



ХРИСТОС РОДИВСЯ! CHRIST IS BORN!

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukraine holds firm on borders in Azov Sea and Kerch Strait

by Yarema A. Bachynsky
Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – Negotiations on the status of the Azov Sea and Kerch Strait will be renewed in the first half of January, 2004, Ukraine's vice minister for foreign affairs, Oleksander Motsyk, told journalists on December 17. The coming round of talks will be held in Moscow after the Julian calendar Christmas.

It is expected that Ukraine will reaffirm its position that the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait, which links the Azov with the Black Sea, are internal waters shared by Ukraine and Russia, but that the Ukrainian-Russian border should be delimited both on the surface and at the seabed, an approach that Moscow has consistently rejected.

"We and the Russian Federation want the Azov Sea to be a sea of cooperation and friendship. At the same time, we take the position that the status and delimitation of the Azov Sea and Kerch Strait basins must be resolved on the basis of international and domestic law, in part, taking into account the constitutional requirements of both states," Interfax Ukraine quoted Mr. Motsyk.

The most recent round of negotiations was held on December 4 in Kyiv. There, Russian diplomats continued to insist that the border be drawn on the sea surface only.

Ukraine and Russia have conducted more than seven years of negotiations over the status of the Azov sea. In January

of this year the two countries inked a border treaty delimiting all land borders. That document did not, however, settle the issue of maritime borders. In September the Russians began construction of a dike on the Taman Peninsula towards Tuzla, a Ukrainian island facing the Kerch Peninsula, which is part of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Crimea is Ukrainian territory, and the fact that Moscow did not notify Kyiv of its intent to build the dike – as well as the swift pace of construction – led to an escalation of tensions between the two countries.

Throughout most of October, Kyiv and Moscow engaged in a war of words over the ownership of Tuzla, which was formerly connected to the Taman Peninsula but is now an island. At that time Russian officials insisted that the dike to Tuzla was being erected to prevent continued erosion of the Taman Peninsula's shoreline by the waters of the Azov and Black Seas. It was only after Ukraine sent a reinforced border troop detachment to the island and moored several pontoons on the scene that Russia ceased construction work, roughly 100 meters from the border.

Since then, numerous reports have indicated that the newly erected dam has caused erosion of Tuzla Island. The Ukrainian government has announced plans to shore up the strategic island, control over which can influence the direction that the Azov Sea border negotiations take.

Visiting Ottawa, Tymoshenko endorses Yushchenko for president of Ukraine

by Christopher Guly
Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

OTTAWA – Touted as a possible candidate in Ukraine's presidential election next year, former Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko is endorsing Viktor Yushchenko as the man who has the best chance of defeating President Leonid Kuchma.

"Yushchenko is sufficiently strong to become a candidate on his own," Ms. Tymoshenko told a crowd of about 250 people who braved a bitterly cold evening to attend her December 2 presentation on Ukraine's current political situation, presented by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa.

Speaking in Ukrainian, she said that a coalition of three political parties – Batkivshchyna ("Fatherland"), which she leads, the Yushchenko-led Nasha Ukraina ("Our Ukraine") and the Socialist Party under Oleksander Moroz's leadership, believe that a "unified opposition" fielding a single candidate "is necessary for victory" when Ukrainians head for the polls on October 31, 2004.

Ms. Tymoshenko did not rule out expanding that coalition to include the Communists. "From left to right we should unite," she said.

Earlier this month, the Lviv regional wing of Batkivshchyna unanimously passed a resolution calling on the party congress to nominate her as a presidential candidate.

However, recent polls suggest that, thus far, Mr. Yushchenko, who delivered a Chair of Ukrainian Studies-sponsored lecture here in May, is the favorite opposition candidate in the presidential race and has remained popular with roughly one in four voters surveyed over the past three years. In contrast, the percentage of support for Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Moroz is in the single digits.

Ms. Tymoshenko, who in 1999 served in Mr. Yushchenko's Cabinet of Ministers as vice prime minister responsible for Ukraine's fuel and energy sector, said the country is in a "state of crisis" as the "oligarchs" – particularly President Kuchma – strive to "keep their hold on power no matter what."

She criticized the president's attempt to gain constitutional approval to seek a third term, or to relegate the "real power" to a prime minister chosen by members of the Verkhovna Rada and avoid facing the electorate that directly chooses the president. Under that scenario, she said, the president would become like England's queen, who also serves as the titular head of the Commonwealth of Nations.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc in Ukraine's Parliament, Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc and the Socialist Party oppose Mr. Kuchma's draft legislation, supported by the Communist Party, which would allow the Verkhovna Rada to elect the country's leader. Last month

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Robert Conquest honored at Stanford University for pioneering research on Famine-Genocide

by Mary I. Dakin

STANFORD, Calif. – Historian Robert Conquest, senior research fellow and scholar-curator of the Russian and CIS Collection at the Hoover Institution, was honored at Stanford University for his pioneering research on the Ukrainian Famine. The Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) at Stanford held a symposium, "Famine in Ukraine: 70 Years After – A Symposium Honoring Robert Conquest for his Contribution to the Study of the Famine" on November 13. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Hoover Institution at Stanford.

The symposium included a lecture by Amir Weiner, associate professor of history at Stanford University, on "The 1932-1933 Famine: Sources, Course and Legacies" and a lecture by Volodymyr S. Lozyskyi, director of the Central State Archives of Public Organizations of Ukraine, on "Secret

Documents about the 1932-1933 Famine in the Archives of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine." A reception followed the presentations.

In addition to a moving tribute to his life's work delivered by Nancy Kollmann, CREEES director and professor of history, Dr. Conquest was honored in the traditional Ukrainian fashion, with a greeting of bread and salt. Following this tribute, bandurists Oksana Herasymenko of Lviv and Ola Herasymenko-Olijnyk of San Francisco performed two pieces in his honor: a rendition of Taras Shevchenko's "Reve ta Stohne Dnipro Shyrokyi" and an original piece composed by Ms. Herasymenko in commemoration of the "Harvest of Sorrow."

Dr. Conquest is the author of 17 books on Soviet history, politics and international affairs, including the classic "The Great Terror" (1968) and the

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Dr. Robert Conquest is flanked by Oksana Komar-Sullivan (left) and Dr. Mary Dakin of the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University.

ANALYSIS

Which way will oil flow through Odesa-Brody pipeline?

by Vera Rich

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

On November 26, the Ukrainian Cabinet somewhat unexpectedly approved an agreement on "integrating" the Odesa-Brody oil pipeline with the Polish pipeline network. Two days later, in Brussels, Polish Deputy Prime Minister Marek Pol and Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Vitalii Haiduk signed an agreement on a linkup of the Polish and Ukrainian oil-transport systems.

Yet Ukraine's commitment to the link-up is not unequivocal. When announcing the Cabinet's decision to the media, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko called the agreement "an intergovernmental document...of principal importance for integrating the Ukrainian system with that of Europe."

He added, however, that a separate agreement will be needed on whether the pipeline will actually be used to pump oil to Poland or whether it will be engineered in the reverse direction, to shift Russian oil (received via Belarus) to Odesa, and then onwards by sea.

[On December 5, as reported by The Ukrainian Weekly's Kyiv correspondent, Mr. Haiduk was dismissed from his post by President Leonid Kuchma. Also dismissed was Energy Minister Serhii Yermilov. Some observers have tied the firings to a visit to Ukraine by Russian energy czar Anatolii Chubais of Russia's state-owned Unified Energy Systems, who sought and was granted permission to purchase stakes in regional electrical power suppliers in Ukraine along with the right to purchase electricity for use in Russia.]

When the pipeline plan was first conceived in the 1990s, there was no doubt about how it would be used. Oil from the Caspian basin and Central Asia would be shipped across the Black Sea to the new Odesa oil terminal, and then go by pipeline to Brody, and then on via Poland (with links to the Plock refinery and Gdansk) to Western and Northern Europe. The route would not only earn transit fees for Ukraine, but would also comply with Turkey's commitment to stopping tanker transit through the Dardanelles.

However, although the pipeline was duly built, plans for its use ran into difficulties. Poland was unable to raise the cash to construct the necessary link-ups, and no Western oil company came forward with a firm offer to purchase oil conveyed by this route. In the meantime, the Russians came up with their own plan to reverse the direction of flow.

Both in Ukraine and abroad, the choice was seen as far more than a purely economic one: it became a symbol of Ukraine's choice regarding its future — with "Europe" or with Russia.

"The Odesa-Brody scenario is like plagiarism of the drama of the SES [Single Economic Space]," wrote the Ukrainska Pravda website on October 3. "There are the pro-European 'goodies' who advocate using the pipeline to transport Caspian oil to the West, although there is not a single contract to guarantee this direction. And there are the pro-Russian 'baddies' who advocate using the pipeline for the needs of the northern neighbor [i.e., Russia] that promises Ukraine immediate economic benefits.

Vera Rich is a London-based freelance researcher.

The value for Ukraine is either rubles today, or the unique role of an alternative to Russia tomorrow or the day after."

Likewise, on October 8, during the visit of Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich to Washington, U.S. Vice-President Richard Cheney pressed him on what Ukraine intends to do with the Odesa-Brody pipeline. The U.S. government has always supported the idea of the westward pipeline, as a way of preventing a Russian stranglehold on Central Asian and Caspian oil. But at the time of the Yanukovich-Cheney meeting, the issue was particularly topical: that same day was Ukraine's deadline on an offer from the Russian oil company TNK-BP (formed by Russia's Tyumen Oil Company and British Petroleum), which had offered a deal of 9 million tons of oil to be transported annually for a fee variously reported as \$60 million and \$90 million.

Mr. Yanukovich's reply was somewhat unequivocal: he "as a state official" had "never doubted the western direction of the pipeline," but it was now up to the Western oil companies to go "from statements to actions" with a specific offer.

At the same time, a power struggle had developed within the Ukrtransnafta oil-transport company, between its "pro-Russian" executive director, Stanislav Vasylenko, and its "pro-European" president, Oleksander Todiichuk. Over the late summer and early autumn, the latter had been canvassing support for the original western direction of flow and, after negotiations in Brussels in September, he told a BBC interviewer that he had found "potential" European buyers for 6 million tons of oil. He also outlined strategies to use the pipeline in advance of the Polish link-up, to supply oil to Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Germany, using rail transport onwards from Brody.

A few days before the October 8 deadline, Mr. Vasylenko appeared to have won: the Ukrainian media had reported that Ukrtransnafta had accepted the Russians' offer. But Fuel and Energy Minister Yermilov denied this: the decision, he said, was one of "strategic importance," which only the government could make. Mr. Vasylenko countered by threatening that Ukraine stood to lose \$200 million if the Russian offer was rejected, adding that Ukrtransnafta needed the money to refurbish its existing obsolescent pipes, which now posed an environmental danger.

However, any Ukrainian government decision now appeared to be on hold until the results of a feasibility study on the reverse use of the pipe: various news agencies quoted Mr. Yermilov as saying that a decision could be expected "in late December or early January" (ITAR-TASS) or by January 15 " (UNIAN). Shortly after this statement, Loyola de Palacio, the European Community vice-president with responsibility for transport and energy, postponed a scheduled visit to Kyiv, which was expected to focus on prospects for extending the pipeline to Plock. Although the official reason for the postponement was Mr. de Palacio's "busy schedule," Mr. Todiichuk attributed it to Mr. de Palacio's "disappointment at recent events in Ukraine" and to the "ongoing active discussion ... of the possibility of reversing the direction of flow."

A "feasibility study" is often a means

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NEWSBRIEFS

Socialists for single opposition candidate

KYIV — The Socialist Party of Ukraine (SPU) has issued an appeal to Our Ukraine, the Communist Party of Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc to agree on a single presidential candidate by mid-May, the Ukrainska Pravda website (<http://www2.pravda.com.ua>) reported on December 15. "Fielding a single candidate from the opposition is necessary because this is expected by the overwhelming majority of Ukraine's voters [and also] simplifies the positioning during the election campaign and actually makes the [2004 presidential] ballot a referendum on confidence in the authorities and the opposition," the appeal reads. The SPU declares its readiness to support any of the four opposition leaders — Viktor Yushchenko, Petro Symonenko, Yulia Tymoshenko or Oleksander Moroz — during the election campaign, provided that the four opposition parties agree on a single presidential candidate. Meanwhile, the leader of the Communist Party, Mr. Symonenko, has ruled out such an agreement. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Symonenko: single candidate unrealistic

KYIV — Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko was quoted in the December 13 issue of *Kievskie Viedomosti* as saying it is "absolutely unrealistic" to name a single candidate from the opposition in the 2004 presidential election, Interfax reported. Mr. Symonenko opined, however, that the opposition four — the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine — could nevertheless cooperate in "two directions" in the upcoming election campaign. "The first is to ensure together the transparency of elections and control at polling stations. The second is to try not to allow the authorities' candidate to qualify for the runoff," he said. Mr. Symonenko added that the Communist Party will select its candidate for the presidential race at a congress scheduled tentatively for May. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Medvedchuk urges center-left alliance

KYIV — Viktor Medvedchuk, leader of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party-United and head of the presidential administration, has called via his website (<http://www.medvedchuk.org.ua>) for a "broad center-left coalition" in order to "preserve the political stability and the moderate political course" in Ukraine. "The principal threat to democracy is coming today not from the left, but the right political wing," Mr. Medvedchuk argued. Our Ukraine lawmaker Taras

Stetskiv said Mr. Medvedchuk's appeal is intended "to split the opposition and push [Our Ukraine leader Viktor] Yushchenko to the right extremist wing," the Our Ukraine press service reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Georgian presidential hopeful visits

KYIV — Mikhail Saakashvili, leader of Georgia's National Movement and a candidate in the January 4 presidential election in Georgia, signed a cooperation accord between his organization and Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine in Kyiv on December 13, Interfax reported. Mr. Saakashvili, who was on a private visit, pledged that if he is elected president, Ukraine will be a priority in Georgia's foreign policy. "I cannot come up with a prescription [presumably to oust President Leonid Kuchma]," Reuters quoted Mr. Saakashvili as saying in Kyiv. "There are a few of our frightened friends who think we will export something. I do not have a model for this," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Court says Rada may elect president ...

KYIV — Ukraine's Constitutional Court ruled on December 11 that a clutch of constitutional amendments providing for the election of a president in 2004 by the Verkhovna Rada and a one-year extension of the term of the current parliament until 2007 is in line with the Constitution of Ukraine, Interfax reported. The bill, drafted by a group of deputies from pro-presidential caucuses, proposes that the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada elect the president in 2004 with a majority vote of 300 and that parliamentary elections in 2007 be held on a proportional basis from party lists in a single, nationwide constituency. In November, the Constitutional Court ruled that a separate constitutional-reform bill, prepared by the presidential administration, also does not contravene the Constitution. That earlier bill proposes that a new Verkhovna Rada, elected for five years under a fully proportional party-list system in 2006, elect a president. Changes to the Constitution of Ukraine require 300 "yes" votes in the Verkhovna Rada. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... rules on presidential immunity

KYIV — Also on December 11, the Constitutional Court announced its ruling on a request by a group of lawmakers for judicial interpretations of constitutional provisions that deal with presidential immunity and impeachment, Interfax reported. The

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Andrew Nynka
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"The Natashas" tells the story of the 1 million women annually trafficked

by Christopher Guly

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

OTTAWA – Over an award-winning career that spans 34 years, Canadian investigative journalist Victor Malarek has written books about his life growing up on the streets of Montreal, the plight of Canada's immigration policy and an "inside look" at the country's illegal drug scene. Yet none of them were as disturbing to compile as his fifth and latest book about the trafficking of women and girls for sex.

In "The Natashas: The New Global Sex Trade" (Viking Canada, \$36 Canadian; negotiations are under way for a U.S. print run and an international film), Mr. Malarek estimates that of the 1 million young women sold worldwide for sex every year, one-quarter come from Eastern Europe, including about 100,000 from Ukraine alone.

"As soon as the Iron Curtain crumbled, organized crime replaced it with a plastic zipper," Mr. Malarek said in an interview.

"Eastern European women did not register on the prostitution market. But in just over a decade, they went from nothing to 250,000 of them out there in the flesh trade," he noted.

Known as "Natashas," primarily in the Middle East where men consider them all to be Russian, girls as young as 10 years of age are shipped all over the world. As Mr. Malarek's book explains, they line the streets of the red-light districts in Austria, Italy, Belgium and Holland; "stock" the brothels in South Korea, Japan and Bosnia; work nude in massage parlors in Canada and England; are locked up as sex slaves in apartments in the United Arab Emirates, Germany,

Israel and Greece; and star in peep shows and seedy strip clubs in the United States.

Ukrainian women are usually taken to Belgrade through Hungary and then distributed to Bosnia or Italy, according to Mr. Malarek. Or, they end up working as prostitutes in the United States via Mexico as several did in an elaborate human smuggling scheme that resulted in murder and rape and an FBI investigation a few years ago.

If the women aren't smuggled into a country, they often enter under visitor visas or as refugee claimants. Though Canada is a "minor player" compared to the volume flowing to the U.S., Western Europe or Israel, they can apply here for a special entry permit as exotic dancers.

More often than not, the women never dream of becoming prostitutes.

"They think they're going to be waitresses, nannies, work in a hotel, that kind of thing. Then they get busted and broken," said Mr. Malarek, who spoke here at the National Arts Center on October 21 at an event sponsored by bookstore chain Nicholas Hoare Ltd. and the Ukrainian Professional and Business Association of Ottawa.

"Once women are beaten into submission, they never question their pimps after that. They do as he says or he will kill them, and the other girls see it," the journalist continued.

