial association called Ukrainski Solovky (Ukrainian Solovets) was founded in Ukraine, with Mr. Ovsienko as general coordinator for

## Solovets Islands: pertinent data

*The following information is from the entry for Solovets Islands in the Encyclopedia of Ukraine.*

A penal colony in the White Sea, Arkhangelsk Oblast ... the islands are largely covered with forest and many lakes and swamps; the climate is cold and damp.

A major outpost of Russian monastic life in the far north by the end of the 16th century and later, a site for a strategic fortress, the islands were used by the tsars as a prison or place of banishment for political and religious offenders until 1903, but there were seldom more than a few dozen prisoners at one time.

Among Ukrainians to have been interned there in the 18th century were ... some of Hetman Ivan Mazepa’s supporters after 1709; Archimandrite H. Odorsky and Protopriest I. Rohachevsky (1712); Petro Kalnyshesky, the last kish otaman of the New Sich (1776-1801); and Yu. Andruzky, a member of the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood (1850-1854).

Most of the monks evacuated the islands after the Russian Revolution, and in 1923 the Bolsheviks established the Solovets Special-Purpose Camp there, modeled on prisoner-of-war camps. Later it became part of the Northern Special-Purpose Camp Complex, and still later, Section Eight of the White Sea-Baltic Camp Complex. In 1937 the camp on the Solovets Islands was renamed the Solovets Special Purpose Prison of the Main Administration of State Security of the USSR.

For most of the 1920s the regime in the camp was relatively mild, and the number of prisoners relatively small. With the onset of the Stalinist terror, however, the Solovets Islands were packed with prisoners living in severe conditions, subjected to cold, hunger, punishment cells and beatings. In 1931-1933 many prisoners were sent to work on the White Sea Canal.

Late in 1938 the prisoners were transferred from the Solovets Islands to other camps, and the islands became a naval base.

Ukrainians in the camp in the mid-1920s were primarily Petliurists, anti-bolshevik insurgents, and clergymen. During dekulakization and collectivization in 1928-1933 masses of Ukrainian peasants were exiled to the islands; among them were 325 peasants arrested for cannibalism during the man-made famine of 1932-1933. Arrests in the early 1930s, following the trial of the Union for the Liberation of Ukraine, brought much of the non-Communist Ukrainian intellectual elite to the camp, as well as thousands of activists of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. In 1933 Ukrainian Communists also began to fill the camps.

From 1924 until 1930 (perhaps longer) the Solovets camp had its own journal, Solovetskie Ostrova. After conditions in the Solovets camp became known in the West, the Soviets released a propaganda film, “Solovki,” which did not present a true account of life in the prison camp.

(Continued on page 17)

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*Who's in charge...*  
 (Continued from page 7)

and Canada took time out of their busy  
 schedules to visit an art exhibit in Kyiv's  
 Ukrainian Home, titled "To the Dead, and  
 the Living and the Unborn," on Friday  
 evening, November 21. The exhibit fea-  
 tured over 100 works of art related to the  
 political famines in Ukraine in 1921-  
 1922 and 1932-1933. It was collected by  
 E. Morgan Williams, a senior adviser to  
 the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, who has no  
 blood connection to Ukraine, but over the  
 past decade has become a loyal friend  
 and passionate supporter of Ukrainian  
 culture and history.

It is stimulating to see Dr. James Mace,  
 who has spent more than 20 years research-  
 ing collectivization in the 1930s, continue  
 promoting the cause of recognizing the  
 Famine as genocide against the Ukrainian  
 people by the Communist regime. Dr.  
 Mace, who also has no Ukrainian blood,  
 but is now married to a Ukrainian poet and  
 scholar, lives and works in Ukraine, inspir-  
 ing students to look into Ukraine's past.

It is refreshing to see Fulbright schol-  
 ars, such as Natalia Feduschak, guest-  
 lecture to journalism students at Kyiv  
 State University, raising awareness about  
 the Famine of 1932-1933. Her second-  
 year university students will be reading  
 books about the Famine and finding sur-  
 vivors to talk to about what happened in  
 Ukraine in the year that the United States  
 recognized the Soviet Union.

And, it is encouraging that the Ukrainian  
 diaspora is still going strong with its public  
 awareness campaign in the West; the dias-  
 pora can still get people out to commemo-  
 rate and honor a cause we should never for-  
 get. And although it is disappointing that  
 Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize was not  
 revoked, the effort was valiant and we  
 should be proud of that campaign and the  
 fruits it bore: a greater awareness of the  
 Famine-Genocide and its deniers.

Seventy years after this crime against  
 humanity and in the 13th year of  
 Ukrainian independence, Ukrainians are  
 only beginning to learn the truth about  
 this horrific crime.

Questions arise: who is responsible  
 for making the truth known? Who will  
 tell Ukrainians what really happened in  
 1932-1933? Who will provide them with  
 the facts? And who will teach them about  
 their past so it is not repeated?

In five years Ukrainians will com-  
 memorate the 75th anniversary of the  
 Great Famine. It is my hope that in  
 Ukraine 10 million people will come out  
 to light a candle to honor every innocent  
 victim who died in this genocide. But  
 that all depends on Ukraine's political  
 will and commitment to its history.

## *"Tapestries"...*

(Continued from page 13)

artist's work was featured at such venues  
 as the Videformes International  
 Exhibition of Art in Clermont-Ferrand,  
 France; the Ukrainian National Museum  
 in Evanston, Ill.; and the American  
 Tapestry Biennial 4, in Chicago.

Among Ms. Kuchma's photography  
 projects are the documentation of a major  
 project involving work on the decorative  
 elements in the newly constructed Ss.  
 Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic  
 Church; the photographic series  
 "Celebrations," a revisiting of the ancient  
 rituals still celebrated in the Ukrainian  
 Church, such as the Blessing of the Fruit  
 and the Ice Cross (the latter, as part of  
 Yordan, or the Feast of the Epiphany),  
 and over 140 black and white portraits as  
 part of a collaborative project with Irene  
 Antonovych, titled the "Generations  
 Project," which documents the oral histo-  
 ries of the older generation still living in  
 Chicago's Ukrainian Village.



## A pilgrimage...

(Continued from page 15)

organized expeditions-pilgrimages to Sandarmokh and the Solovets Islands.

Interested individuals, including any Ukrainians from the diaspora, may contact the association at the following address, c/o Vasyl Ovsienko, vul. Kikvidze 30, kv. 60, Kyiv, 01103, Ukraine; telephone, 011-380-44-295-12-11.

One can only hope that by August 5 of next year, there will already be a Ukrainian chapel standing in

Sandarmokh, as designed by the young Ukrainian architect Ivan Kushnir of Kyiv. (Financial support for the project has been pledged by Our Ukraine; the Kalyna Cultural Association of Karelia, which is headed by Laryssa Skrypnykova, has taken upon itself to overseeing the upkeep of the grounds.)

The black-and-white granite rock which was brought back from Solovets as a memento for Viktor Yushchenko, the head of the Our Ukraine political bloc, will serve as a reminder of this commitment – especially, the three symbolic natural red spots that the stone bears.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

row, but some argue that President Kuchma is serving his first term under the new constitution and, therefore, is not prevented from serving another term. Mr. Kuchma has previously declared that he is not going to participate in the 2004 presidential election. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Land deal settles dispute in Crimea

SYMFEROPOL – The government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea has settled a conflict between a local Russian-speaking community and a group of Crimean Tatars who last month seized an 11-hectare plot of land in southeastern Crimea and began construction work on it, Interfax reported on

December 4. The Tatars justified their move by accusing local authorities in the settlement of Partenit near Alushta of being reluctant to allocate land to Soviet-era deportees. Some of those deportees have returned to their homeland and unsuccessfully sought to obtain land plots through legal channels, they said. The seizure of the land sparked a protest by local residents, who on December 3 blocked roads around Partenit. The same day the autonomous Crimean government convened a meeting with both sides in the dispute and reportedly forced through a “gentleman’s agreement” under which land for construction purposes around Partenit will be distributed to Tatar returnees and local residents starting this coming spring on a “50-50” basis. (RFE/RL Newline)

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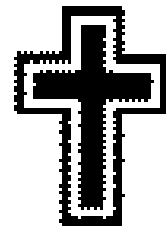
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## UFU hosts Ukrainian and Bavarian scholars

MUNICH – During the last week of October, the Ukrainian Free University of Munich hosted the third congress of Ukrainian and Bavarian scholars of Germany. This meeting differed substantially from its two predecessors which were held in Munich and Lviv, respectively.

The theme of the congress, “Germanics as an International Discipline,” afforded a wider thematic range. In contrast to past meetings, the papers presented here dealt not just with the German language and literature, but also with jurisprudence, political science and philosophy.

A total of 39 scholars participated – 14 of whom came to Munich especially for the congress from various universities in Ukraine. Among the German institutions represented at the congress were the universities of Eichstätt, Heidelberg, Munich, Ulm and Würzburg and the Bavarian Academy of Sciences.

Many of the papers presented dealt with the role and function of German as a medium of international communication and with language as a political factor. These topics were ably treated by Taras Kyjak (Kyiv), Antony Rowley (Munich), Volodymyr Sulym (Lviv), Richard Brunner (Ulm) and Hansjergen Doss (UFU).