An 18-year-old Romanian whom Mr. Malarek calls "Sophia" in "The Natashas" (all the women's names are changed to "ensure that they do not endure further humiliation or embarrassment") told him about the so-called breaking grounds of Serbia.

Young girls from Ukraine and other

former East Bloc nations watched in horror as "very mean and ugly men" raped some of them.

"Those who resisted were beaten," Sophia said. "If they did not cooperate, they were locked in dark cellars with rats with no food or water for three days."

Many attempted suicide.

Sophia recalled a "very beautiful" Ukrainian girl who had refused to submit to the men in charge of the center.

"They beat her, burned her with cigarettes all over her arms," she said.

"They hit her with their fists. They kicked her over and over. Then she went unconscious [and] just lay there, and they still attacked her anally. When they finished, she didn't move. She wasn't breathing. There was no worry on the faces of the owners. They simply carried her out."

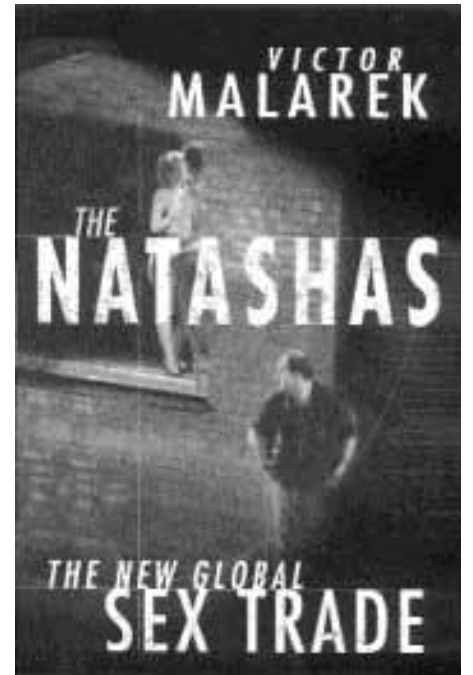
Sophia and her compatriots assumed that the Ukrainian was buried in a fresh mound of earth in a nearby forest.

"On her third day of captivity," Mr. Malarek writes, "Sophia was 'trained.'"

He said that horrific stories like that abound where women who refuse to acquiesce die as the result of being thrown off balconies or receiving severe beatings.

Those who submit don't last very long, said Mr. Malarek, whose grandparents are from Ukraine. "The market eats them up voraciously and uses them for six months, where sometimes women are servicing 20 or 30 men a day. Then they are tossed out like a used dishrag or dumped on a side road because there's plenty more where they came from. It's a sense of, 'you're used; you're gone. Get out of here.'"

He explained that the "vast majority"



The cover of Victor Malarek's book on the international sex trade.

of these young Eastern European women involved in the sex trade are sent home with sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

For their services, men pay anywhere from \$30 to \$200 (U.S.), depending on the look or the age of the girls or women, who see none of that money. "They're lucky if they get a hamburger to eat a day," said Mr. Malarek.

But the gangs involved in this global trafficking network earn "huge" profits, he added. Mr. Malarek said that women can sell anywhere from \$500 to \$10,000

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Victor Malarek writes and speaks on the new global sex trade

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – Even standing room was tight at the Canadian Ukrainian Art Foundation gallery on October 9 when Victor Malarek began to speak: "When I set out to tell the tragic stories that make up the heart and soul of this book – the issue of trafficking of girls and women from the former Soviet Union, I knew I was in for a tough and at times dangerous journey. What I had not anticipated was how upsetting and depressing it would turn out to be – The Natashas took me into situations that nightmares are made of."

One of Canada's foremost investigative journalists, Mr. Malarek has written for *The Globe and Mail*, has been the host of CBC's investigative documentary program "the fifth estate" and is now an investigative journalist on CTV's current-affairs show "W-5."

"The Natashas: the New Global Sex Trade," (Viking Canada, 2003, \$36), is Mr. Malarek's fourth book and pursues the story of the most recent wave of trafficking – the buying and selling of flesh for the worldwide sex

industry. One of the most appalling aspects of this trade is the targeting of orphans throughout Eastern Europe. Girls must leave orphanages when they graduate, usually at the age of 16 or 17 and, having no money for living expenses or any education or training to get a job, they easily fall prey to bogus job offers in other countries. One of the sponsors of Mr. Malarek's book launch was the Help us Help the Children fund, which works with orphanages in Ukraine and has been confronted with the problem of what happens to the teenagers who "graduate" from the orphanages.

In the past three decades there have been four waves of trafficking, with the latest from Eastern and Central Europe, dubbed the fourth wave whose "speed and proportion is staggering," Mr. Malarek writes. In its 2003 trafficking report, the U.S. State Department estimates that approximately 800,000 to 900,000 persons are trafficked across international borders worldwide and 25 percent of this trade is traffic from Eastern and Central Europe. Ten years ago it was non-existent. "The Natashas" is an investigation to find out how it happened and why it continues to thrive.

The most formidable menace in this trade, according to Mr. Malarek, is Russian organized crime syndicates that have formed a powerful global criminal axis with other international organized crime organizations. Enmeshed in this business are Ukrainian, Polish, Israeli, Czech, Georgian, Hungarian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Serbian and Albanian gangs. Trusting and desperate women, with no future in sight at home, fall prey to seemingly legitimate job offers in other countries and end up sold to pimps in brothels and strip clubs.

"It is a business characterized by brutality, violence and tyranny. What happens to most trafficked women, whether they were tricked, abducted or willing, is criminal. They are forced into situations of profound terror, comparable to being held hostage. They are immediately deprived of their travel documents and their every movement is tightly controlled and restricted. Usually they live on the premises, where they work locked in rooms, under constant guard and in fear of extreme violence and threats. Their documents are taken away from them as well as all the money they earn," Mr. Malarek writes.

Although the prime mover of the trade is organized crime, Mr. Malarek points out that trafficking could not exist to the extent it does without official complicity and corruption. It is impossible to run an underground sex-trafficking enterprise. To make money, brothel owners and pimps have to make their victims readily available to clients.

Even if not actively corrupt, most governments are indifferent to the problem. In typical brothel raids

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Quotable notes

"If we fail to take countermeasures, Tuzla Island may completely disappear from the surface of the earth or of the sea. ... The current [in the Kerch Strait] has been washing away a part of the island every day. When earlier the speed of the current in the area was 2 knots, now it stands at 4 to 6 knots, that is, earlier it was 4 to 5 kilometers per hour, now is 9 to 10 kilometers per hour. Apart from this, the [Russian] dam has changed the direction of the current, and it is now striking directly into Tuzla Island. I don't want to say this was planned in advance, but the course of developments is fairly dangerous for Tuzla."

– Ukrainian lawmaker Ihor Ostash on November 17, commenting on the fact that the sea has eaten away some 100 meters of Tuzla Island in the past two weeks; as reported by RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service.



Journalist Victor Malarek autographs copies of his latest book.

Ukrainian Technological Society honors Nadia McConnell as Ukrainian of the Year

by Nickolas C. Kotow

PITTSBURGH – Nadia Komarnycky McConnell, the founder and the president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation in Washington, was presented with the Ukrainian of the Year Award for 2003 by the Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh, (an association of Ukrainian professionals and businesspersons, at the society's 34th annual dinner and dance held on Saturday, November 15, at the Churchill Valley Country Club in the Penn Hills section of Pittsburgh.

Guests and members were welcomed by UTS President Debra A. Walenchok, who introduced prior Ukrainian of the Year awardees and past presidents of the society, who were in attendance. She then asked Stephen Haluszczak, the founder and the president of the Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute of Pittsburgh, to make the nomination of Mrs. McConnell.

Mr. Haluszczak noted that Mrs. McConnell is a graduate of Arizona State University with a bachelor of arts degree in political science, and brought many executive skills developed in industrial and government service to the founding of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, establishing its presence in the United States and Ukraine, even before Ukraine's independence.

The major goals of the foundation, he noted, are facilitating democratic development, encouraging free market reform and enhancing human rights in Ukraine. As the founder of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, Mrs. McConnell has shown



Nadia Komarnycky McConnell receives the Ukrainian of the Year Award for 2003 from Debra A. Walenchok, president of the Ukrainian Technological Society.

the way for many other Ukrainian constituencies to work for Ukraine through an active non-governmental organization (NGO).

The colorful Ukrainian of the Year Award plaque, calligraphed in English and Ukrainian by graphic artist Kathy Boykowycz, was presented to Mrs. McConnell by President Walenchok and Irene K. Grimm, UTS secretary.

In her acceptance remarks, Mrs. McConnell thanked the society for the award, and made two significant points. First, she compared the freedoms enjoyed by all the citizens of the United

States to those in Ukraine and in other parts of the world, where she has visited. She reminded all how truly blessed by God Americans are. Secondly, she noted that from those who are given much, much is expected in return. Therefore, she had no problem in continuing her tireless work for Ukraine. She asked her listeners to help join in building Ukraine by supporting the work of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

"Mnohaya Lita" was entoned by the Very Rev. Steve Repa, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie, Pa. The Rev. Repa also offered

the invocation. After dinner, music for dancing was provided by Fred Yasnowski and the Musical Collection Band.

Mrs. McConnell was accompanied to Pittsburgh by her husband, Robert, and daughter, Deanna; son, Andrij, remained in Washington due to a prior commitment. During the social hour and following dinner, guests expressed their congratulations and had the opportunity to learn of the many years of involvement in the Ukrainian Community by Mrs. McConnell.

In 1990, she developed a partnership with Indiana University and through that partnership was able to convince the U.S. government to fund the first ever delegation to the United States of officials from Ukraine. That first delegation of Ukrainian parliamentarians visited Indiana and Washington in April 1991. While serving in the administration of President Ronald Reagan, she served in a voluntary leadership capacity in community efforts to secure passage of legislation to establish the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine and to gain congressional recognition of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Mrs. McConnell was a national chair of the government relations committee of the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine effort in the United States. She also established and chaired Ukraine 2000, a Washington-based organization that played an active role in educating the American administration and Congress regarding Ukraine and urged stronger relations between the United States and Ukraine.

Members of U.S. Congress and Verkhovna Rada hold videoconference

by Michael Sawkiw Jr.

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – A videoconference between members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives and members of the Parliament of Ukraine was held on November 20 simultaneously in the Library of Congress and the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.

Participating in the videoconference were Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) from the U.S. legislature, while National Deputies Yuri Pavlenko, head of the Youth Party of Ukraine (member of the Our Ukraine coalition) and deputy chairman of the U.S. – Ukraine Group in the Verkhovna Rada and, Vitalii Khomutynnyk, representing the Regions of Ukraine party.

Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), as well as Oksana Patriaeva, first secretary of the political section of Ukraine's Embassy in the United States, were also present at the conference. Serhii Zhykharev, director of congressional relations at the Ukrainian National Information Service (UCCA Washington bureau), translated at the conference.

The main topics of discussion at the hour-long videoconference included "graduation" from the Jackson-Vanik amendment, restitution of religious properties in Ukraine and the upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine in October 2004.

Regarding the Jackson-Vanik amendment, National Deputy Pavlenko stated that this amendment is an anachronism of Soviet times and that now is the appropriate time to cancel it for Ukraine. According to Mr. Pavlenko, "the restrictions on trade imposed by this amendment do not significantly influence the economy of either Ukraine or the United



Co-chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (from left), Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) and Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), and Serhiy Zhykharev, director of congressional relations at the Ukrainian National Information Service, participate in a videoconference with members of the Verkhovna Rada in Kyiv.

States, thus excluding Ukraine from the amendment [Jackson-Vanik] would constitute a positive gesture symbolizing the warming of relations between Ukraine and the United States and reflect U.S. gratitude to Ukraine for sending our military contingent to Iraq."

Mr. Pavlenko also indicated that elimination of the Jackson-Vanik amendment would stimulate incumbent politicians in Ukraine to further cooperate with the United States and strive to achieve new privileges for Ukraine (e.g., recognition of its market economy status, accession to WTO, NATO, EU, etc.) Otherwise, even after making a difficult decision to send Ukrainian troops to Iraq to participate in restoration of peace and order, the

government of Ukraine does not have any proof to show its people that it is advantageous to cooperate with the United States. The conversation continued with the national deputies from Ukraine insisting that the U.S. should be a better partner with Ukraine, in light of Ukraine's voluntary efforts, and not harbor new requirements in order to be excluded from this amendment.

Rep. Weldon agreed with Mr. Pavlenko on this issue and expressed his opinion that the U.S. government is applying double standards. "While on the one hand the administration continues to state that the Jackson-Vanik amendment is no longer necessary and Ukraine should be excluded from the list of states

to which it applies, on the other hand the U.S. Congress leadership continues to receive messages that the time is not yet ripe," he emphasized.

Rep. Weldon stated that he had received letters from major Jewish American organizations, as well as chairmen of various congressional committees responsible for U.S. trade policy, all of whom advocate Ukraine's exclusion from the amendment.

Rep. Kaptur expressed concern regarding problems with restitution of religious property, in particular to minority religious faiths in Ukraine. "Although technically, the Jackson-Vanik amendment is related only to the issues of free emigration of the Jewish community and trade issues, there is a more general spirit of this amendment, which includes freedom of religion, freedom of speech and other issues," she said.

Regarding the presidential elections in Ukraine, all conference participants agreed that they must be conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner. Mr. Pavlenko expressed concern regarding obstacles the representatives of "Our Ukraine" coalition have encountered in various areas in Ukraine while trying to organize meetings and rallies. "Nevertheless, I hope that the elections will proceed freely and openly," he said.

Also, together with National Deputy Khomutynnyk, Mr. Pavlenko invited the members of the U.S. Congress to visit Ukraine during the elections as international observers in order to monitor the campaigning and the voting procedures.

At the close of the video-conference, the members of both the U.S. Congress and the Ukrainian Parliament wished each other success in their work and expressed hope that such contacts become more regular and frequent over the next year.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Report of the Auditing Committee of the Ukrainian National Association

The Auditing Committee, in accordance with the UNA By-Laws, on November 18-20, 2003, conducted a review of the operations of the Ukrainian National Association for the first nine months of 2003. The previous audit was conducted on May 28-30, 2003. The Auditing Committee's plan of action consisted of reviewing the implementation of resolutions of the 35th Convention of the UNA, the activity of the financial and organizing departments, UNA publications, and the administrative and financial state of the UNA resort Soyuzivka, and other matters. As a result of its review, the Auditing Committee reports the following.

1. Resolutions of the 35th Convention of the UNA

Since the last audit, the following changes occurred regarding implementation of the resolutions of the 35th Convention.

The convention approved the decision to build, within one year, a monument to Patriarch Mstyslav at Soyuzivka. The building of this monument depends in large measure upon raising the necessary funds and the future of Soyuzivka.

The Executive Committee has prepared a three-year business plan for the UNA for the insurance authorities of the state of New Jersey. This plan includes provisions for enrolling new members and keeping existing members of the UNA, as well as a marketing plan. Thus, the relevant resolution of the 35th Convention was implemented.

2. Financial Department

For the nine months of 2003, the UNA's operating income was \$503,000, as compared with \$355,000 of income during the same nine-month period in 2002.

The UNA Corporate Headquarters was profitable by the sum of \$133,000, a sum less by \$38,000 than in the previous year.

The growth in the value of the Canadian dollar and the value of market investments, together with the operating income, resulted in an increase in the UNA's reserves (surplus) of \$1,289,000. As of the end of September 2003, the UNA's reserves totaled \$7,124,000, while all assets totaled more than \$67 million.

The finances of the UNA were reviewed for 2001 and 2002 by independent public auditors. The report from their audit shows that internal controls at Soyuzivka must be strengthened.

Also, the state auditors of New Jersey reviewed the activity of the UNA for the past several years regarding escheats, that is, assets unclaimed due to lack of proper addresses, which in accordance with the law must be transferred for safekeeping to the state government. The UNA transferred \$31,555 to the state as a result of this audit. The amounts owed to other states are being analyzed.

The Auditing Committee received a letter from the chairman of the UNA Convention Committee in Chicago in which he satisfactorily explained his report on the finances of the 35th Convention.

As a result of recommendations by the Auditing Committee that efforts be increased to collect debts for advertisements, these debts decreased within a one-year-period from \$35,000 to \$8,600. The collection of payments due continues.

3. Organizing Department

For the nine months of 2003, 201 new policies for \$3,869,000 of insurance were sold. This number includes six policies sold in Canada for the sum of \$75,000. At the same time, however, the total number of active policies decreased by



UNA executive officers and auditors during the most recent review of UNA operations. Seated is UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj; standing (from left) are Auditor Yaroslav Zaviysky, Treasurer Roma Lisovich, National Secretary Christine Kozak and Auditor Alexander Serafyn.

1,379. In view of the favorable interest rate, the UNA gained 104 annuities accounts totaling \$1,766,000. As of the end of September 2003 the UNA had 39,578 members in the United States and 2,842 members in Canada. The UNA has 26 districts, of which four did not enroll a single new member during the nine months of 2003.

Evaluating the work of individual districts, we note that the Pittsburgh District enrolled the most new members, 35, insured for a total of \$639,571. The chairman of the district is Nick Diakiwsky.

In second place is the Northern New Jersey District, which signed up 29 new members insured for \$548,999. The district chairman is Eugene Oscislawski.

Third place was taken by the Philadelphia District, which enrolled 24 new members insured for \$496,000. The district chairman is Stefan Hawrysz.