Other presentations had a comparative aspect. Leonid Rudnytzky (UFU) placed Ivan Franko’s long narrative poem “The Master’s Jest” (Panski Zharty) within the framework of 19th and early 20th century German literary theories; Svitlana Fiskova (Lviv) analyzed the relationship between literature and music, and Tetiana Struk (Lviv) compared and contrasted the perfective aspect in German and Ukrainian languages, and Mykola Szafowal (UFU) examined the role of the Ukrainian Scientific Institute of Berlin (1926-1945) as a link between German

and Ukrainian studies.

A programmatic paper, very relevant to the contemporary Ukrainian situation, was presented by the renowned professor of international law Dieter Blumenwitz (Würzburg), who, taking the famous dictum of Isidors of Sevilla that languages have created nations and not nations languages, developed a compelling theory based on linguistic, sociological, psychological and juridical factors. Equally well received was Peter-Arnold Mumm’s (Munich) paper on linguistic relations north of the Black and Baltic seas in ancient times, which also dealt extensively with etymologies of numerous Ukrainian words.

A striking feature of the gathering was the participation of many young scholars and graduate students, both from Ukraine and from Germany, all of whom gave a very good account of themselves, eliciting praise from their senior colleagues and assembled guests.

The congress also served as a forum for many academic, social and civic events. Hans Gerhard Stockinger, a member of the Bavarian Parliament and a good friend of the Ukrainian Free University, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Lviv, which was bestowed on him by the dean of the Faculty of Foreign Languages, Volodymyr Sulym, and the chairman of the German department, Bohdan Maksymchuk, both of whom also read papers at the congress.

At the conclusion of the final session, the participants signed several documents concerning the present status of scholarship in Ukraine and the role and function of the Ukrainian Free University as a link between Ukraine and Western Europe. Before adjourning, the scholars decided to hold their next meeting in Lviv during the fall semester of 2004-2005.

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## Cincinnati-Kharkiv sister cities formally renew their relationship



The two mayors sign the agreement renewing the highly successful Cincinnati-Kharkiv sister city relationship. Volodymyr Shumilkin signs on the left, Charlie Luken on the right. Assisting Mayor Shumilkin is Viktor Rud, head of Kharkiv's International Department. Assisting Mayor Luken is David Brokaw, project administrator for the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project. Looking on are Cincinnati City Manager Valerie Lemmie (left) and, at the podium, Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project President Ed Marks (left), with interpreter Alexander Etlin.

by Jan Sherbin

CINCINNATI – A sister city delegation led by the mayor of Kharkiv has completed a weeklong visit to Cincinnati.

A highlight of the visit was the renewal of the 14-year-old Cincinnati-Kharkiv sister city agreement. The signing of a new agreement by Kharkiv Mayor Volodymyr Shumilkin and Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Luken recognizes the massive changes that have been happening in Kharkiv since the original agreement was signed in 1989.

The agreement promises that both Cincinnati and Kharkiv "will contribute to tight and multifaceted connections among the residents of both cities, thus advancing the cause of peace and understanding among nations" and "will contribute to furthering cooperation in economy, city development, education, culture, research, health care and social protection, individual liberties, sports, tourism, youth issues and other areas important to both cities."

At the signing ceremony, the Kharkiv folk trio Kupava sang the Ukrainian national anthem. Cincinnati singer Kathy Wade delivered the Star-Spangled Banner.

Another highlight of the visit was the introduction of Mayor Shumilkin and his delegation before the November 5 meeting of Cincinnati's City Council. Mayor

Luken proclaimed the day "Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project Day." Mayor Shumilkin also received the key to the city.

During their time in Cincinnati (November 2-8,) the delegation witnessed Election Day proceedings, visited area museums and educational institutions, were hosted in the homes of sister city volunteers and attended a Cincinnati Rotary Club meeting. The Cincinnati Rotary Club helped establish Rotary in Kharkiv and is planning to bring Kharkiv Rotary members to Cincinnati next spring to learn more about how Rotary works and to establish closer ties.

Besides Mayor Shumilkin and the folk trio Kupava, the delegation included members of Kharkiv's city council, other government officials, leaders of non-governmental organizations, and businesspeople.

Over 14 years, Cincinnatians have been working closely with people in Kharkiv in dozens of areas, such as education, religion, business, culture, etc. Some 3,000 people have traveled between the two cities on sister city-related visits, and many more have participated in sister city activities in their home cities.

Following their Cincinnati visit, the

(Continued on page 24)



The Kharkiv folk trio Kupava (from left), Olena Slyusarenko, Yuliya Kurochka and Tetyana Slyusarenko.

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## Will advertising...

(Continued from page 2)

tors, these are the two which spend the most money in the Ukrainian market – they always, and I emphasize always, worked in the Ukrainian language and gained great results and success, and nobody saw any problems in that,” Mr. Kovtonenko said.

Andriy Hunder is the head of publicity for one of Ukraine’s largest mobile-phone operators, UMC. He also believes advertising in the Ukrainian language is effective and has helped UMC reach a large number of people. “Really, from day one, all of our advertising has been in Ukrainian, so the law has had no major influence on the company, as we were advertising in Ukrainian anyway. So there’s been no major change, and especially all our outdoor advertising was in Ukrainian in all regions of Ukraine, so I can’t see any drastic changes in our approach to advertising,” Mr. Hunder said.

Mr. Hunder added that he believes predictions that the new regulation will bring ruin to Russian-language publications are wrong.

“I was speaking to a number of senior

editors the day before yesterday, and we’ve been doing our own monitoring, looking at whether the volume of advertising has decreased. And what the editors have said and what the results have shown is that the volume of advertising remains at the same level that it was. So there has been no visible decrease in the level or amount of advertising,” Mr. Hunder explained.

Ironically, one newspaper that fears it may be critically wounded by the new rules is the Kyiv Post – Ukraine’s largest English-language newspaper and widely acknowledged as its best. The Kyiv Post relies on ads in English for its mainly foreign audience of business people, diplomats, and visitors.

The State Committee for Technical Regulation and Consumer Rights, which will enforce the new law, says its effect on other foreign media such as English-language publications was unforeseen and that they will try to ensure there are no adverse consequences for them.

Many people believe the new measure is aimed specifically at curtailing the use of Russian. Ukrainian is predominant only in the western part of the country.

But those who want to see the Ukrainian language more widely entrenched dismiss claims that Russian is being unfairly treated or edged out. Before going into advertising, Mr. Kovtonenko worked in the propaganda department of Rukh, which spearheaded Ukraine’s drive for independence. He is still involved in politics and says that it is the Ukrainian language that is in danger of being swamped by a mass of Russian-language media.

“There should be a fuss in Ukraine not because ads are to be in Ukrainian but that today all 20 of Kyiv’s radio stations are Russian-language and all the songs they play are Russian, thus breaching Ukrainian laws,” Mr. Kovtonenko said. “The Russian press wants to exclude the Ukrainian language completely and is doing that in a shameless way. The new owners of the television stations also conduct themselves in a shameless way and don’t want to allow the Ukrainian language on the air. That’s happening for one simple reason: in the last four years the Ukrainian government has allowed the sale of media outlets and only 3 percent of those have been left in Ukrainian control. Today, the majority of the owners of the new media – television, radio, or print – are Russians or their vassals in Ukraine. It’s obvious they’re never going to tolerate the Ukrainian language.”

Mr. Kovtonenko charged that what he calls the attack on the Ukrainian language is Russian government policy. Last month the Ukrainian government condemned a statement by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Eleonora Mitrofanova that one of Moscow’s foreign policy goals is to get official status for the Russian language in former Soviet republics.

But the Ukrainian government is conscious that the language issue is a dangerously volatile one in Ukraine and is treading warily and emphasizing that change will be gradual.

Last month the Education Ministry announced plans to increase the number of schools where Ukrainian will be the language of instruction in areas where Ukrainians are currently a minority. In southern and eastern parts of the country, around 75 percent of schools teach in Russian, while in Crimea only four out of 640 schools teach in Ukrainian.

In October President Leonid Kuchma went to Crimea to lay the foundation stone for the first Ukrainian-language college on the peninsula, where the majority of the population is ethnic Russian. He said the introduction of teaching in the Ukrainian language in Russian-speaking regions “must not be revolutionary” but rather “gradual and evolutionary.”

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# Ukrainian American Veterans present scholarships for 2003

YONKERS, N.Y. – The Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) every year, award scholarships to college students who are descendants of Ukrainian American veterans. The monetary awards are given to recipients in the Fall after the UAV National Convention during which the Scholarship Committee selects the awardees. This year the convention was hosted by Post 35 and held in Palatine, Chicago.

Four students were selected as the recipients of the 2002-2003 scholarship awards. Victor William Cannuscio from West Palm Beach, Fla., was awarded \$500 for the best essay that assessed the war on terrorism. He attends Palm Beach Community College and aspires to become a professional pilot. The award for \$500 was donated by the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary in memory of Pauline Pender, past president.

Three more recipients each received \$400. Melissa Demetro resides in Weatogue, Conn., and is majoring in mathematics at Drew University. Nicholas Zakotiria resides in Yonkers, N.Y., and attends Westchester Community College, where he is majoring in music and computers. Jillian Marie Auletto resides in Wellington, Fla., and attends Palm Beach Community College. At present she is undecided about her major and is taking general required courses.