Among secretaries, commendations and thanks are due to Myron Pylypiak for enrolling 10 new members insured for \$134,000; and to Lubov Streletsky and Christine Brodyn, for enrolling nine new members each, insured for \$347,000 and \$172,000, respectively.

In November of 2002 the UNA signed a one-year contract with Western Catholic Union, which sold 39 new policies for the sum of \$842,665. This contract was renewed for another year.

4. UNA Publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly

As of the end of September 2003, the number of Svoboda subscribers was 6,539; The Ukrainian Weekly subscribers totaled 6,240. In comparison with the end of 2002, the number of Svoboda subscribers decreased by 227, while the number of Weekly subscribers declined by 66.

The deficit of both publications for the nine months of 2003 was \$137,000. For purposes of comparison, let us recall for the nine months of 2002 it was \$39,000 higher. It is worth noting that the decrease in subscribers to both newspapers has slowed down in comparison with the previous year. In accordance with the budget for 2003, the deficit of both publications should not exceed \$150,000.

5. Soyuzivka

For the nine months of 2003, Soyuzivka's deficit totaled \$227,000. During the three quarters of 2002 Soyuzivka lost \$480,000. This decrease was the result mainly of donations totaling \$174,000 and an increase in activity during the season.

The 35th Convention established a committee to improve Soyuzivka whose goal is to halt the need for cash allocations to the UNA resort and at the same time keep the resort in Ukrainian hands, if possible. The Executive Committee was directed to support the Soyuzivka committee's activity for one year with appropriate funding.

The Executive Committee constantly informs the Soyuzivka committee about its work relating to Soyuzivka; nonetheless, to date it has not received any directives from the Soyuzivka committee.

The Executive Committee has implemented certain improvements at Soyuzivka, mainly in the dining room, and continues to work with a group of experts for the benefit of guests and Soyuzivka.

The Executive Committee sent a strategic business plan for the 2003-2005 period to the insurance authorities of the State of New Jersey. This plan details the work not only of the UNA as a whole, but of its various operations, including Soyuzivka. The plan was discussed at a meeting with state officials in June. State authorities are observing the UNA's moves, principally as regards Soyuzivka.

6. Miscellaneous

The UNA became the owner of a home due to default on a mortgage loan. This home already has a buyer and the contract of sale is to be signed in December of this year.

There is an opportunity to rent about 5,250 square feet of office space in the UNA Corporate Headquarters building to outside clients. The Executive Committee is working on this.

For the Auditing Committee:
Dr. Zenon Holubec, chairman
Yaroslav Zaviysky, vice-chairman
Dr. Alexander Serafyn, secretary

(Translated by The Ukrainian Weekly.)

Northern New Jersey District sponsors seminar on home buying



PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Northern New Jersey District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association sponsored a seminar on home-buying geared toward Ukrainians who have recently arrived in the United States. The seminar covered both the financial and legal questions associated with buying a home and was attended by some 40 persons. The presenters included experts in their respective fields: (seen above, from left) Jerry Kuzemczak, attorney with Welt and David, P.C.; Michael Koziupa, manager of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union's ParsIPPANY branch office; Stephan Welhasch, investments manager for the UNA; and Vasyi Kavatsiuk, real estate broker with Exit Realty. At the conclusion of the event, which was held at the UNA Corporate Headquarters on Sunday, October 19, UNA National Secretary Christine Kozak thanked the Northern New Jersey District Committee, which is chaired by UNA Advisor Eugene Oscislawski, for organizing such a useful program.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Tying up loose ends

It's just about the end of the year, and around here that means tying up loose ends before the advent of the new year. Unfortunately, that's exactly what everyone else is doing. Why "unfortunately," you ask? Allow us to explain.

While we are trying our best to keep up with the news, that is the new news, and publish features long in the planning/preparation stages – and simultaneously starting work on our "Year in Review" mega-issue (to be issued January 11, just in time for the New Year in accordance with the Julian calendar) – everyone else out there, it seems, is also trying to tie up loose ends. Yep, all our community activists are sending in stories about events that took place in the past several months because they've suddenly realized that "Oh, my goodness, it's the end of the year and I haven't yet sent in that story about (fill in the blank)." One group in Detroit must have experienced sheer panic as they sent a story about an event that took place in June – and paid overnight courier fees to get it to us quicker! The good news is that we actually ran a report on that event way back in August. (It was late even then...)

Why do we bring this to your attention? Because it always happens: we get swamped with materials at the end of the year, with everyone competing for what is not unlimited space in our newspaper. The way to prevent this from happening is for everyone to stick to the recommendations listed in our notice "To The Weekly Contributors" in which we ask, among other things, that news stories be sent in no later than 10 days after an event has taken place. That way, the news we print is more or less current, even if we have to push back the publication of any given item due to the normal weekly ebb and flow of news, whereby stories get bumped by others deemed more significant.

And, speaking of loose ends, we kindly ask all the organizations out there that regularly send us information, and those who don't, to take some time out from their busy schedules and fulfill our request made in our editorial titled "A community database" (September 28). If you're active in any kind of Ukrainian community group we want to know about you. Send us your letterhead, a list of your officers, your contact person (preferably someone available during the daytime), your mailing address, phone and fax numbers, e-mail address. Also, please send a brief description of what your group does and who its members are – a paragraph or two will do. In short: send us any useful information that we can utilize for reference and share with others who are looking for information, assistance, a beneficiary for their donations, or a chance to get involved.

Thus, what we're really asking is that you help us help you and others. Send your group's information in to: The Ukrainian Weekly (Community Database), 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com. (PS: And don't forget to update us when your officers or contact info change.)

You've got our "coordinates," why not share yours? That way we can start off the new year by keeping in better contact with each other.

Dec.
25
1988

Turning the pages back...

Twenty-five years ago, in our Christmas issue for 1988, we reported that the Kyiv branch of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union (which grew out of the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords that was founded in

1976) outlined its demands regarding the restoration of Ukrainian national symbols and the blue-and-yellow flag of free Ukraine, reported the London-based Ukrainian Press Agency (UPA).

The Soviets have consistently linked the tryzub and the blue and yellow flag to "bourgeois nationalism," ignoring their true history, said the Ukrainian Helsinki Union in a statement issued to the press on December 5.

Seventy members of the UHU's Kyiv branch voted to send the demands for consideration to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR during a November 20 meeting in the republic's capital city. The statement, in English translation provided by the UPA, follows.

* * *

The Ukrainian national emblem and flag are the oldest symbols not only in Ukraine, but throughout the entire Eastern Europe. In particular, the tryzub (trident) was the first emblem of the Riuryk dynasty. It was depicted on coins and on royal buildings, weapons and costumes. They went to fight against the Pechenegs, Polovtsi and other tribes with this symbol. After the fall of Kyivan Rus', the trident became the symbol of all the principalities of Kyivan Rus'; The principality of Halych (Galicia) and Volyn refused to accept this symbol and adopted its own – the lion and the blue-and-yellow flag.

The principality of Muscovy was the second to refuse this symbol, and after the conquest of Byzantium by the Turks, it adopted the Byzantium symbols – a two-headed emblem and a tricolor. The trident was for a long time the emblem of the Novgorod state until it was incorporated into Muscovy in 1478.

Under the blue-and-yellow flag, the armies of our ancestors, led by Danylo of Halych, defeated the German princes in 1237-1238 near the town of Drohobych. Just before the Tatar-Mongol invasion, Kyiv belonged to the Galician-Volhynian kingdom. That is why the heroic defense of Kyiv, led by Dmytrii against the armies of the khan was undertaken under the blue and yellow flag. It fell along the walls of the Desiatynna Church in December 1243.

Later, other foreign powers in Ukraine were, just like the khan, against the blue-and-yellow flag and the trident. However, there is the possibility that democratization could make the leadership of Ukraine realize that it is time to solve the problem of these symbols, initiated in 1240 against the khan and his spiritual followers.

Source: "Helsinki Union seeks restoration of tryzub, flag of free Ukraine," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 25, 1988, Vol. LVI, No. 52.

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER

"God is with us!"

Following is the Christmas pastoral message of the metropolitan-archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States.

To my brother bishops and clergy, the venerable religious, and my brothers and sisters in Christ:

The celebration of the Christmas divine liturgy in our churches so boldly proclaims that "God is With Us!" Indeed, God is with us as we gather together in our churches to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, praising God with our beautiful traditional Ukrainian carols.

Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for his family in the inn. Jesus was welcomed into this world by simple shepherds inspired by an angel from God to greet His only-begotten Son, and by three wise kings bearing special gifts for Jesus. Yet, the busy world around them took no notice and did not pause to welcome the Lord amidst them.

The Christmas story invites me to wonder who welcomes the stranger amidst us, particularly within our parishes. Can you and I overcome our hesitation to reach out to others and take the initiative to welcome newcomers amidst us? This also means our reaching out to those among us who may be experiencing intense loneliness, coping with what may seem insurmountable problems or disappointments. The Blessed Mother and St. Joseph have a special place in their hearts for such people, because they, too, experienced the aloofness of the world around them. Yet, they continued to follow in God's plan, centering their attention and care on Jesus.

The shepherds and kings presented their best gifts when they visited the Christ-child at Bethlehem. What will be our special gift for Jesus? What is the most valuable and the most endearing gift you can give to Jesus?

The most valuable and endearing gift you and I can give to Jesus is the gift of ourselves – the gift of me – the gift of us. Jesus awaits our hearts and our love for Him. The gift of ourselves for Jesus will grow and will overtake us. Listen to Jesus as He says to you and to me: "If you would be great, you must become a servant."

Make room in your life to be genuinely interested in other people and to serve others in your family, in your parish and in your community. Love one another and celebrate your love in your active caring and wanting the best for others and for your Church. Having room for Christ is not an easy matter. It requires us to be aware of God acting in our lives and to be ready to make the necessary rearrangements in our daily lives to allow God to be present to us and to act through us.

I ask for a special two-fold gift from you this Christmas. First, I beg you to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Pray and actively foster young men and women to respond to His call to serve His Church. God is providing vocations for our Church. It remains for us to be more inviting and encouraging of these young men and women discerning their call to serve.

Secondly, I beg your generous financial support for the renovation of our St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington. It is a costly but necessary renovation. However, our future as a Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S.A. depends on our ability to provide a sound formation within America for future priests from among candidates who are from our Church in America.

A genuine gift for God characteristically must really cost us dearly, involving real sacrifice. Allow yourself to give Jesus the best and most genuine gift of yourself in your love and service of God and neighbor. I pray that a genuine sacrifice will be made by all in our church, whether bishop, clergy or faithful for the preparation of our future priests of our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA. Please offer your generous donation for the renovation of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington.

Know that you have a special place in our hearts and in our prayers. On this Feast of Christ's birth, our apostolic blessing is humbly conferred upon all the clergy, religious and faithful.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

† **Stefan Soroka**
Metropolitan-Archbishop



"The Virgin Mary and Jesus" (gouache on stone), 1998, by Zoya Lisowska of Geneva, reproduced on a Christmas card published by the Ukrainian National Association.

Double Exposure

by Khristina Lew

A Christmas list

This year Manhattan's General Post Office will receive over 200,000 letters addressed to Santa Claus. These letters are wish lists, mostly from needy kids in New York City. Since the 1980s, postal workers have made those letters available to anyone who wants to buy a toy or a pair of shoes for a child who might not otherwise receive any gifts.

A friend of mine, exasperated by the consumerism of the holiday season, told me about this program, called Operation Santa Claus. She has decided to ask family and friends to donate to charity this year instead of buying her Christmas gifts. She asked me if I knew of any Ukrainian charities. This one's for you, Kiki.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of charities that help Ukrainians in Ukraine or support Ukrainian institutions in the diaspora. Whatgoesaround.org, a new website that allows you to register a "give list" as well as make donations to charities on line, lists 75 Ukrainian charities, including the House of Ukraine in San Diego, the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Philadelphia and the American-Ukrainian Evangelical Fellowship in Franklinton, La.

The following is a completely unscientific list of Ukrainian charities, in no particular order. It does not include the many Ukrainian studies programs at colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada, educational institutions both here and in Ukraine or political organizations. (Not that they're not worthy – I just don't have room to list them all!)

In addition to the charities below, don't forget your local parish, Ukrainian school, youth organization, and bandura, choir, arts or dance troupe. The Embassy of Ukraine website (www.ukremb.com) lists hundreds of charities under its "Diaspora" link. I'm sure I've missed some worthy causes, so please don't hesitate to contact The Weekly and let us hear about you.

Because Life is Beautiful – A breast cancer awareness program that has raised close to \$100,000 towards the purchase of mammography equipment for Ukraine. Contact uwf@uwf.kiev.ua or Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, Public Education International Account No. 101303-000, 2332 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622.

Orphan Aid Society – Sponsors close to 900 orphans in Ukraine from newborn to university age for \$15 per month; Maria Jowyk, 129 Ridge Road, Douglaston, NY 11363; (718) 423-4966.

UCARE – Provides aid to children living in orphanages and "internally" (dormitories) in Ukraine; 3704 Fernleigh, Troy, MI 48083; www.ucareinc.org.

Help Us Help The Children – has provided humanitarian aid to more than 30,000 children in 135 orphanages and 15 hospitals in Ukraine. Affiliated with the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund; 1555 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ontario M6P 1A5; (416) 532-2223; <http://www.infoukes.com/ucpbf/huhtc>.

Ukrainian Gift of Life – brings Ukrainian kids to the United States for open heart surgery; 233 Rock Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452; (201) 652-4762, www.ukrainiangiftoflife.com.

Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund – has raised \$50 million toward medical equipment and supplies for victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant catastrophe in Ukraine; 272 Old Short

Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078; (973) 376-5140; www.childrenofchornobyl.org.

Caritas – international Catholic relief, development and social service organization with programs in Ukraine, www.caritas.org (click on "Who We Are," then "Our Members").

United Ukrainian American Relief Committee – provides humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians in Ukraine, Romania, Poland, Kazakstan, Brazil and Argentina, as well as in the U.S.; 1206 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111; (215) 728-1630; www.uuarc.org.

Ukrainian National Women's League of America – fosters Ukrainian cultural heritage and promotes ties with other women's organizations (there are UNWLA branches across the U.S.). Contact the UNWLA National Headquarters: 203 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003; (212) 533-4646; www.unwla.org.

The Ukrainian Museum – Located in the Ukrainian East Village of New York, the museum is currently completing its new building; 203 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003; (212) 228-0110; www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Ukrainian Museum-Archives – collects and preserves literature, recordings and artifacts that illuminate Ukrainian history and culture as well as the story of Ukrainian immigration to America, 1202 Kenilworth Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113; (216) 781-4329; www.umacleveland.org.

Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago – Details heritage, culture and people of Ukraine, 721 North Oakley Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60612; (312) 421-8020; www.ukrntlmuseum.org.

Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art – Showcases the work of Chicago artists, as well as sculptors and painters of Ukrainian descent, 2320 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622; (773) 227-5522; www.uima-art.org.

Ukrainian Museum of Canada – Founded by the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada, the museum has branches in Toronto, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Vancouver; 910 Spadina Crescent, Saskatoon SK S7K 3H5; (306) 244-3800; www.umc.sk.ca.

Ukrainian Institute of America – Promotes Ukrainian art, culture, music and literature, 2 E. 79th Street, New York, NY 10021; (212) 288-8660, www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

UCCA Film Fund – Produces feature films highlighting forgotten pages of Ukraine's history (the newest project is a film about Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky); 203 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003; (212) 228-6840; www.ucca.org.

Soyuzivka – the beloved Ukrainian resort in the Shawangunk Mountains of New York, is in the midst of a fund-raising drive; 216 Foordmore Road, Kerhonkson, NY 12446; (845) 626-5641; www.soyuzivka.com. Donations should be made payable to Ukrainian National Foundation (memo Soyuzivka Renaissance Fund) and sent to: Ukrainian National Association, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

And there's the The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund – Supports the work of The Ukrainian Weekly, its online archives and other Weekly special projects, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; 973-292-9800; www.ukrweekly.com.

Wishing you peace this holiday season.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Celebrate Christmas ... live longer!

Does celebrating Christmas prolong your life? It all depends.

No, if you only celebrate the superficial, commercial aspects of Christmas, you know, the gifts, the singing chipmunks, the partying, the Santa-Claus-is-coming-to-town part of the holiday season.

No, if Christmas and Easter are the only times you go to church while you spend the other 50 or so Sunday mornings of the year reading the newspaper, or golfing, or at soccer matches, or driving to professional football games.

Yes, if you celebrate the essence of Christmas as part of a year-round, purposeful, religious sojourn which brings you ever closer to understanding what God wants you to do with your life. Yes, if you are more grateful to God than demanding of God. Yes, if you appreciate the genius of Christianity and the profound significance of the words "peace on earth, good will to men." Yes, if Christmas is an integral part of a daily prayer life that renews you spiritually and brings you inner peace.

A religious belief that brightens life's journey is good for you as well as for society. Psychologist Carl Jung once said, "If the individual cannot renew his spirit, society cannot renew itself – for society is composed of individuals."

But it's not only a sense of spiritual well-being that religious involvement improves; your physical health also is enhanced. Recent scientific studies have indicated that you're 29 percent more likely to live longer if you're involved in religion than if you're not.

Dr. Michael McCullough of the National Institute of Healthcare Research recently reviewed 42 studies that measured health and religious involvement – defined by such activities as regular church or synagogue attendance, frequency of daily prayer and membership in church organizations. After examining the experiences of nearly 126,000 individuals, he discovered that there exists a significant positive link between religious practice and living longer.

Another research project conducted by Dr. Harold Koenig of Duke University reviewed some 1,200 studies that examined the religion-medicine connection and found an association between religious involvement or spiritual belief and a decreased risk of such conditions as stroke, disease and depression.

Part of the reason, of course, is the healthy behavior associated with religious practices. People who believe that their body is a sacred trust, a gift from God, tend to take better care of themselves. Mormons who shun coffee, tea, liquor and tobacco live longer.

The serenity that comes from living life according to God's plan is another reason for longevity. Catholic nuns, for example, are usually long-lived.

Religious people in America today are not the caricatures suggested by the non-religious life, which often portrays us as Bible-thumping, poverty stricken, shotgun-rack yahoos who are poorly educated and easily led. On the whole, religious practitioners are more affluent, better educated and committed to making their community a better place to live. They contribute more to worthwhile causes, volunteer more and are more politically active.

A Fox News report early in the month indicated that the vast majority of

Americans (96 percent) celebrate Christmas while 5 percent celebrate Hanukkah and 2 percent the African American holiday of Kwanzaa. (The discrepancy in the total percentage is due to the fact that the poll allowed more than one answer, i.e. some people observe more than one religious holiday in December).

Most Americans (87 percent), moreover, believe that nativity scenes should be allowed on public property. In the name of "multiculturalism" and "diversity," however, the chancellor of the New York City Department of Education recently prohibited the display of the Christ Child in New York City schools while permitting displays of the Jewish menorah and the Islamic star and crescent. Jews and Muslims are protected it seems, while Christians are treated as second-class citizens.

Are Jews the problem? I don't think so. Jewish teachers with whom I worked in the public schools had no problem with Christmas. They appreciated the spiritual value of Christmas. Writes Jewish columnist Don Feder: "While Christmas is not my holiday ... I am secure enough in my own religion not to be intimidated by the professions of faith of others who follow a different tradition. You might say I'm pro-Christmas, in a spiritual sense."

If Jews are not the problem – I believe that with the possible exception of ADL head Abraham Foxman, most Jews would probably agree with Don Feder – why are Christians being marginalized in our society? Dr. Michael Novak believes that "a small minority of Americans, about 6 or 7 percent, mostly from the highly educated elite, have their reasons for despising Christianity, and they make their hostility to Christianity quite evident. They do not represent American culture but they do represent a small, articulate voice in the culture." They tend to dominate the national voices of the legal profession, a significant number of media opinion leaders and the entertainment world, believes Dr. Novak. I would add university professors to Dr. Novak's list of fanatic secularists, as well as those who respond to the siren song of People for the America Way and the ACLU.

So what does any of this have to do with religious Ukrainians? Quite a bit, I'm afraid. The glorious, life-enriching traditions of Ukrainian religious life are being ignored by many of our children and grandchildren. Young and impressionable, they are being quietly lured away by pagans. It's up to us, parents and grandparents, to bring them back, lovingly, for their own health.

Regardless of what the non-religious left would have you believe, America was founded by practicing Christians and remains a Christian nation. Keep in mind that our laws and our freedoms are predicated on Judeo-Christian principles. Resolve to be politically incorrect in 2004. Become a regular churchgoer and a shining example for the younger generation. Remember those Ukrainian martyrs who suffered and died for the Christian faith during Soviet times? They were not politically correct either.

Nor should you be. Go against the flow. Do the right thing. Wish those you meet in the next few days a "Merry Christmas." No one will be offended. Trust me.

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

KYIV MOHYLA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

Greetings at this time of Christmas and New Year Holidays!

The year 2003 for NaUKMA has been filled with significant progress and international recognition in the areas of education, research and cultural activities. This was the result of very focused, dedicated efforts and work of the entire NaUKMA community - the staff and students of the University, the Foundation and a large circle of all our Donors and Friends. I extend my sincere appreciation to all of them. I greet you with wishes of Health, Prosperity and the realization of your goals and aspirations. Best wishes for a meaningful and happy Christmas and upcoming 2004 New Year.

Vladyslav Brubkivetsky, President NaUKMA

Greetings!

We send you wishes of Health, Happiness and Prosperity in the upcoming year and Khrystos Rodysia this Christmas. Our sincere appreciation to all our Friends and Donors for their support.

Ihor Wyszoltsky, President Kyiv Mohyla Foundation



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NAUKMA NEWS

- On November 22, NaUKMA's acclaimed choir "Pochayna" performed the premier of the Requiem Symphony "1933", composed by O. Yakovchuk, V. Stepurko, lyrics by V. Yurkymovych, at the Opera and Ballet Theater, at the national concert in memory of the Victims of the Great Famine.

- On November 6, the General Secretary of the International European Assembly, Heinrich Kröner, visited NaUKMA and met with professors and students.

- On September 15, Great Britain's Minister of European Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Integration visited NaUKMA.

We extend our holiday greetings to you, and wish you good health, happiness and success in the coming year. As the holidays approach, we wish to again thank our members and donors for their generous support of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation and to the rebuilding and development of higher education in Ukraine.

Next year will be a vital and critical year in Ukraine's governing process. The election of Ukraine's new government will test the maturity of Ukraine's population as it chooses either a path that improves the lives of all the people or a path that benefits just a few. Kyiv Mohyla Academy has a stake in next year's elections because of its commitment to not only educating the country's future leaders but to advancing the principles of economic reform. In this respect, Kyiv Mohyla Academy personifies a fortress of national consciousness and democratic consolidation with moral authority. This subject was raised by U.S. ambassador John Herbst, on his visit to NaUKMA.

You are a valued partner in our venture, and we want to assure you that in contributing and joining the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation, you are investing in the development of a democratic society and in the

realization of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy's ten-year plan to join the world's community of leading universities.

The Kyiv Mohyla Academy remains confident in its capacity to reach its goals, and it is the Foundation's obligation to assist the University in these endeavors. We propose that you join this important effort to build and develop Ukraine's position among the family of nations. Your support of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy is support of Ukraine. The development of independent academic scholarship and the building of a democratic Ukraine is worthy of your interest and commitment.



Ambassador John Herbst at NaUKMA with Vladyslav Brubkivetsky and administrators

We again express our appreciation to all current and future donors and members and we send you best wishes for the upcoming year 2004.

STRENGTHENING MANAGEMENT EDUCATION IN UKRAINE

As Ukraine's industry and economy grow, interest in business education is increasing.

The Northwestern University Center for Technology and Innovation Management (CTIM), working closely with the Kyiv-Mohyla Foundation (KMF) and as a partner institution in the USAID funded Consortium for Enhancement of Ukrainian Management Education (CEUME) - a 5-year program coordinated by the University of Minnesota and key Polish universities, is helping to address these needs.

This past summer, Michael Radnor, Director of CTIM and a senior professor in Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, member Board of Directors KMF, lectured at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy and participated in planning meetings for CEUME and Jeffrey Strauss, associate director of CTIM, helped to conduct an intensive week-long institute for 90 Ukrainian faculty in Crimea.

Professor Edmund J. Wilson, Associate Dean Emeritus for MBA Programs & Student Affairs at

Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management spent two weeks in Ukraine leading seminars and making presentations on Strategic Planning for MBA Programs. The purpose of his visit was to acquaint Ukrainian MBA Program Directors with "Lessons Learned" in establishing, growing and developing MBA programs as a result of his 30 years of experience in this endeavor at Kellogg. Wilson held seminars in Odessa and Kiev for MBA Program administrators and professors. His topic was "Strategic Planning: Business Education as a Business". At the Fifth Annual International Conference on Building Management Education in Ukraine on November 14 in Kharkov, Wilson addressed business educators on "The Social Responsibility of Corporations and Business in the Development of MBA Programs in Ukraine".

Also representing CTIM was Dr. Jack Bishop, formerly the Director of the Northwestern University Technology Commercialization Center. Dr. Bishop provided seminars in Market Segmentation at the

Kyiv Mohyla Business School and in Donetsk at the Donetsk National Technical University, Donetsk State Academy of Management, and Donetsk State University of Economics and Trade. He also led discussions on practical steps that can be taken to enhance university / industry relations in both Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk.

An adjunct Kellogg faculty member, Rajesh Tyagi, also just returned from Ukraine where he taught two courses on Operations and Supply Chain Management at Kyiv-Mohyla. CTIM has also coordinated lectures and meetings with business programs by senior US industry managers visiting Ukraine.

One of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation's roles is to be the catalyst for contacts and opportunities for the university. The projects described are an example of the close work between the Foundation and the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

NAUKMA OPENS NEW SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) is known as an innovator of academic programs and methods. The university established the NaUKMA School of Public Health in 2002, when the university was awarded a grant for the development and infrastructure of a Master's program in Public Health. The school's director is Dr. Irena Gryga. In September 2003, the NaUKMA School of Public Health was admitted into the Association of Schools of Public Health of Europe. The Association's goal is to consolidate efforts to carry out policies of public health care development. NaUKMA's principal European partner in this endeavor is the University of Maastricht School of Public Health. In the United States, its principal partner is the University of Illinois School of Public Health.

The Kyiv Mohyla Foundation assisted in the partnership that ensued between the University of Illinois School of Public Health and the Kyiv

Mohyla School of Public Health. Dr. Daniel Hryhorchuk, director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health of the University of Illinois School and also a board member of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation, together with Dr. Irena Gryga, are the co-directors of the new PhD program at NaUKMA's School of Public Health. At the present time, the award of a new U.S. grant is expected. NaUKMA's School of Public Health is the first such school in Ukraine based on western curriculum and strategies.

In Ukraine, the area of public health has not been studied separately as a program of studies until a few years ago. Today this segment of studies is considered on its own merit. This approach spawned the interdisciplinary cooperation with schools of medicine. The purpose of this program is to create a new method and vision to public health and to



Dr. Irena Gryga, director of the NaUKMA School of Public Health

establish a new specialty - the management of public health. The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy has initiated urgently needed reforms in this area. NaUKMA identified Ukraine's needs and determined that the study of management of public health is an important niche of national priority.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

St. John's Ukrainian Montessori Pre-School celebrates 15th anniversary

by Lada Bidiak

NEWARK, N.J. – On the morning of October 31, the children of St. John's Ukrainian Montessori Pre-School came trick-or-treating to the parish rectory. My daughter and I happened to be visiting my mother at the time, and I was astonished by just how well mannered these children were, and by how well they interacted with the Rev. Bohdan Lukie and with Bishop Michael Kuchmiak. My husband and I have entertained the idea of sending our daughter to this pre-school for some time now, but after observing Olenka Kolodiy and her assistants with these students, I have no doubt that Maya will be part of this group within the next few years.

Mrs. Kolodiy and her assistants, Halyna Lysenko and Nataliya Kahuy, employ the Montessori method in teaching their students, stressing self-discipline, motivation, concentration, and thoroughness. This method, developed in Italy by Marie Montessori nearly a century ago, emphasizes learning through the five senses, with each child learning at his or her own pace and according to his or her own choice of activities.

According to Ms. Kolodiy, the four main divisions of the Montessori curriculum are as follows: Practical Life (the

child perfects coordination, lengthens concentration, learns to pay attention to detail, learns good working habits, and perfects skills needed to function in a given environment); Sensorial (the child relates to the environment through stimulation of sense impressions); Language Arts (the child learns to recognize letters by sound, learns to recognize sounds in words, and learns to form short vowel words), and Mathematics (the child is introduced to quantities and numerals, learns association of numerals with quantities, learns the decimal system, and learns counting by tens).

Ms. Kolodiy, who received her Montessori teacher training through Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey, launched the St. John's Ukrainian Montessori Pre-School in 1989. For the past 15 years, she and her assistants have been endowing their students with a positive attitude towards school, pride in their environment, a strong self-discipline and self-understanding, and a sense of responsibility to other members of their class and their community.

For further information about this unique pre-school, please contact educational director Ms. Kolodiy at (973) 371-3254.



Teachers and clergy of St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Parish with the little pupils of St. John's Ukrainian Montessori Pre-School.

"Wind of the Steppes" Plast camp based on Kozak traditions

by Serhiy Letenko

DONETSK OBLAST, Ukraine – This summer, in an area that is the pearl of the Ukrainian steppes, a Plast youth camp called "Wind of the Steppes" (Stepovyi Viter) took place for the fifth time. The campsite was located in an area filled with Ukrainian history. Here, once upon a time, occurred the events described in "Slovo o Polku Ihorevim," when these lands belonged to the Kalmiusk regiment of the Zaporozhian Kozaks.

Today, many years after these events took place, you can once again hear the neighing of horses and the calling of Kozak names. This year more than 50 girl and boy scouts, or "plastuny," from all corners of Ukraine came together to learn theoretical and practical skills on all aspects of organizing scout units and also to experience the spirit of Ukraine's past.

Plast youths from the oblasts of Donetsk, Luhansk, Lviv and Kharkiv applied to take part in one of three levels of training, each of which has its own tasks and requirements: training of troop leaders with the aim of practicing leadership of small groups for scouts age 12-14, training of company leaders for youths age 15-16 in the organization of large-scale events, and training of camp leaders for plastuny over age 16 providing skills necessary to organize plast camps.

In addition, the scouts listened to well-prepared seminars on leadership, self-education and self-organization. Every participant of "Wind of the Steppes" was encouraged to earn as many merit badges in practical scouting as possible.

Each camp troop has a name in honor of a famous Kozak leader and has its own traditions. The best overall result at this year's camp was achieved by the troop called "Khmelnychenky." Furthermore, other troops achieved good results in separate contests. These were the troops "Polubotky," "Mazepyntsi," "Baidy" and "Sahaidaky." The camp leaders also have names taken from the Kozak era, such as "koshovyi" (the commander of a sub-unit of the Kozak army and the name of this

camp's commandant), "oboznyi" (quartermaster), "kashovary" (cooks – literally porridge cooks) and others.

The plastuny went through an extensive educational program about the Kozak era including: a one-day troop boating trip in chaiky (Kozak boats), training and competitions in shooting with small arms, and orienteering and camouflage contests. There were interesting soccer and volleyball tournaments, as well as general sports competitions for those attempting to complete a sports merit badge.

Everyone will remember the hike, which the participants in training for company leaders organized in the beautiful Ukrainian steppes. Every scout tried to overcome obstacles in the terrain with the help of climbing gear. And probably, an activity everyone enjoyed most of all, was learning how to horseback ride, a skill without which no Kozak was considered a real warrior.

The scouts also learned how to take care of a horse and how to harness them, as well as how to prepare food, etc. They were very interested in the Ukrainian martial art of Boyovyi Hopak and had training sessions practically every day. Everyone was fascinated in learning the ancient art of Kozak solo combat and how to use a sabre.

There was singing of merry and soulful Kozak songs in the evenings and engrossing camp fires with themes such as Kozak traditions, songs, fun, history and others. The ecclesiastical seminars by Father Oleksander were very instructive and interesting. Father Oleksander talked with the campers about goodness and mercy and also held the camp liturgies.

Scouts say that in order for a camp to be successful, two things are a necessary: a beautiful wooden camp gate and a beautiful camp song. The scouts constructed a gate atop which all the participants of the camp fit, and named the camp song "Wind of the Steppes," which was a real hit.

First in the training of troop leaders came Plast member Volodymyr Haliley (Mykolaivka, Donetsk Oblast), Plast trial member Yurko Chushak (Stryi, Lviv Oblast) and Plast member Svitlana

Anisimova (Chuhuiv, Kharkiv Oblast). First of the company leaders was Plast pathfinder Dmytro Shchelkonohov (Chuhuiv, Kharkiv Oblast).

All parts of the camp program were in one way or another related to the history of the famous Ukrainian Kozaks, who added a whole heroic era to Ukraine's history. An important goal of "Wind of the Steppes" is fostering national pride, knowledge and respect for national histo-

ry, the traditions of our ancestors.

Those who would like to contribute to the growth of Plast in Ukraine may send donations to the Conference of Ukrainian Plast Organizations, c/o Dr. G. Slusarczuk, 67 Bayberry Drive, Monroe, NY, 10950-5607 (made out to "Fond Nachalnoho Plastuna"). Dr. Slusarczuk may be contacted by phoning 845-782-0977.

(Translated by Roma Zubenko)



A group of young Plast members at the "Stepovyi Viter" camp.

NEWS AND VIEWS: Ukraine arrives in the ranks of the International Council of Women

by Iryna Kurowyckyj

The International Council of Women is the umbrella organization for National Councils of Women throughout the world. Under its auspices, members work at every level of their respective societies to create a safe and healthy environment for every woman and girl living on this earth.

Every three years, the ICW holds a General Assembly during which delegates from National Councils of Women present reports on their activities, attend meetings and seminars devoted to women's issues, and discuss important events and situations that have an impact on the lives of women. These General Assemblies, though primarily focused on improving the status of women everywhere, are also a wonderful opportunity for delegates to network, to make new acquaintances and renew old friendships, and to share ideas and concerns.

One of the requirements for membership in NCWs (and by extension, in the ICW) is that member-organizations be citizens of independent nations. Thus, in 1925, at the quinquennial ICW meeting held in Washington, a question was raised about the status of Ukraine's NCW and its affiliated organizations. Ukraine's position was precarious. Its status as a nation that had been absorbed into the USSR meant that Ukraine's NCW did not meet the qualifications for membership and was not in compliance with ICW by-laws.