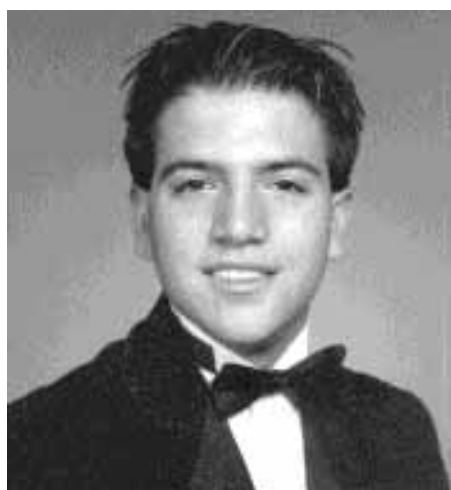
Students interested in applying for the UAV scholarship awards should fill out an application, write an essay on this year's military topic, and send a picture. Students may apply from October to the end of August. Applications are available on the UAV website [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org). This year's topic for the essay is "What role or strategy should the United States take in its continued efforts in the war on terrorism (400 to 500 words).

To be eligible for a UAV scholarship applicants must be full-time matriculated students in a degree program. Moreover,

students from accredited trade schools or institutions that have degree programs are eligible. Additionally, students may reapply for the scholarship fund.

The Ukrainian American Veterans have received donations to make the scholarship project a reality. Organizations and/or individuals wishing to make a tax-free donation to the UAV National Scholarship Fund should send contributions to the national scholarship officer, Nicholas Skirka, 109 Windsor Terrace, Yonkers, N.Y., 10701. For additional information, readers may e-mail [n.skirka@worldnet.att.net](mailto:n.skirka@worldnet.att.net) or call (914) 965-3707.

The National Scholarship Committee consists of John Tkachuk, Peter Olijarczyk, Bohdan Mykitschak and Russel Olijarczyk.



Victor William Cannuscio



Nicholas Zakotiria



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## Ukrainian American Youth Association (CYM) Passaic Oseredok

Wishes to express thanks to all volunteers, prize donors and the following individuals and corporate sponsors for their generous contributions to our inaugural CYM's FALL GOLF CLASSIC held at the Emerson Golf Club in Emerson, New Jersey, on October 25, 2003:

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Proceeds from this event were designated to sponsor summer camp tuition for member children at Oselia Resort in Ellenville, New York, and for the ongoing activities of CYM Passaic, New Jersey.

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# Plast's Orlykiada competition focuses on achievements of Ukrainian women

by Larissa Oprysko

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – “Woman as Protectress (“Berehynia”) of the Ukrainian Nation and Culture” was the theme of the 42nd Annual Plast Orlykiada sponsored by the Orlykivtsi, one of Plast’s fraternal organizations.

Participants from as far away as Toronto and Maryland gathered at Soyuzivka on November 8-9 to dazzle the audience with their knowledge of the topic.

Each year Plast youths from across the U.S. and Canada come to take part in the challenge. This year, over 100 youth members divided into 18 groups, participated in the competition. A hefty packet of materials was sent to each group ahead of time in order to help them prepare for the event.

The competition is divided into three parts: a question-and-answer session, a performance and the presentation of an exhibit.

In the first section, participants must answer questions in front of all their peers and a panel of judges. This portion of the competition has changed somewhat over the last few years. Groups have two minutes to prepare their answer to one question chosen at random. Afterwards, the participants impress the judges with additional material prepared ahead of time on a particular aspect of the theme.

The second part of the competition requires each group to perform a skit lasting no longer than eight minutes. This portion is known for its creative and often humorous performances in which participants demonstrate their ability to act while relaying a vast amount of information about the topic. This year’s showing was no exception as the groups tried to outdo one another. Performances included everything from a song and dance number reminiscent of the

movie “Chicago” to the story of a bandura getting passed down through the ages and along with it the history it carried.

The third and final portion is a showing of projects or exhibits that each group creates and assembles at home. The Newark girls created several issues of “Chas” (Time) magazine portraying famous Ukrainian women on each cover while the Newark boys chose to focus on Ukrainian women in combat. Other elaborate and original pieces told the story of Ukraine’s influential females, the daily lives of Ukrainian women, and the idea that behind every man is a great woman.

Overall, Orlykiada gives these youths a chance to meet with other Plast members and engage in friendly competition. The outcome was as follows: third place – the boys from Toronto and the girls from New York; second place – boys from New York and the girls from Philadelphia; and first place – the boys from Chicago and the girls from Newark.

Participants expressed their eagerness to get a start on next year’s theme “The Ukrainian Calendar.”

A separate competition, the selection of a “hetman” and “hetmanivna,” traditionally takes place early Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. Each group can elect to send one individual to take part in this commendable challenge. Participants gather in a room in front of a group of judges where they are asked to discuss their ideas on various topics about Orlykiada and Plast. On the following morning they briefly answer questions in front of the entire audience as their group members cheer them on.

This year’s hetman was Taras Kshyk of Toronto, and Roksolana Zalytska of Philadelphia was the new hetmanivna.

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## Plast Newark...

(Continued from page 5)

of both this branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the local Ukrainian community. In addition, the branch's executive board has applied for membership in the Ukrainian Cultural Center.