Ukrainian American women, who attended the meeting as members of NCW/US, were devastated. They later resolved that, since women from Ukraine could no longer represent themselves in the ICW, they would have to be represented by Ukrainian women from the diaspora. It was this resolve that led to the creation of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

Decades later, when Ukraine proclaimed its independence and its inviolate right to sovereignty, Ukrainian women's organizations were officially recognized by the ICW, and the National Council of Women of Ukraine was reborn. NCW/Ukraine was determined



Seen during the General Assembly of the International Council of Women in Perth, Australia, are (from left): Lilia Hryhorovych, president of Soyuz Ukrainok of Ukraine; Iryna Holubieva, president of the National Council of Women of Ukraine; Iryna Kurowyckyj, president of the UNWLA; and Kristina Syvenka Bailey, president of Soyuz Ukrainok of Australia.

that its membership in the ICW would never again be questioned and that Ukrainian women's voices would be heard and heeded.

The 30th General Assembly of the International Council of Women was held in Perth, Australia, from August 31 to September 9. The Ukrainian delegation consisted of six women: the president of the National Council of Ukraine, Iryna Holubieva; Minister of Family and Youth Valentina Dovzhenko; the president of Soyuz Ukrainok of Ukraine and a national deputy in the Verkhovna Rada, Lilia Hryhorovych; and three others who came as observers.

Opening ceremonies of the ICW General Assembly were held in Perth Town Hall. In a magnificent flag pro-

cessional, each president or proxy president walked behind her country's flag. Ukraine's flag waved proudly among the flags of other nations of the world. During sessions of the General Assembly, delegates representing their respective NCWs presented reports. The president of the National Council of Women of Ukraine, Ms. Holubieva, reported on the work and objectives of women's groups in her country.

At each General Assembly, NCW delegates are asked to consider suitable venues for the next ICW meeting. This tradition was reprised at the 30th General Assembly of the International Council of Women held in Australia. During the session, the minister of family

(Continued on page 39)

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INTERVIEW: Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Several months have passed since the 8th Ukrainian World Congress was held in mid-August, the first of its kind in Kyiv. The congress brought together 247 delegates and nearly 400 guests, including participants representing 109 organizations and 24 countries. The Ukrainian Weekly contacted New York-based attorney Askold Lozynskyj, who was recently elected to a second five-year term as the president of the UWC, with questions on a variety of topics regarding the UWC and its changing role as a representative body for diaspora Ukrainians throughout the world. The following is the first of a two-part edited telephone interview with Mr. Lozynskyj conducted on December 5.

PART I

Recently there was some criticism of statements you made while on Kontakt TV regarding the opposition leader in Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko. Also, there was some criticism regarding remarks you made about President Leonid Kuchma and the Kuchmagate scandal. The criticism implied that you sought moral equivalency between the U.S. and Ukraine. It mentioned, for instance, your saying that even in the United States there is no complete democracy. Those comments, it should be noted, were the subject of an open letter that was published in several Ukrainian media outlets, including on the Brama website. How do your comments on these topics square with your role as the UWC president?

Let me first address the Yushchenko matter. I do not agree, necessarily, 100 percent with everything that Mr. Yushchenko says or does. But at the same time, so that there is no ambiguity, in my opinion Viktor Yushchenko is the best hope for Ukraine. He is in my opinion the best presidential candidate and if I were in a position to vote in Ukraine he would certainly be my candidate for the presidency.

My criticism of him was predicated on the fact that he came to Canada and he criticized Ukraine, which I suppose he can do. But he essentially said that there is nothing good in Ukraine; that everything is bad.

Regarding Mr. Roman Wolchuk [the author of the open letter], I did read his letter but I frankly don't know who he is and I've never come across Mr. Wolchuk in the community. So I don't really know where he's coming from.

But let's take the position of the U.S. experience. You would have to be naive to believe that U.S. foreign policy is predicated on some moral ground. In fact, in terms of democratic processes and corruption, the United States not so long ago, maybe 30-40 years ago, had a similar situation to the one now in Ukraine. Ukraine has only been independent for 12 years and, while Ukraine certainly has its problems, because it doesn't have a democratic background, it has to create democratic institutions, and it has a corrupt oligarchy.

I think Ukraine needs to be considered within the context of some of the other countries in the former Soviet Union. In fact, if you were to eliminate or not include the Baltic countries, Ukraine would probably be the least offensive of the 12 republics of the former Soviet Union. Becoming a democracy and fighting corruption is a difficult process. The proof of that is in this country. Even after more than almost 250 years of democracy we have vast problems with campaign financing, we have incredible

abuse of administrative resources.

One of the arguments against Ukraine in terms of not being democratic is that the so-called "vlada" uses its resources in order to elect its candidates. Well, talk about treasure troves of incumbents in the United States. My God. Talk about fund-raising that the president does. My God. Why are congressman [in the U.S.] generally re-elected over and over and over again? Because no possible candidate can get enough money to unseat a sitting congressman.

If politics were just and fair, then the Ukrainian people would have always gotten a fair shake from the U.S. government. And the fact of the matter is that the United States was something like the 125th country in the world to recognize Ukrainian independence, and that's only because the United States was politically opportunistic. They waited for the Soviet Union to disintegrate, for their buddy [Mikhail] Gorbachev to resign, and then the United States decided to recognize Ukraine. So, my response to Mr. Wolchuk and the like is that you're either being disingenuous or, really, open up your eyes. Unfortunately, in politics there are very few morals.

The UWC recently released the Ukrainian-language text of its congress resolutions, which deal with a variety of issues, from language to Church to the status of Ukrainian citizens living outside of Ukraine. What was the main priority for delegates during the congress?

There were a number of focuses. One is that we focused on the elections in the year 2004 in Ukraine. The people who are citizens of Ukraine have the right to vote. In the past there have been serious abuses in this regard by the presidential administration in particular, and by the powers that be in Ukraine, because most of those people don't necessarily vote for the powers that be. The law, "vyborchyi zakon," says that, provided they are in a foreign country on a legal basis, they still have a right to vote. The legal basis refers only to legality as far as Ukraine is concerned – meaning, if you have a valid Ukrainian passport, irrespective of whether you've overstayed your visa in the United States, for example, you still have the right to vote in Ukraine. But in the past they [the powers that be] would not allow them the right to vote. So we're going to have to make sure that those people – irrespective of whether they're legally or illegally in the country where they reside – as long as they have a valid Ukrainian passport, have a right to vote.

Another aspect is the status of Ukrainians living in foreign countries. This is particularly true of these burgeoning communities in Spain, Portugal and Italy – where in Italy there is no agreement thus far between Ukraine and that country regarding status. Italy has passed a law, but they're very slow in actually implementing the law.

Anyone who had arrived in Italy prior to, if I'm not mistaken, October 1, 2002, was automatically legalized provided they had submitted their applications. Unfortunately, legal documents have not been given out to them and only 10 percent of the people who are qualified have received legal documents. What that means is that, if you're not legal, there are basically two matters that you cannot take care of. One, is that you cannot open up a bank account. And, second, you cannot travel back to Ukraine.

A lot of people who are in Italy, or in Spain, or in Portugal, have left their families in Ukraine, in particular children, and spouses as well. But they would like

to be able to travel, for example, for the holidays to Ukraine and then come back. But they can't do it until their status is legalized. So we're trying to get the communities to put pressure on the respective governments – I mentioned three countries – to legalize these communities.

I'll give you an interesting case in point. While the community in Greece was represented at the convention, the chair of the community could not come because her status had not been clarified. So we need to address those issues.

You said during a press conference after the congress: "When I say that this congress is a turning point, I will not be exaggerating. I call it a turning point because, whereas we had one delegate from the Eastern diaspora at the Toronto convention, this time there are more than 100." How has this change in the delegates' make-up affected, first, the congress itself; and, second, the UWC as a whole?

Well, in the past we were concerned strictly with Western problems – assimilation, Ukrainian language, the dwindling communities, which remain very much problems – but now we addressed issues which we never addressed in the past. Instead of assimilation, we addressed discrimination, human and civic rights violations, issues of burgeoning communities and what to do with them.

These were problems that we never faced in the past when we were strictly dealing with Western Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia. In the past we had no way of understanding what the problems were for the communities in, for example, Uzbekistan, Kazakstan, or even in many of the new communities in

Europe.

And it's not just the Eastern diaspora, because at this particular convention we had, as guests, representatives of communities that never existed in the past. I'm talking about Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece – Greece is now a member of the UWC. And others have just taken the first steps toward UWC membership. For example, Italy, where conservative estimates say there are 500,000 Ukrainians, and more flexible or liberal estimates say there are more than 1 million, is moving toward membership.

Someone used the phrase that – in fact I think it was a representative from the Our Ukraine political bloc – more than 7 million citizens of Ukraine, currently reside or work outside of Ukraine. And that is a number we have never taken into account, and, in all honesty, we didn't foresee.

Now we have to deal with these issues by trying not only to show the Eastern diaspora how Western communities were organized, but we need to give them a helping hand initially, in terms of social services, education and Ukrainian schools.

What would you say is the top priority right now for the UWC?

What we need to do now is we need to implement what we call the world Ukrainian community. Basically, what the UWC did in the first five years was open the doors to the communities in the Eastern diaspora and the new arrivals. It's meaningless if all we're going to do is just say that we have Ukrainians in Kazakstan and Uzbekistan. We need to establish a network of mutual assistance, mutual com-

(Continued on page 12)



Roman Woronowycz

Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj (second from right), is seen above with Mykhailo Horyn, Mykola Plaviuk and Victor Pedenko, as they carry a bouquet of flowers to be placed at the foot of Taras Shevchenko monument in Kyiv.

Askold Lozynskyj...

(Continued from page 11)

munication, different programs where people will travel back and forth, where people will be in constant communication. If they are in any way either offended or if any of their rights are violated, they have to feel secure that the communities outside of that country, the Ukrainian communities, will do something to support them. We'll put pressure on international organizations, or even on their own governments.

We want to make the concept of world Ukrainians more than a concept. To make it a functioning structure that mutually benefits all of its members. If we can create a community we feel is a viable community, and one that is in constant touch with each other, then the sum will be greater than its parts. Something similar to the World Jewish community, which essentially shakes the entire world despite the fact that it's not particularly populous.

How has representation from the Eastern diasporas on the UWC governing body changed how the UWC conducts its affairs?

I think primarily everything is done by e-mail. Most of our communication, for example, coordinating the Tuzla activities, was done by e-mail. Coordinating the demonstrations against The New York Times' offices was done by e-mail. The smallest body, an executive committee, is much more manageable. It's only six people and we are in daily communication via the phone or electronically by e-mail.

Regarding the needs of the Western and Eastern diasporas, are there any similarities or differences between the two, and how does that affect the UWC's role as a representative body for all diaspora Ukrainians?

Well, language assimilation issues are very similar and, frankly, the textbooks

that we use in our schools are probably more useful to them than the books that are being used in Ukraine.

I think we're very much alike. The only issues that are not similar are the discriminatory policies and human rights violations which we're not aware of in the United States or Canada, but they certainly exist in Russia and in some of the other communities.

There are demographic issues, for example, in Germany. The headquarters of the Ukrainian community there used to be in Munich. That's no longer the case. There is a huge Ukrainian community, albeit not organized well, in Berlin, which is the capital of Germany. So the demographic shifting that's taking place, probably less so in the Western diaspora, is much more prominent in the Eastern diaspora.

One of the major differences, and I think that we're trying to impart our experience in that regard, is the role of the Church in community life. I think that anyone who lives in the United States or Canada will state unequivocally that the Church has played a very significant role in building our diaspora communities and this is so evident in what's going on, for example, in Kazakstan.

Regarding the UWC's finances: how does the organization now stand financially? How do Eastern diasporas manage to pay their dues? How are the dues determined and do those dues suffice to support the UWC's work, especially now that it has grown to represent more countries than ever before?

Basically, the dues that are paid by the Eastern diaspora are symbolic in nature. The bulk of the money to the UWC comes from the United States and Canada. That's in terms of both dues and what we call "finansove obtiazhennia" – it's a kind of taxation or levy which is imposed on the larger organizations like the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian Canadian



Roman Woronowycz

Ukrainian World Congress delegates march in a procession down Volodymyrska Street during observances of the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide.

Congress, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and the like.

But a sizable portion – and more and more so with each year – comes from Ukrainian financial institutions in the West, the credit unions. If it weren't for the credit unions like Self Reliance (N.Y.) Federal Credit Union, SUMA (Yonkers) Federal Credit Union, Buduchnist (Toronto) Credit Union and a bank like First Security Federal Savings Bank of Chicago, we would be hard pressed to continue the work we're doing.

We also periodically get a bequest or we'll get a substantial contribution from individual donors. But mostly the money comes from the United States and Canada, from the financial institutions and from the three organizations in the United States – primarily the Ukrainian American Coordinating Committee, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. We're planning to shift that

more towards Europe.

Regarding our assets: we don't have any real property so we don't even have a building we can call our own. Financially we do have a certain amount of assets, in terms of money, which are tied up in endowment funds.

We have in the vicinity of about \$400,000 to \$500,000, which isn't very much for an organization. In the past we unfortunately never paid any attention to financial issues and legal issues, I might add. We weren't organized as an institution, as an organization. We were not chartered anywhere until the last term. As a result, we couldn't receive money, substantial money. We couldn't receive grants. We couldn't receive real property bequests. We made a lot of mistakes in the past, and it was unfortunately largely due to the fact that we weren't particularly concerned with legal aspects and financial issues. I think we're much more tuned in to this now.

UCCLA comments on redress for internment, which remains to be finalized by new government

TORONTO – Over the past year, representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian community have engaged in negotiations with Minister of Canadian Heritage, Sheila Copps, MP, senior representatives of her department and of Parks Canada, aimed at reaching agreement on a series of commemorative and educational initiatives that would recall Canada's first national internment operations and their impact on Ukrainians and other Europeans who were considered "enemy aliens," imprisoned in concentration camps and subjected to other censures during and after World War I.

Those negotiations were not finalized. Nevertheless, a spokesman for the Ukrainian Canadian community, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, said: "The Minister of Canadian Heritage, Ms. Copps, was very keen to put together an envelope of commemorative and educational projects that would have gone a long way toward securing a settlement of our community's calls for recognition and reconciliation. Unfortunately, the press of time and her other commitments made it impossible for us to reach such an agreement, although

considerable progress was made, particularly with Parks Canada officials, on how we might ensure that this episode in our country's history is properly recalled in the national parks system."

Dr. Luciuk added, "We look forward to working with Parks Canada officials, other Cabinet ministers and, of course, Right Honourable Paul Martin, the new prime minister of Canada, to ensure that this matter is settled in a timely and honorable manner, hopefully while the last known Ukrainian survivor of the internment operations, Mary Manko Haskett, is able to witness such a historic act."

Dr. Luciuk said the UCCLA is calling upon Prime Minister Martin to designate a minister from within his new Cabinet to continue with the reconciliation talks, "building upon the solid bases for settlement that Minister Copps prepared."

"We also wish to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Copps, and the Secretary of State (for Multiculturalism) Jean Augustine for their good will and candor over the past year. Minister Copps proved herself to be a true friend of the Ukrainian Canadian community," Dr. Luciuk noted.

In a surprise move, Canadian ministry awards funding to Spirit Lake Corp.

TORONTO – The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association responded with concern on October 24 following a Media Release issued on October 9 by the Ministry of Canadian Heritage, announcing \$200,000 in federal funding to the Spirit Lake Camp Corp. for the purposes of developing an interpretive center at the site of a First World War internment camp near Amos, in north-central Quebec.

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association said: "We were surprised by this announcement as we have been negotiating, for nearly a year, with the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Sheila Copps, and senior members of her staff, as well as representatives from Parks Canada and the Canadian War Museum. None of them, at any time, gave us any indication that another group had made application for such funding, nor did they deliberate with us over how this project, obviously relevant to our discussions, would fit in with our own slate of commemorative and educational initiatives. Of course, we are pleased to learn that the ministry is prepared to finance a center at Spirit Lake.

Dr. Luciuk explained that the UCCLA has worked in the past with members of the Spirit Lake Camp Corporation, placing a trilingual plaque there in 1999 and a statue, "Interned Madonna," in 2001. "However, we are concerned about the phrasing of the government's announcement, which ignores the fact that the majority of those interned were Ukrainians, which represents

them as prisoners of war or refugees when in fact they were civilians, unjustly interned not because of anything they had done but only because of where they had come from and who they were."

Dr. Luciuk also said the UCCLA is "deeply troubled by the suggestion that the site might be used for artistic or recreational purposes. This was a Canadian concentration camp where innocent people, men, women and children, were incarcerated under very trying conditions and forced to do heavy labor. Many suffered considerably."

The last known survivor of Canada's first national internment operations, Mary Manko Haskett, was a child when she was interned; her younger sister, Nellie, died as a result of the poor conditions at Spirit Lake. "This place is not suitable for development as anything other than a commemorative museum facility," said Dr. Luciuk.

The UCCLA leader pointed out that "plans have been made to protect the Spirit Lake internees' cemetery, which is reportedly located on private property and is certainly in a state of disintegration. We believe this cemetery is a national historic site and should be designated as such, then protected. The remains of the Ukrainian Canadian internees found there must be treated with respect. For the federal government to not ensure that is unconscionable. We hope these serious issues will soon be addressed by the minister or her representatives."

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FOR THE RECORD: Sen. Campbell on the business climate in Ukraine

Below is the Congressional Record statement of November 20 by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.), Co-Chairman, U.S. Helsinki Commission, on the business climate in Ukraine.

Mr. President, as co-chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe [Helsinki Commission], I have closely followed developments in Ukraine including aspects of the human, security and economic dimensions. My desire is that Ukraine consolidate its independence by strengthening democratic institutions, including the judiciary and undertaking reforms to improve the business climate essential to attracting much-needed foreign investment.