The Cultural Center has already set aside a room in the center to be used exclusively by Plast as their local headquarters, or "domivka" and, once the center is completed, Plast Newark – which encompasses a large membership in Morris County, N.J. – plans to hold the vast majority of its activities in the center's facilities.

George Shypailo, president of the Newark Plast Branch, commented: "Plast has not had a real home since the old 'domivka' located in Newark was sold in the late 1980s. All of us are looking forward to finally having a home where we can conduct our activities and build a feeling of family and pride." Newark's young Plast members currently hold meetings at St. John's Church hall.

Speaking on behalf of the Ukrainian Cultural Center's Building Committee, of which he is vice-chairman, Mr. Kucyna said that "a vision and plan have been set

in motion that will affect not only ourselves, but also future generations of Ukrainians" as its goal is "to perpetuate and nurture the Ukrainian spiritual and cultural heritage in Northern New Jersey."

"To accomplish this, we must attract and support all forms of Ukrainian cultural, spiritual, educational, fraternal and athletic programs, in addition to building the required facilities to sustain the needs of the community," he continued. "The plan to make our vision a reality is different and unprecedented, requiring bold action, trust and faith in each other."

"Plast, its leadership and its membership, have made that leap in faith, and by their bold action joined in establishing the destiny of the Ukrainian hromada in our community," Mr. Kucyna underscored.

Announcing the Plast presentation to his parish during Sunday liturgy, Father Mirchuk noted that "miracles do happen" and said that the hand of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, whose feast day is now being celebrated, can be seen in this act.

The pastor also noted several smaller donations made in recent days by young members of the local branches of Plast and the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), whose good deeds he cited as examples to be emulated.

## Chicago Business...

(Continued from page 5)

ment on their visits to the various Ukrainian Village institutions. They expressed their surprise at the number of organizations that developed in the past 50 years and continue to thrive. They commended the Ukrainian diaspora for maintaining the heritage, culture and language and for its willingness to help in the rebuilding of Ukraine. In response to another audience question, the journalists

confirmed that they did, indeed, report on the various humanitarian efforts funded by the Ukrainian diaspora. This was considered important, as it confirmed the extensive influence and input of Ukrainians abroad into the economy of Ukraine.

Ms. Shaleva closed the evening's program, thanking participants and inviting guests to attend upcoming events of the Chicago Business and Professional Group. Activities planned for 2004 include a meeting with former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual.

## Cincinnati-Kharkiv...

(Continued from page 19)

Kharkiv delegation traveled to Chicago. The Ukrainian Consulate held a reception in their honor, attended by representatives of Chicago's Ukrainian National Museum and the Ukrainian community. When Kupava sang at the reception, the audience suggested a performing tour of Ukrainian communities in the United States and Canada.

"They were enthralled by Kupava's voices, by their vocal mastery," said delegation member Viktor Rud, head of Kharkiv's International Department.

Kupava – Yuliya Kurochka and sisters Olena and Tetyana Slyusarenko – perform traditional Ukrainian folk songs, accompanying themselves on banduras. To book Kupava during the planned tour, contact Kharkiv's International Department, e-mail, [admincpp@citynet.kharkov.ua](mailto:admincpp@citynet.kharkov.ua), telephone 380-577-15-33-39 or 380-577-00-33-97, or fax, 380-577-00-33-79.

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## Houston celebrates Slavic heritage

HOUSTON – On Sunday, October 19, the 40th annual St. Cyril and Methodius Day Festival was held in Houston. The festival is the oldest ethnic festival in Houston and allows for the Slavic communities to celebrate the heritage of Cyril and Methodius. Houston's Croatian, Czech, Polish, Slovak, Slovenian, and Ukrainian communities were this year's celebrants.

The festival began with the Slavic communities jointly celebrating mass. The celebration continued with cultural and religious displays, traditional foods and refreshments, entertainment consisting of traditional music, song, and dance, and concluded with the much anticipated Polka contest!

Ukrainian participation in this year's festival was a joint effort of the Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston (UACCH), Ukrainian National Womens League of American Branch 118 (UNWLA), Ukrainian Youth Dancers of Houston, and Protection of the Mother of God (Pokrova) Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The UACCH was the sponsoring Ukrainian organization, with the UNWLA operating the food booth, Pokrova operating the cultural and religious booth, and the dancers providing the Ukrainian portion of the entertainment. Additionally, the cultural booth was enhanced by the contributions of Daria Myndiuk.

In keeping with the tradition of the festival, each community selected its festival princess. The selected Ukrainian Princess for 2003 was Olha Seniw, the daughter of Bohdan and Halia Seniw.



Houston's Ukrainian Princess for 2003: Olha Seniw.