Twelve years after independence, the people of Ukraine deserve to enjoy the fruits of freedom and prosperity, but obstacles remain. Bringing Ukraine more fully into Europe is both essential to the country's long-term economic success and important for European security. Accelerating Ukraine's movement toward Europe is timely and needed.

While high-ranking Ukrainian officials pay lip service to such integration, the jury is still out as to whether they are prepared to take the bold steps that will be required to advance such integration. An important barometer for the future will be the extent to which the country moves to confront the corruption and crime that retard the process of democratization and economic liberalization and erode Ukraine's security and independence.

While those at the top say the right things, there is justified skepticism as to their sincerity. This is certainly the case concerning Ukraine's current president, Leonid Kuchma. The controversies surrounding Kuchma undercut his credibility with respect to the issue of combating corruption. Nevertheless, this should not detract from the urgency of tackling corruption in the lead up to the presidential elections to select Kuchma's successor in 2004.

Meanwhile, those serious about rooting out corruption and corrupt officials should take a hard look at the handling – or more accurately, mishandling – of Ukrainian and foreign-owned businesses. For example, United States-owned businesses have been victimized through expropriations, asset thefts, extortion and the like perpetrated or abetted by corrupt officials and courts in Ukraine. While new cases continue to occur, longstanding cases remain unresolved with investors unable to obtain the relief to which they are entitled under Ukrainian and international law.

Although the State Department has made repeated representations about these cases at senior levels of the Kuchma administration, Kyiv rebuffed repeated requests to resolve them in accordance with the law. At the same time it refuses to punish the perpetrators of the criminal acts or take corrective measures to prevent similar cases from arising.

If the victims are to ever achieve a measure of justice, it is essential that U.S. officials raise these cases at every appropriate opportunity.

In one especially egregious and illustrative case, well-connected individuals in Ukraine were able to orchestrate the seizure of all the assets of a successful pharmaceutical joint venture which was half owned by United States investors. When, six years after the theft the Ukrainian appeals courts finally dis-

An important barometer for the future will be the extent to which the country moves to confront the corruption and crime that retard the process of democratization and economic liberalization and erode Ukraine's security and independence.

missed the spurious claims to the assets on grounds that they were based entirely on forged and falsely fabricated documents, senior Ukrainian officials launched into action. Within weeks of these judicial decisions, the Ukrainian President reportedly convened a meeting of senior officials, including the cognizant senior judges and his own senior law enforcement and national security cabinet level officers, at which he made clear that he did not want the stolen assets restored to their rightful American owners.

The courts quickly complied, without explanation, and in disregard of the copious evidence before them, the judges reversed the decisions taken just two months earlier and held in favor of the claimants. Several months later longstanding criminal charges against the same individuals were dropped.

The circumstances surrounding this case and others involving United States investors are indicative of the far reach-

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U.S.-funded Open World Program expands to Ukraine as of December

Embassy of the United States

KYIV – Fifty Ukrainian civic and media leaders will visit the United States this month as the first participants in the new Ukrainian Open World Program of the United States Congress. Among the participants are top journalists, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community leaders, education professionals and lawyers. They will comprise 10 delegations, each focusing on one of the following themes: NGO development, independent media and electoral processes.

Through Open World, which is administered by the Open World Leadership Center, Ukrainian participants will observe American democracy and free enterprise in action in different U.S. host communities. The program also is designed to enhance mutual understanding between Ukraine and the United States by enabling the visiting delegates to develop extensive and sustainable professional relationships and personal friendships with their American contacts. Ukraine became eligible for Open World in February 2003, when the U.S. Congress authorized the program to expand beyond the Russian Federation to other countries of the former Soviet Union.

"The expansion of the Open World Program to Ukraine comes at an important stage in Ukraine's transition to a democratic society," said U.S. Ambassador John Herbst. "Bringing together U.S. and Ukrainian political and civic leaders assists in this transition and strengthens bilateral relations."

"Open World's Board of Trustees unanimously recommended Ukraine for the Open World Program. Many members of Congress have expressed interest in Ukraine since Open World was initiated in 1999," said Dr. James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress and Chair of Open World's board. "On behalf of our board, I want to thank Ambassador Herbst and the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv for providing us with excellent assistance and guidance to get

this program off to an efficient and productive start."

Ukraine's first two Open World groups arrive in Washington, on December 7 and December 10. After a two-day orientation in Washington, delegates have a week of professional programming in one of five different host cities. The host cities are Atlanta, Cincinnati, Youngwood, Pa., Memphis, and Washington. Their local agendas include meetings with government officials, visits to television stations and other media outlets, and meetings at non-profit and social service agencies.

The Open World Program brings emerging political and civic leaders from participating countries to communities across the United States. Delegations experience American community and cultural life while learning about the responsibilities of and interrelationships between the three branches and different levels (federal, state and local) of the U.S. government.

Program participants also explore how the U.S. private and non-profit sectors help meet social and civic needs. Participants engage in hands-on experiences, direct observation and substantive exchange with their professional counterparts. The program is conducted by the Open World Leadership Center, an independent legislative branch agency, which works cooperatively with the U.S. Department of State and other U.S. executive and judicial branch agencies.

OPIC to resume support of investors interested in Ukraine

Embassy of the United States

KYIV – The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the government of Ukraine and the Swedish defense firm Nammo signed a Memorandum of Understanding December 8 that will permit OPIC to resume activities in Ukraine. The signing was at Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The memorandum sets a target date of January 1, 2005, for the parties to conclude a definitive agreement to settle the claims arising from a dispute before OPIC stopped issuing new coverage for Ukraine in 1999. During this interim period until January 1, 2005, OPIC will resume its support of private sector U.S. investor projects in Ukraine.

The resumption of OPIC activities will mean facilitation for substantial investment by U.S. companies in Ukraine.

OPIC was established as a development agency of the U.S. government in 1971. OPIC helps U.S. businesses invest overseas, fosters economic development in new and emerging markets, complements the private sector in managing the risks associated with foreign direct investment and supports U.S. foreign policy.

By expanding economic development in host countries, OPIC-supported projects can encourage political stability, free market reforms and U.S. best practices.

OPIC projects also support American jobs and exports – more than 280,000 new U.S. jobs and \$65 billion in exports since 1971. Because OPIC charges market-based fees for its products, it operates on a self-sustaining basis at no net cost to U.S. taxpayers.

Uzhhorod professor in U.S. as Fulbright scholar



EDINBORO, Pa. – At the invitation of Prof. Ihor Bemko, an Edinboro University of Pennsylvania history professor who was a Fulbright scholar at Kharkiv National University earlier this year, Dr. Marianna Tovt-Korshynska of Uzhhorod National University visited Edinboro University on November 10-11. Dr. Tovt-Korshynska, a psychologist, physician and professor of medicine in Uzhhorod, is currently a Fulbright scholar at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School. On November 10 she lectured on the topic "Health Concerns of Ukrainian Women since Independence," and the following day she met with various groups on campus. On the evening of November 10, Dr. Renata Wolyneć (front and center), Edinboro University professor of anthropology, hosted a reception for Dr. Tovt-Korshynska (left) and members of the Ukrainian professional community of Erie and Edinboro. Also pictured (from left, next to Dr. Tovt-Korshynska) are: Dr. Ihor Bemko, Dr. Alexander Kosenko, Anna Kosenko, Daria McKay, Dr. J. Brian McKay (behind his spouse), Orysia Dail and Bernard Werner.

“Connections” exhibit brings together Montclair, N.J., and Graz, Austria

MONTCLAIR, N.J. – An arts exhibition titled “Connections,” that forms part of an international exchange program based on the sister city relationship of Montclair, N.J., and Graz, Austria, explores the concept of connectedness and its various interpretations as manifested in the works of the participating artists.

Presented as a two-part international exhibition, the first part of the exchange featured the work of Austrian artists from the Künstlerbund Graz artists’ association, in an exhibit that opened in Montclair in September at the Montclair State University Galleries.

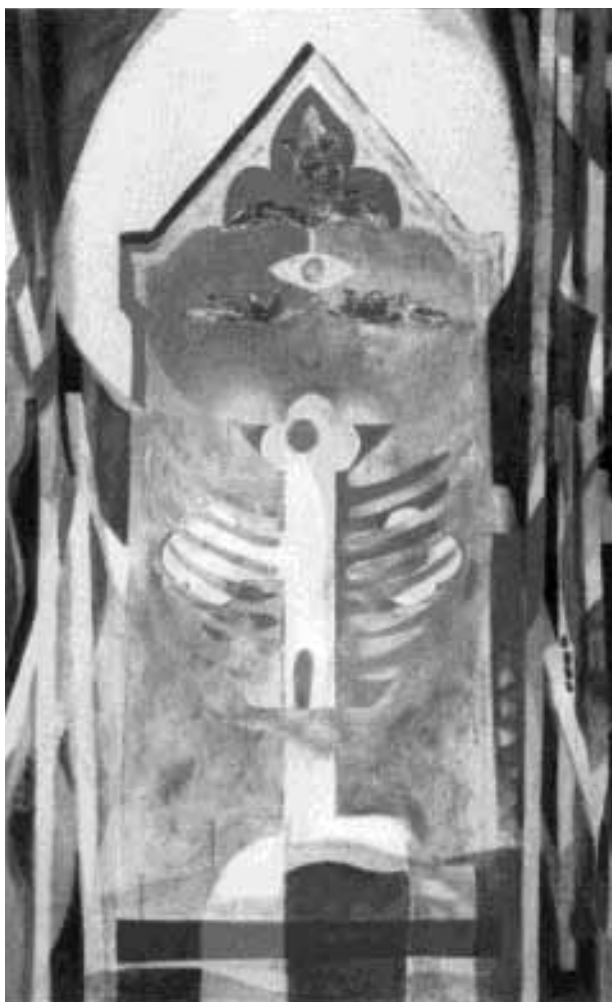
The second part of the exchange took place this month



“Receiving Inspiration,” by Alexandra Isaievych (acrylic, oil on canvas, 20 inches by 16 inches), 2001.

and featured the work of Montclair artists in an exhibit that was part of the culmination of a yearlong arts festival being held in Graz as the designated “Arts Capital of Europe 2003.”

The “Connections” exhibit, which was two years in the making and received extensive local coverage, was curated by Olya Shevchenko of New York with a selection of works from the membership of the NJ Arts



“Sanctuary” by Christina Saj (oil on canvas, 20 inches by 30 inches), 2003.

Group – Studio Montclair, a professional visual arts organization, where Ms. Shevchenko is curator-in-residence, as well as from faculty members and fine arts students from Montclair State University.

The exhibit, which opened December 3 at the Künstlerhaus in Graz, where it will be on view until December 30, includes painting, pastel, watercolor, photography, collage, sculpture and various mixed media.

Among the 29 participating artists are two Ukrainian Americans: Christina Saj, board member of Studio Montclair, and Alexandra Isaievych (originally from Lviv, and formerly of New Jersey, who has recently moved to California).

Ms. Saj’s work, titled “Sanctuary,” is considered in the general context of artists who, according to the curator, “draw on strong feelings of association with the past, revealing a concern for history and a belief that we are inextricably linked to all that came before us. ... Referencing her own personal history, Christina Saj’s ‘Sanctuary’ is a testament to the artist’s strong sense of connection to her ancestors.”

The work was inspired by a visit to old Ukrainian cemeteries that were part of the village settlement of Ukrainian pioneers to western Canada at the turn of the century.

Much of Ms. Saj’s contemporary work explores the symbolism inherent in icon painting in a modern context. “Surviving Symbols,” of which this work is a part, explores the assimilation of traditional imagery and composition with contemporary techniques.

Ms. Saj, who holds a graduate degree from the Milton Avery Graduate School for the Arts at Bard College, lives and works in New Jersey. Among her recent exhibits are: “Women Artists of Montclair: Black and White,” Nandi Art Gallery, Montclair, N.J., and “The 125th Anniversary Exhibit, UCCA National Art Museum,” Kyiv. A collection of her works, based on the “Tree of Life” series is among the works of three New

Jersey artists on loan to the American Embassy in Doha, Qatar, as part of the Art in Embassies program.

Ms. Isaievych’s work, an oil and acrylic on canvas titled “Receiving Inspiration,” is characterized by Ms. Shevchenko as “giv[ing] visual form to the often-nebulous quality of the inspirational connection.”

In her statement, Ms. Isaievych notes that for her “art is inherently about revealing connections with the invisible world of inspiration and about connecting with the magic of the world beyond ourselves.”

In her work, she has been exploring “formal connections between line and color, background and foreground, figures and their surrounding environments.”

According to the artist, “Receiving Inspiration” is among the works that focus on the integration of human figure and everything around it – both physical objects and fleeting, temporary things that often affect us just as significantly – our thoughts, feelings and expectations.”

Ms. Isaievych notes that her work “is evolving into the direction of greater integration among figures and various other shapes, focusing on interconnectedness of all matter on many levels.”

Ms. Isaievych, who was born in Lviv and studied in Ukraine and the United States, added that the “Connections” exhibit in Graz “has a special meaning for me as I heard many stories from friends and family members about their experiences of the city.”

Ms. Isaievych’s endeavors at this time are focused on building connections with new sources of inspiration after moving this summer to Los Angeles from the East Coast.

Ms. Isaievych, a native of Lviv, studied art in Ukraine and the United States, earning a degree from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Ms. Isaievych also holds a graduate degree in economics and public policy from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

This year Ms. Isaievych has participated in several

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Ukrainian culture in the spotlight in Bavaria

REGENSBURG, Germany – From September 27 until November 9, contemporary Ukrainian culture reigned supreme in this ancient Bavarian city on the Danube, which was the site of a large Ukrainian refugee camp after World War II.

With the support of the Bavarian Ministry for Science, Research and Art and a host of other organizations, including the Ukrainian Free University, six art exhibitions, numerous performances, literary readings, film presentations and lectures were held in various institutions of the city.

Among the artists represented by exhibits were such well-known contemporary Ukrainian artists as Oksana Chepelyk (Kyiv), Antonina Denysiuk (Lviv), Natalia Holibroda (Symferopol), Myroslav Kulchytyski (Uzhhorod), Oleksander Hnylytskyi (Kharkiv) and others.

The people of Regensburg and vicinity had the opportunity to acquire a more intimate knowledge of Ukrainian history and culture by attending lectures and seminars offered by leading German and Ukrainian scholars, among whom were: Prof. Alois Woldan (University of Passau), translator-scholar Anna-Halja Horbartsch (UFU), poet Natalka Bilotserkivets and the essayist Mykola Ryabchuk (Lviv), novelist Yurii Andrukhovych (Ivano-Frankivsk) as well as

political scientist Mykola Szafowal (Munich) and UFU Rector Leonid Rudnytsky, who lectured extensively on the life and works of Ukraine’s poet-laureate Taras Shevchenko.

The moving spirit of this unprecedented cultural program was the Regensburg-based artist Regina Hellwig-Schmid, who also published the elegant bilingual catalogue titled “Donumenta Ars Danubia,” documenting the events and exhibits.

This catalogue contains many memorable quotations about Ukraine, one of them by Dietmar St. Demann, the current German ambassador in Kyiv; who writes: “Until now Ukraine, with its history and cultural traditions, even for its own citizens, is not always familiar territory. An important Kyiv newspaper regularly publishes lengthy features with the title ‘Unknown Ukraine.’ The most important reason for this is that the country has known only very short periods of national independence in its history and that it has suffered a policy of de-Ukrainization. ... This large country on the Black Sea is still terra incognita for many Germans, although the distance from Germany to Kyiv is not longer than the distance to Rome, Madrid or Athens ... I wish that many curious people would start to discover Ukraine.”

Juventus 2003 exhibit at UIMA showcases young artists

CHICAGO – Twelve art students and recent graduates have been selected from an international competition for the Juventus 2003 exhibition to be held at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago from December 19 to January 18, 2004. The competition drew submissions from the U.S. and Canada.

Juventus 2003 was a competition designed to highlight the diverse ideas currently engaging students and recent graduates of studio art programs. The 12 awardees are Adrianna Bamber, Tonia Bonnell, Aimee Brown, Stacie Johnson, Danielle Nelson, Rocyun Kim, Karin Patzke, Melissa Scherrer, Barbra Tolentino, Ruslan Trusewych, Faith Veenstra and Erik Waterkotte.

They were selected for the exhibition by a panel of jurors that included Nicholas Sawicki, faculty member, department of art, Grinnell College; Tom Palazzolo, artist; Marissa Woloszczuk, artist; and Michael Griffin, digital artist.

Painting, photography, prints, sculpture and mixed

media are all represented in the exhibition. “Taken together, the works seem at once quarrelsome, dissonant, and categorically in sync. The resulting accumulation of ideas speaks to contemporary artistic concerns, but more than anything, the revisitation of established precedents binds this group of artists together,” observed Mr. Sawicki.

The exhibit opened with a reception on December 19. Prizes will be awarded to exhibitors. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Governor’s International Arts Exchange Program of the Illinois Arts Council.

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art was created to preserve and promote the knowledge and appreciation of contemporary Ukrainian art and culture. It serves as an artistic anchor in Chicago’s West Town community, providing world-class art exhibitions, concerts, literary readings, and educational and cultural exchanges.

The UIMA is open Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. For more information please visit www.uima-art.org.

Ilona Sochynsky's "Reflections and Permutations" on view at UIA

NEW YORK – "Reflections and Permutations," an exhibition of new works by Ilona Sochynsky, opened on December 5 at the Ukrainian Institute of America's landmark building at 2 E. 79 St., where it will be on view through January 30, 2004.

The exhibit comprises more than 30 works of oils, pastels and watercolors. Most of the oils were created in the last 10 years and comprise the "reflective" aspect of the show's title. The pastels and watercolors are new works that make up the "permutations," as the artist explores new terrain in her quest to expand her earlier surrealist and hyper-realistic works.

Referring to the "ebb and flow of the creative process" and the evaluation of her creative output in the decade-long progression from hyper-realism to abstraction, the artist observes:

"My early paintings depicted recognizable single images with shiny, industrial surfaces. Soon I began to combine several images onto one surface in a kind of collage. I continued with this process of unraveling and reconstructing until I found myself working with fragments of human or otherwise – creating narrative compositions whose origins were based on collage. In these works abstraction and representation went hand in hand."

"I am currently engaged in studying the singular aspect of what is left over after deconstruction. Can some sense be made of a fragment? Can it permute into something that has meaning for Me? I hope the viewer will be sensitive to the personal imagery which emerges."

Ms. Sochynsky's may be viewed at the institute on Tuesdays through Sundays, noon-6 p.m. For further information please the institute at (212) 288-8660.

To learn more about Ms. Sochynsky and her work, visit her website at <http://www.ilonasochynsky.com>.

An award-winning artist and designer, Ms. Sochynsky, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and Yale University School of Art, started exhibit-

ing her paintings in the early 1980s and had her first one-person show in New York in 1984.

This one-person exhibition is her third at Ukrainian Institute of America gallery, with previous solo exhibits in 1991 and 1984.

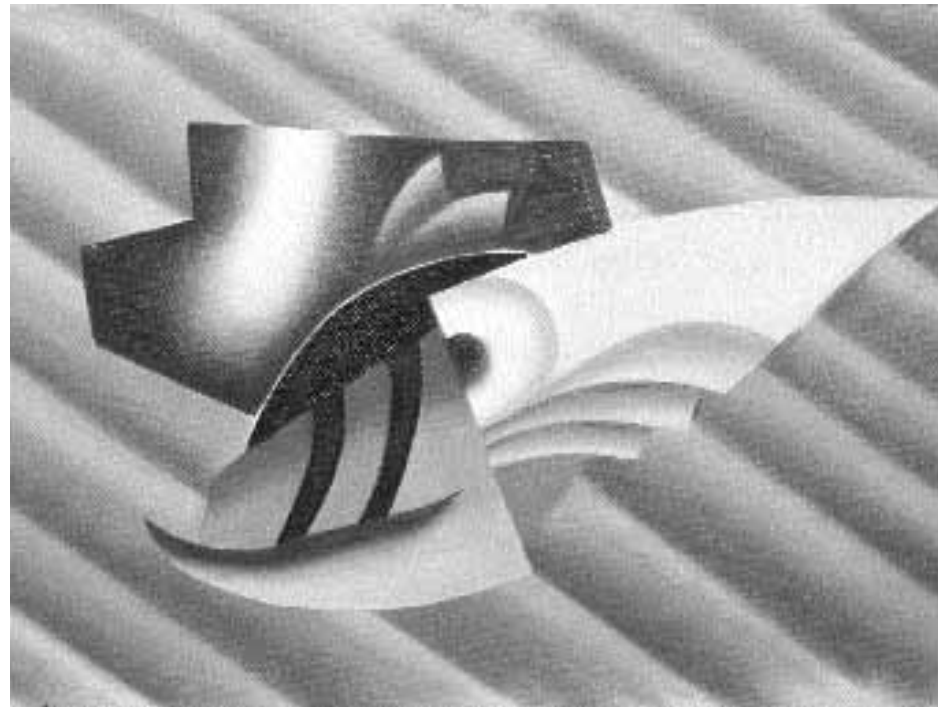
Her graphic design firm, Ilona Sochynsky Associates, N.Y., specializes in graphic identity and corporate communications programs, promotional campaigns and signage. Notable corporate clients include Mobil Corp., Paine Webber, Bank of America, Museum of Modern Art, Union Pacific and the Schubert Organization; notable local clients comprise the CRDA, The City of Atlantic City, Atlantic City Special Improvement District, the RNS Cancer and Heart Fund, and Gilda's Club South Jersey.

A resident of Margate, N.J., she has recently completed a collaboration as artist-in-residence with the Noyes Museum of Art in Oceanside, N.J., on a multi-component community art project. She has also been commissioned to create the impressive 46-foot by 22-foot work of art titled "The Fishing Pier," a mural that pays tribute to Atlantic City's Italian community.

Her popular series of limited edition prints of South Jersey's beautiful resort areas, featuring Margate, Atlantic City, Ocean City and Stone Harbor, which she has been working on since 1998, are available in area galleries and by studio appointment.

Ms. Sochynsky's paintings and pastels have been exhibited in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Washington, Illinois, Maryland, and Rhode Island. In 1991 she took part in the "Bienale-Renewal" exhibition at the National Museum of Lviv in Ukraine.

Among her curatorial projects was work for the "Crafting Identity: Twelve Artists Interpret Their Cultural Roots" (2001) and "Flowers as Muse" (1999) exhibitions at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York.



"Enigma" (oil on linen, 13 3/4 inches by 8 1/2 inches), 2002.

REVIEW: Sochynsky's new artworks

by Christina Saj

NEW YORK – Ilona Sochynsky's new work being exhibited at the Ukrainian Institute of America this winter is a departure from her familiar style. A recent visit to her studio provided insight on her new preoccupations and influences. After a decade on the New Jersey Coast, her work boasts a new feeling of openness and light. Her compositions have given way to simple airy compositions. These pieces are a significant departure from earlier work, in them she displays a much lighter touch.

Ms. Sochynsky began her transition with a series of miniature oil paintings, such as "Dialogue" and "Enigma" and "Confrontation" – in which she pared down and flattened signature bright compositions to just a few elements. The modest size of the works made it natural

to simplify her color relationships and her compositions. One also often feels the distinct relationship to landscape.

Moving away from the dense, packed compositions full of bright color juxtaposed with dark, hovering, ominous shapes, Ms. Sochynsky is finding a new voice in small whimsical floating objects. Her new studies have evolved as works on paper incorporating watercolor and/or pastel.

Using the white of the paper as her backdrop, she explores independent fragmented images which are clearly informed by her previous renderings of a very personal vocabulary. Individual shapes, often ambiguous and imbued with a personal twist render them momentarily reminiscent of recognizable forms. And yet they simultaneously

(Continued on page 43)

Assembled sculptures offered as decoration, talisman and social commentary



"Self Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" (oil on canvas), 1970.

CLIFTON, N.J. – "Trophy Wife," a sculpture assembled from bits of painted wood, discarded hardware and medical instruments, was awarded first prize in the "Re-Cycle, Re-Use" juried exhibit of two and three dimensional art held July 9-August 16 at the Clifton Arts Center, an elegant modern art gallery on the grounds of the Clifton Municipal Complex.

The assembled sculpture is one of three works by George Thaddeus Saj, a Montclair resident and surgeon with a lifelong interest in art, featured in the exhibit. The other two works were titled "The Who" and "Otolaryngologist in Disguise."

Dr. Saj has been interested in art all his life, having studied at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts as a teenager,

then taking further classes in drawing, painting and composition at Dartmouth College. Even though a 30-year surgical career afforded him little time for it, he never abandoned his keen interest in art.

Dr. Saj has been assembling statues for 24 years from any material at hand: large outdoor pieces from wood, scrap iron and PVC tubing in the country and small wall-mounted heads assembled from bits of wood, discarded instruments and household furnishings in town.

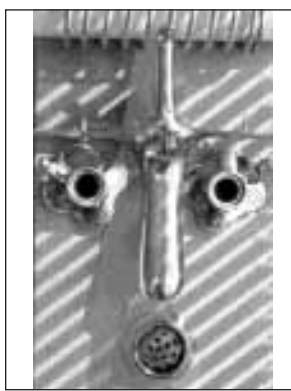
This past summer he submitted three pieces to the Clifton Art Center (not having exhibited since college) and – won first place. Thus encouraged, he produced 30 heads this year and is applying to a portrait show to be held in Whippany, N.J., in January 2004. He also plans to mount a solo exhibit in the new year.

In a statement about his work, Dr. Saj

notes that "in these heads I aim to produce an instantly recognizable image by assembling commonplace elements in unusual juxtaposition, with economy and humor."

"Such works as 'Samurai,' 'Lucifer,' 'Duenna,' and 'Sonia' are meant to be decorative and to serve the viewer as talisman. They are endowed with enough 'personality' as to afford the possibility of developing a certain rapport with the viewer, evoking a poignant memory, or sharing a private joke," he notes, adding "Sometimes the works serve as social commentary, as evident in such works as 'Wild Boor' (as seen on my website)."

Additional information about Dr. Saj's work in the field of contemporary sculpture, including historic figures, portraits, and animals, may be found on the website www.georgesaj.com.



"The Who," 2002.



"Trophy Wife," 2002.



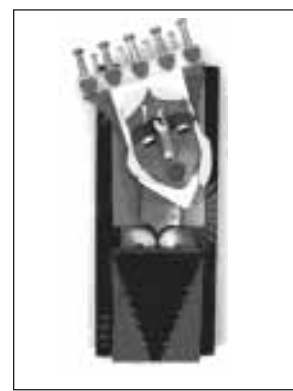
"Lucifer," 2003.



"Desirée," 1988.



"Eternal Blonde," 2002.



"Guinevere," 2003.

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СОКОЛИ

First Ukrainian Festival of Metropolitan Washington hailed as a success

by Dr. Tamara Worbij

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian community of Washington greeted fall this year with the enormously successful first Ukrainian Festival of Metropolitan Washington, which was held on the grounds of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, in Silver Spring, Md. Over 3,000 people attended the two-day festival on Saturday, and Sunday, September 12-13.

In fact, this year the population of the Baltimore-Washington corridor was exposed to an abundance of Ukrainian culture, with the new Washington festival following one week after the successful and long-running Baltimore Ukrainian Festival.

The idea to bring a festival to Washington was the inspiration of Father Volodymyr Steliac, pastor of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, and Myroslava Semerey, a parishioner, who began thinking about the concept during a discussion following the successful Easter Bazaar. Together the two contacted Valentin Zabijaka, President of the Parish Board of St. Andrew Cathedral, who was in Ukraine at that time, and Andree Filipov, vice-president of the Board. They wholeheartedly supported the idea.

The Embassy of Ukraine was asked to participate and also responded positively. Father Steliac and Mr. Zabijaka then approached the two local Ukrainian Catholic parishes, Holy Trinity Particular Ukrainian Catholic Church, and Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, and other Ukrainian community organizations such as The Washington Group, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian Association of Greater Washington, and Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, inviting each to participate in the festival.

The Ukrainian Festival Committee was formed, with Ms. Semerey and Mr. Filipov as co-chairs. For 10 weeks, committee members met, sorting out details, overcoming obstacles – everything had a steep learning curve. Many people – too many to list individually worked tirelessly, preparing varenyky and freezing

them, running a successful publicity and outreach campaign and preparing the physical infrastructure on the church grounds. The optimistic personalities of Mr. Zabijaka, Ms. Semerey, Mr. Filipov and Father Steliac remained undaunted, tackling each crisis (and there were many), and attending to every minute detail behind the scenes.

The festival had three sponsors: Meest Inc., Rinaldi Funeral Home oldest Ukrainian organization in the D.C. area; the Ukrainian Association of Washington.

As the moment approached, tents were put up, parking was organized and 14,000 varenyky, 4,000 cabbage rolls, gallons and gallons of Ukrainian borsch, alongside tables of sweets, sausages and grilled food awaited. An outdoor bar was stocked with two types of Ukrainian beer, home-made medivka and Ukrainian fruit liqueurs, with sour cherry, blueberry and raspberry essences.

Vendors from Canada and the United States, from Montreal and Toronto, from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and even Miami – 24 in all – began setting up their displays under dark skies and in the pouring rain. Dancers and artists began arriving. Everyone looked up with trepidation and hope at the foreboding skies. A few hours later the sun came out, and the remainder of the two-day festival was enjoyed under clearing skies.

The opening ceremony took place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 12. In attendance were dignitaries from the U.S. Embassy and the Ukrainian American clergy. In particular, this included Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and clergy from area churches. The top embassy official present was Minister Counselor Volodymyr Yatsenkivskyi, deputy chief of mission and charge d'affaires.

Masters of ceremonies for both days were Theophil Staruch and Anya Petrenko. The crowds were entertained by the mesmerizing music of violinist Wasyl Popadiuk, the artistic choreography of the Yevshan Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from Rochester, N.Y., under the direction of Slavko Virlo (who, in



The co-chairs of the first Ukrainian Festival of Metropolitan Washington, Andree Filipov and Myroslava Semerey.

order to get to the festival, organized a bus at the last minute at their own cost), the melodic chords of the bandurist trio Namysto, the sonoric voices of tenor Roman Tymbala and soprano Lesya Hrabova, the beautifully harmonized duo of Lidiya and Gabriella Oros from New York, and the very appealing children's group from the Ukrainian Embassy named Kozachata.

Iryana Rejko from New York wrote a special poem titled "Festival in Washington," which was read at the festival.

The Plast group of Washington had its official opening of the new school year at the festival, and provided several children's activities, including a moon bounce and a children's puppet show, featuring an original puppet play written by Plast leader Darka Nebesh and her father. Other children's activities included a popcorn stand and a cotton candy machine.

On Saturday evening the band Good Day from Philadelphia performed at the zabava which included a full dinner for those who attended, into the early morning hours. Wasyl Popadiuk provided another live concert during the dance.

In addition to the entertainment out-

doors, inside there were exhibits of Ukrainian handicrafts. Whether it was the dazzling embroidery of Yurko Melnechuk, from the Oles Honchar Museum in Kyiv, the weaving demonstration by Vera Nakonechna of Philadelphia, the beading display of Olga Kolodij, an icon exhibit of Ms. Semerey, the Ukrainian national costumes of the Julas from Pittsburgh, the ceramics being created by Natalie Kormyliuk of Washington or the Easter egg demonstration by Marika Cooley and Nadija Nowitski, it was clear that there was an abundance of the best of Ukrainian culture.

Amidst all the festivities one could also tour the beautiful interior of St. Andrew Cathedral, which is the first memorial church dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Chornobyl nuclear accident in 1986.

For two days, Ukrainians, American Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians feasted, danced, were entertained and savored the best of Ukrainian culture in the suburbs of the nation's capital. One awaits with excitement next year's festival, the second Ukrainian Festival of Metropolitan Washington, now being planned for September 25-26, 2004.

Cleveland's School of Ukrainian Studies Association celebrates golden jubilee

CLEVELAND – The School of Ukrainian Studies Association, or "Ridna Shkola," on October 12 celebrated its 50th anniversary with a festive concert and banquet. The banquet hall of Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Parma, Ohio, was filled with current and former students, parents and well-wishers. Proclamations and greetings were received from Patriarch and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, Gov. Robert Taft of Ohio and many church dignitaries, politicians and leaders of the Ukrainian community.

Eugene Palka, chair commemorative committee, opened the event and introduced Daria Holubec-Jakubowycz and the Rev. Deacon Dr. Michael Kulick, the masters of ceremonies. After the American National Anthem, the Ridna Shkola student choir sang "Zeleneye Zhyto" as the traditional welcome was recited. This was followed by the Ridna Shkola hymn. Former students, from 1957 to 2000, recited Anna Zavadvivsky's poem "Ridna Shkola."

Dr. Viroslav Kost, school principal, and Dr. George Jaskiw, president of the Ridna Shkola association, each greeted those present. Petro Fedynsky, the keynote speaker, was very entertaining and insightful.

After four songs by the trio Ridna Dusha, students from the 11th grade enter-



The "Ridna Shkola" student choir performs during the jubilee program.

tained those present with a humorous skit, "A Day at Ridna Shkola," written by Sofia Bura. Christine Skabyk recited Taras Shevchenko's poem "Uchitiesia, Braty Moyi."

The grand finale consisted of several songs. The "Ridna Shkola" student choir,

directed by Anna Keller, sang "Ridna Mova v Ridni Shkoli" and "Pisnia Ridnoyi Zemli." The youngest students then recited their welcome and raised a "Mnohaya Lita" banner spanning the length of the stage, as they and the Ridna Shkola student choir sang "Mnohaya Lita."

The banquet was begun with a prayer, and it ended with a prayer and the singing of "Bozhe Velykyi Yedynyi."

The 50th anniversary celebration of the School of Ukrainian Studies Association of Cleveland was the result of work by seven committees and 62 dedicated people.

NEW RELEASES

Montreal composer's debut recording

MONTREAL – Tendershoot Music announced the official release on November 5 of Montreal composer Oleksa Lozowchuk's debut chamber music recording "Bright Sadness." Fusing ancient and contemporary musical idioms of the East, Mr. Lozowchuk's suite of spring songs, laments and dances features Blair Lofgren, principal cellist of the Quebec Symphony Orchestra.

Two sections of "Bright Sadness" will be premiered by Mr. Lofgren and the cello section of the Quebec Symphony Orchestra on November 8 at the Musée de Québec in Québec City, as part of an ongoing chamber music series "Sons et Couleurs au Musée."

Both Messrs. Lozowchuk and Lofgren are natives of Saskatchewan who moved to Québec in recent years.

"Bright Sadness" is a new chamber work written for solo cello and accompaniment (contrabass, string quartet, mixed voices and tenor sopilka), loosely based on sacred and folkloric motifs of Carpathian and Eastern Orthodox traditions. Combining raw elements of the past with a unique Western instrument, the cello, the work weaves both traditions together, reflecting and reconciling two distinct emotions within human experience – joy and sadness.