She is a ninth grade honors student in the Aldine Independent School District who participates in numerous scholastic and athletic extracurricular activities. Olha, along with her parents, sisters and grandparents, is a parishioner of Pokrova. She is also a student in Houston's Ridna Shkola.

In the Polka Contest, Roman and Helena Cherwonogrodzky placed second.

The festival was a success, particularly its Ukrainian portion, due to the commitment and teamwork exhibited by all organizations and individuals.

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Sauce over Garlic Mashed Potatoes with  
Baby Asparagus and Carrots

# UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## Newark Plast's girls earn first place at Orlykiada

by Lida Doll

NEWARK, N.J. – Orlykiada is one of the highlights of the Plast calendar of events, and this year's was as exciting as ever. A history competition sponsored by the Plast fraternity/sorority Orlykivtsi, Orlykiada attracted 134 participants from cities all over the U.S. and Canada, such as Denver, Cleveland, and Montreal, who came not only for the competition, but also to see old friends and make new ones.

This year seven girls represented the 20th Kurin (unit) in Newark: Andrea Lebed, Talia Temnycky, Olenka Borkowsky, Deanna Kochan, Liana Buniak, Katria Misilo and I. We all had a fantastic time, especially because we won first place overall in the girls' division.

According to tradition, the annual competition takes place in November at the beautiful Ukrainian resort Soyuzivka. This year's historical theme was Ukrainian women as preservers and protectors of the Ukrainian heritage throughout the ages.



The girls of the 20th Kurin of Newark at Orlykiada with their "zviaskova," Christine Kochan.

The Orlykiada competition is composed of three parts: an oral examination, a visual project and a short skit. The oral competition took place on Saturday morning, and consisted of a question-and-answer segment and a reading segment. The teams were awarded points based on their knowledge

and articulation of the subject – all in Ukrainian.

The other two parts of the competition took place in the afternoon. Each team performed an eight-minute skit based on the theme. We won first place in the skit competition for the quality of our skit, which included several humorous yet

informative songs in Ukrainian about individual Ukrainian heroines.

Later, each team presented and explained their projects to a panel of judges. My team chose the topic of "Ukrainian Women's Extraordinary Achievements," which were presented in Time magazine's "Woman of the Year" format. Other projects had a range of topics, from art to embroidery.

Orlykiada is not all work, however. Everybody had a great time at the dance on Saturday night.

We girls from Newark were rewarded for our efforts by winning first place overall at the closing ceremony on Sunday morning.

We thank our extremely helpful counselors, Lisa Milanych, Larysa Nycz, and especially Christine Kochan for all their guidance and support.

Orlykiada was a wonderful and educational experience, and we cannot wait to do it all over again next year.

See story on page 23 for more about the 2003 Orlykiada.

## Passaic's youngest "plastuny" collect gifts for kids in Ukraine

PASSAIC, N.J. – "Novatstvo" (kids age 6-10) and "ptashata" (preschoolers) of the Passaic branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization continue their tradition of decorating Christmas trees with a good deed in mind.

For the past three years, the children have adorned two trees with items that are donated to orphanages in Ukraine after the holiday season. This year the children collected toiletry items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, brushes, band-aids and towels.

The two trees, which are displayed in the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School auditorium, are overflowing with toothbrushes that look like ices

cles and bars of soap that look like Christmas ornaments.

In the past, the children collected

mittens, scarves and gloves one year, and school supplies the next. Each year this event is more and more suc-

cessful, and the children experience a real sense of the giving spirit of Christmas.



The littlest members of the Plast in Passaic, N.J., in front of the Christmas trees they decorated with gifts for children in Ukraine.

## Houston dancers perform at international festival

HOUSTON – The Ukrainian Dancers of Houston performed on November 8, at the annual International Food Extravaganza, at the St. Maximillian Kolbe Catholic Church in Houston. The food extravaganza was chaired by Ralph Subotich and the St. Maximillian Kolbe church fellowship. Church parishioners prepared a wide array of ethnic dishes from around the world, and all were invited to sam-

ple the tasty foods and enjoy the entertainment that was provided by the Croatian Dancers, the International Folk Dancers, the Irish Dancers and The Ukrainian Dancers of Houston.

The Ukrainian Dancers of Houston have been performing for three years under the direction of Martha Noukas at various Ukrainian community events and festivals in the Houston area.



The Ukrainian Dancers of Houston, seen above with Msgr. Milan Kleas, are: (boys, kneeling from left to right) Andrij Lytvynchuk, Michael Uschak, Constantine Noukas, Kostya Lytvynchuk, Serhei Gavchak and Dmytro Shikun. (girls, from left) Nina Seniw, Anna Bobrovnyk, Sarah Uschak, Hannah Uschak, Juliana Noukas, Olha Seniw and Marika Bobrovnyk.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE:** To make it into our next issue, dated January 18, 2004, please send in your materials by January 12.

## Rochester troupe dances in D.C. area



Members of the Yevshan Ensemble of Rochester, N.Y., with (from left) Volodymyr Yatsenkivskyi, Yaroslav Illitch and Pavlo Tertytskyi of the Embassy of Ukraine following their performance at the first annual Ukrainian Festival in the Washington area.

WASHINGTON – The Yevshan Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from Rochester, N.Y., was invited on September 13-14 to perform at the first annual Ukrainian Festival in the Washington area at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral.

The festival was sponsored by the Embassy of Ukraine. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, was to officially open the ceremonies but was recalled back to Ukraine.

In the midst of a downpour, the festival ceremonies began at noon with a brief liturgy and blessing from Bishop Anthony.

Representing the Ukrainian Embassy was Volodymyr Yatsenkivsky, minister counselor, deputy chief of mission and chargé d'affaires; Pavlo Tertytskyi, air attache and assistant defense attaché; and Lt. Gen. Yaroslav Illitch, commander of the Ukrainian air force.

As the performance began, the sky cleared and the sun shone brightly on the festival-goers and performers. The Yevshan Dancers put on a wonderful performance both days and received great applause from the crowd. They have been invited to return for next year's festival.

## Mishanyna

December is the month during which children of all ages celebrate the Feast Day of SAINT NICHOLAS the WONDERWORKER. The FEAST day falls on December 5 according to the Gregorian calendar (the new-style calendar) and on December 19 according to the Julian calendar (the old-style calendar).

Now, just in case you're confused, St. Nicholas, unlike Santa Claus, has nothing to do with CHRISTMAS. (It's just that his feast day happens to occur right before Christmas.) In accordance with Ukrainian TRADITION, St. Nicholas brings gifts to children, placing them under their PILLOWS, on the eve of his feast day. That probably is one reason he is one of the most popular and BELOVED saints.

But the real reason for his popularity and the fact that he is so revered is that St. Nicholas was known for his charity, especially toward children. According to the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, stories of MIRACLES associated with him were spread throughout Europe.

St. Nicholas was BISHOP of MYRA, which today is located in Turkey, in the 4th century. However, little more is known about his LIFE.

However, we do know, from the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, that the cult of St. Nicholas was probably introduced in Ukraine in the 11th CENTURY by Metropolitan Yefrem, who is believed to be the author of a manuscript on the saint's miracles. A church was built in KYIV in honor of St. Nicholas during the reign of PRINCE IHOR in the 10th century.

The encyclopedia also tells us that the Ukrainian CHURCH encouraged the writing and performances of little PLAYS dedicated to St. Nicholas, in which the angels and devils play a prominent role. (How many of you, dear readers, have seen or participated in such plays?) The theme of the plays is GOOD DEEDS and, thus, children were encouraged to do good for others.

St. Nicholas is also honored in many songs. ICONS of the saint used to be found in just about every Ukrainian home and they are prominently displayed in churches.

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## Soyuzivka's Datebook

### December 14

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### December 24

Ukrainian Christmas Eve Dinner,  
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### February 14, 2004

Valentines Day Weekend, Dinner  
and Show

### February 21, 2004

Napanoch Fire Department Banquet

### February 28, 2004

SUNY New Paltz Sorority Semi  
Formal Banquet



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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Sunday, December 21

**NEWARK, N.J.:** The students of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian School invite the Ukrainian community to come and share the joy of Christmas by attending their annual Christmas concert which will be held at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ivy Street and Sanford Avenue, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Free admission; donations will be accepted.

### Saturday, December 27

**HORSHAM Pa.:** The Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center, County Line and Lower States roads, invites the Ukrainian community to a "Winter Waltz" zabava/dance, featuring the Luna Orchestra. The dance, which begins at 9 p.m. will be preceded by an open bar cocktail hour at 8 p.m., with hot and cold appetizers served at 8-10 p.m. A bigus buffet as well as a Vienesse dessert table will be served at midnight. Magical entertainment will be provided by a professional magician, John Cassidy. Tickets: \$50 per person. Black tie optional. For tickets and

reserved seating (by payment only) call Nika Chajkowsky, (215) 860-8384, or Natalia Luciw, (215) 362-5331. Proceeds to benefit cultural programs and youth soccer.

### Saturday, January 24, 2004

**CARTERET, N.J.:** The St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka, or New Year's Eve dance, to be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave. Music will be by Fata Morgana. Tickets, at \$40, include admission, hot buffet, beer, wine, soda, midnight champagne toast and a midnight buffet. There will also be a cash bar. The St. Demetrius Center is located just blocks from exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike. There is also a Holiday Inn off the exit with free shuttle service. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Buffet will be served at 7 p.m. and music starts at 8 p.m. For table and ticket reservations call Peter Prociuk, (732) 541-5452. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

## 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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