This recording has received support from the Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Records, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Taras Shevchenko Foundation.

Bright Sadness will be available at



www.tendershoot.com and retail stores.

Mr. Lozowchuk has composed and produced music for film and television, as well as for various musical albums. His music and film work has aired on CBC, RDI, WTN, SCN, Lviv Television and Ukrainian National Television, and has been performed by principal players of the Quebec Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Lozowchuk has received numerous awards both for his music and film projects, including a Canada Council for the Arts Grant for Music Composition (2002), and a DuMaurier Arts Award (2001) for his film "Anna's Wedding."

For more information readers may contact: Oleksa Lozowchuk and Tendershoot Productions, 514-998-8353; e-mail, info@tendershoot.com; website, www.tendershoot.com.

Two new CDs by Volyn ensemble

TORONTO – Ablaze Productions Corp. has announced the release of two new compact discs by the Volyn Ukrainian Song and Dance Company of Lutsk, Ukraine. It's their first release since their top rated two discs recorded some 10 years ago.

Those who know the group from its live performances during its North American Tour of 1999 will attest to the glorious sound they project. Volyn's artistic director, Olexander Stadnyk, decided to create a new sound that caresses the soul and inspires an evolution of the Ukrainian folk song.

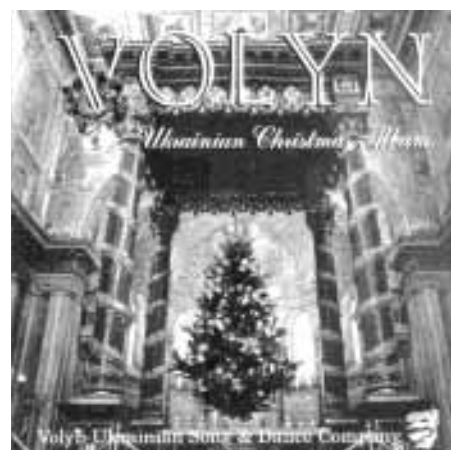
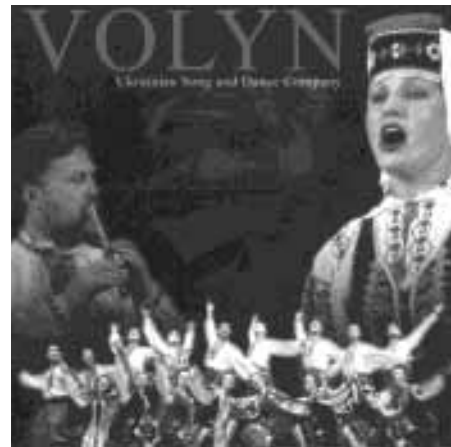
The first CD, "Volyn," includes 20 newly interpreted numbers. Backed by a powerful orchestra, the songs take listeners on an emotional journey, at times sentimental, but mostly upbeat.

The second CD, "Volyn, Ukrainian Christmas Album" comprises Ukrainian carols and schedrivky, most, except for a few standards, new to listeners.

These recordings are the first step in preparation for a global tour by the Volyn Ukrainian Song and Dance Company, which is slated to come to North America in late August to kick off celebrations of Ukraine's Independence Day.

The tour's organizer, Ablaze Productions, produced the North America Tour for the Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company and arranged the broadcasts of "Virsky, The Spirit of Ukraine" on PBS and other TV networks.

To order a copy of one or both of the



releases, readers may log on to www.ukrainianmusic.net, call 416-521-9555 or e-mail leo@ablazeshow.com.

In Canada, single CDs cost \$19.95 (plus 15 percent PST and GST); in the United States, each disc costs \$14.95. Please add \$3.50 (Canadian) or \$2.50 (U.S.) for shipping.

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Sylvan Koltyk's "Winds of Ukraine"

LIVONIA, Mich. – "Sylvan Koltyk and the Winds of Ukraine Orchestra" is a newly released CD spotlighting Ukrainian music dressed up in big band style, with sophisticated harmonies and voicings.

The disc features seven first-rate musicians, all of whom have toured and performed with major bands around the country, including Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller and the Four Freshmen. Among their credits as jazz musicians is participation in the famed Montreaux Jazz Festival in Detroit and the Schoolcraft Jazz Festival in Livonia. The band leader and music arranger for the group is Sylvan Koltyk.

The CD offers 15 selections – all rendered in big band style – that range from Ukrainian folk music to a Ukrainian "Hustle," and conclude with a "Mnohaya Lita" featuring only wind instruments. Four of the selections include vocals: three in Ukrainian and one in English.

Each instrumentalist is a full-time professional musician and teacher, with music degrees from major institutions. Among them are David Jennings, Wally Duda, Greg Koltyk, Paul Onachuk, Dan Maslanka, Rich Kowalewski and John Rutherford.

Four of the musicians – Messrs. Greg Koltyk, Onachuk, Maslanka and Rutherford – are currently playing a six-week run, in Detroit, of the Broadway musical production, "The Producers,"



and a month ago playing a two-week run of "Sound of Music," also in Detroit.

Among the 17 instruments used in the recording are the following: soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxophones; clarinet, bass clarinet, flute, piccolo, English horn, flugel horn, trumpet, trombone, bass, drums, percussion, accordion and piano.

"The Winds of Ukraine" recording is a follow up to the earlier "Ukrainian Favorites" CD produced in 1994.

"Winds of Ukraine" is available from the Montreal-based Yevshan Corp., (800) 265-9858; or from Mr. Koltyk, (734) 522-1152.

The Sylvan Koltyk Orchestra, whose engagements are predominantly on the Michigan country club society circuit, is also known for its vast repertoire of ethnic music, primarily Polish, German and Italian.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Ed Olczyk accepts no-win coaching job

Heading into the current 2003-2004 National Hockey League campaign, the top priority for the Pittsburgh Penguins club is staying under budget. Sad to say, it is not one of the typical organizational goals like, say, winning the Stanley Cup, challenging for the divisional title, making the playoffs or even improving upon the previous year's performance. Nay, strictly adhering to tight financial constraints is the team's mission. And maintaining expenses becomes even more key when one recognizes the reality of limited box office receipts. Icing a team down to bare bones, owner/superstar Mario Lemieux has little choice but to throw the fans another year of himself along with a rookie coach to the wolves.

So negligible are expectations of a Penguins bustout, it probably doesn't even matter who runs the bench. But now that it's 1983 again, with this franchise coming full circle to endangerment, it does seem somewhat curious that General Manager Craig Patrick is reinventing the wheel.

The same GM who brought Pittsburgh the NHL's first coach who didn't speak English, Ivan Hlinka, now presents the first one in a long time without a second of coaching experience. Ed Olczyk is being given a broken down team without having once in his life having broken down a period of videotape God or Herb Brooks help him, which isn't going to happen now. (Long-time coach Herb Brooks passed away earlier this summer in an automobile accident) "Herbie would have been support 24 hours a day," concedes Eddie O, so now the betting is he won't last even the 24 hours predicted by coaches who have prepared for years in the juniors and the minors for an NHL opportunity like this they may never get.

"You feel for them, but nobody felt for me when I was looking for a job after my last couple years with Chicago," Olczyk said. "When you (criticize a choice) publicly, there are 29 other teams listening. It's better to be seen and not heard."

"Only my wife and just a few people knew I've wanted to become a coach. I didn't feel the need to self-promote, just asked the right people, Lou Lamoriello and Craig, for advice. When the dust (of ex-Penguins coach Rick Kehoe's reassignment) settled, I left Craig a message that I would like to apply for any coaching position under the Penguin umbrella.

"I always tried to help young players. I enjoyed it especially at the end of my career, when I hardly played. Craig and I talked about different things and he said 'What do you want to do?' Never in my life have I wished I would have done or said something, I've always shot for the top. So I said 'I want to apply for the head coaching job.'

"Larry Dierker, Bob Brenly, Buck Martinez made these moves. In basketball, eight or nine guys have. Years ago in hockey - Al Arbour, Bob Pulford - it happened quite a bit."

It happened until expansion spread talent to the point where systems became more effective than players. But the price for this neophyte is right, so time will tell about Patrick's intuition.

"Sometimes you just get a feeling," said the GM. "When I coached Eddie, he made a number of comments on the bench that helped me. He has tremendous rapport with the media and is into teaching, really energetic about this group."

Energy is what a team that has Mario (out injured with a bad hip), Rico Fata, Alexsei Morozov, and not much else needs most. Since there are few favorable match-

ups a coach can find with a roster like this, Olczyk's real work will be making minor leaguers feel like big leaguers.

"I would never say 'hi' to two players and not look at another two," he said. "We want people to feel good about themselves. I can snap with the best of them, and just may have a smile on my face when I'm doing it."

He sounds like a lot of ex-players who naively try to be the coach for whom they always wanted to play. They learn the hard way while we learn whether they can make decisions, keep searching for ways to make players better instead of taking their underachievement personally.

We don't know how many games Olczyk will have to win to earn the opportunity to put his mistakes to use in a next coaching job. We do know the prime requisite for this one is keeping the Penguins' enthusiasm up. If he gets them to play hard, Olczyk could end up being as good a choice as any.

This rookie Ukrainian coach must keep a very young inexperienced team loose in what already shapes up as a very trying season.

Gretzky back at helm for Canada

Canada's inspirational leader at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics is back in the manager's seat for the 2004 World Cup. The first piece of business Executive Director Wayne Gretzky wants to complete is push back the naming of Canada's initial roster from February 1, 2004, to June.

"I worry that the players who don't get picked will be disappointed," Gretzky said. "You don't want that affecting their teams in the playoffs."

Gretzky and Hockey Canada will lobby the NHL and NHL Players' Association to

move back the tentative date in which at least 18 of the 26 players are named. The eight-nation World Cup will be played August 30 to September 14, 2004, in North American and European venues.

Gretzky will again be assisted by Edmonton GM Kevin Lowe and Vancouver Assistant GM Steve Tambellini in player personnel decisions. A coach has not yet been named.

Hrkac signed to Preds' prospects

It did not make many headlines, even in the Predators' hometown of Nashville, but team officials believe signing free agent center Tony Hrkac could be very important to the long-term success of the franchise.

The 37-year-old veteran of 758 NHL games was assigned to Milwaukee of the American Hockey League and immediately given the role of mentor to some of the team's forward prospects. Already on the Admirals' roster this season were 35-year-old goalie Wade Flaherty and reigning Eddie Shore Trophy winner (AHL defenseman of the year) Curtis Murphy, who had similar duties regarding their respective positions.

"We like what we're seeing in Milwaukee from a mentoring standpoint," said Nashville GM David Poile. "Some of our best prospects are on the wings and a veteran center should be helpful in their development."

Salajko hopeful in new battle

Jeff Salajko's hockey career has come to an end. These days, the long-time ECHL goaltender only hopes his life is just beginning. This past summer, doctors at the Mayo Clinic began testing Salajko for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a debilitating and eventually fatal condition known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Salajko, 28, first realized something was wrong when he joined the Toledo Storm for the ECHL playoffs last March. A few months later, Salajko could barely climb stairs. His muscles would regularly twitch

and go into spasms. That's when the possibility of ALS was first mentioned.

"Hockey had been No. 1 my entire life; it's all I've ever done," said Salajko to the Toledo Blade. "But I had to realize, I may have had my last chance."

There is some good news - doctors believe he may have Benign Fasciculation Syndrome, a disorder with many of the same symptoms of ALS, but not life-threatening or as debilitating. The Kitchener, Ontario, native will have more tests before the end of the year.

"You don't realize how much you take your health for granted until you get a scare," said Salajko, a 1993 draft selection of the San Jose Sharks. Salajko makes his home in Jacksonville, Fla., with his wife, Karen.

UKRAINIAN UTTERINGS: The Chicago Blackhawks took the "interim" tag off GM Bob Pulford November 5, naming him the full-time replacement for Mike Smith, who was fired October 24. The team also announced the dismissal of assistant GM Nick Beverley, as well as director of player evaluation Marshall Johnston and director of amateur scouting Bill Lesuk ... After impressing in an NHL audition during the second half of last season, Carolina left winger Ryan Bayda earned himself an early season call-up to the Hurricanes with strong play in the American Hockey League. Bayda is advertised as a smart, versatile winger who is equally adept in a scoring or checking role ... On the heels of a losing streak in which his team was heavily outscored, Pittsburgh coach Ed Olczyk put his team through an intense two-hour skate. When asked why two hours, he replied, "That's all the time we had booked." ... Maple Leafs' rookie center Matt Stajan missed a November game against Anaheim because of the death of his grandfather ...

(Above quotes courtesy of Jay Greenberg, David Boicclair, Rob Mueller and The Hockey News.)

USCAK soccer squad competes in British tournament

by Andrij Panas

STOCKPORT, England - A soccer team representing the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK), traveled to Stockport, England, to compete in the 2003 Peter Madytsch Memorial Five-a Side Tournament. The tournament has traditionally comprised Ukrainian clubs from the United Kingdom, however, this year an invitation was extended to the United States through the president of the Krylati Sports Club (Yonkers, N.Y.), Mark Howansky, who became the key coordinator of the trip.

"USCAK Select" joined 14 other teams in the competition and was represented by players from three clubs: Levko Holubec (Lviv Ukrainian American Sports Club, Ohio), Mark Howansky and Lena Howansky (Krylati) and Roman Holowinsky, Hryts Serheev and Andrij Panas (Chornomorska Sitch, New Jersey).

The team performed well in the first round of competition play, finishing third in its group and advancing to the elimination stage of the tournament. The team came up short in the quarterfinals and had to watch as Manchester "B" led by player/coach Slavko Mikosowski took first place with a convincing 6-1 victory over Manchester "A," in the championship match. Stockport "C" took third place to round out the top three teams.

In addition to participating in the tournament the members of USCAK Select were able to take in sightseeing afforded to them in London, Manchester and Nottingham, where they were welcomed with open arms by the local Ukrainian community. The team's stay in Nottingham was especially memorable as the team members were taken in by families of Ukrainian descent and

treated with the hospitality that only a Ukrainian family in any country can give.

The highlight of the trip, however, was the Champions League Match between Arsenal and Kyiv Dynamo featured at Highbury Stadium in London. USCAK Select joined thousands of other Dynamo fans, most of whom wore embroidered shirts Dynamo jerseys and scarves, who emphatically waved blue-and-yellow flags, cheered and sang throughout the entire match. Even with Arsenal's 1-0 victory, the Ukrainian spirit ran high as echoes of the "Dy-na-mo"

chant could be heard through the streets and subways of London long into the night.

Throughout the trip, new Ukrainian friends were gained, existing relationships strengthened, and club and association alliances made, in the hopes of uniting the Ukrainian community here and abroad. Plans are already under way for Dynamo, a U.K.-based soccer team made up of players of Ukrainian descent to revisit the United States, as well as for USCAK Select to make a bid for the Peter Madytsch Memorial Cup again next year.



Members of the USCAK team that traveled to England: (front row, from left) Roman Holowinsky, Lena Howansky, Mark Howansky (back row), Levko Holubec, Andrij Panas and Hryts Serheev.

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Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!**

Roma Lisovich

with children Kira & Lesyk Myskiw



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of Ukrainian community organizations,
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друзів і колег
радісною колядкою
і щирими побажаннями
всього найкращого в 2004 році!*

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that keep well into 2004!*

*And thank you, our dear readers,
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and continuous support
of our efforts
at The Ukrainian Weekly.*

*Roma Hadzewycz
Roman Woronowycz
Andrew Nynka
Ika Kozmarska Casanova
Awilda Rolon*

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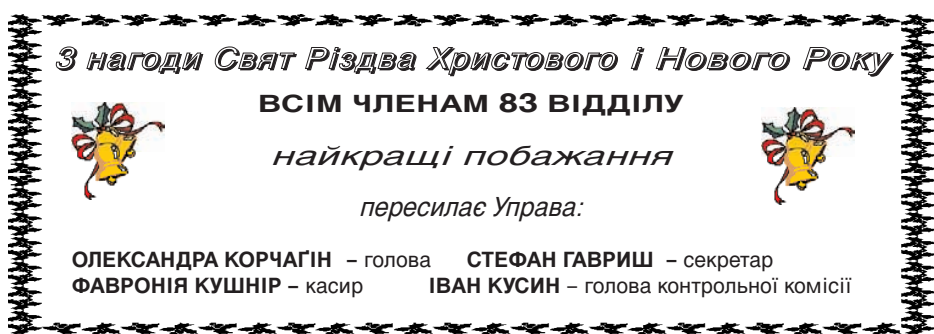
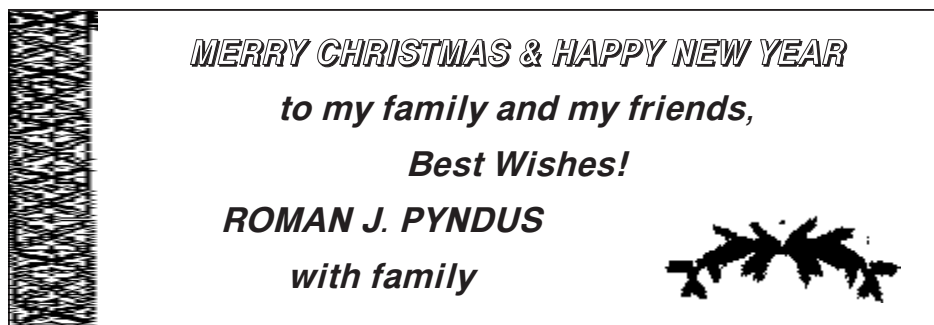
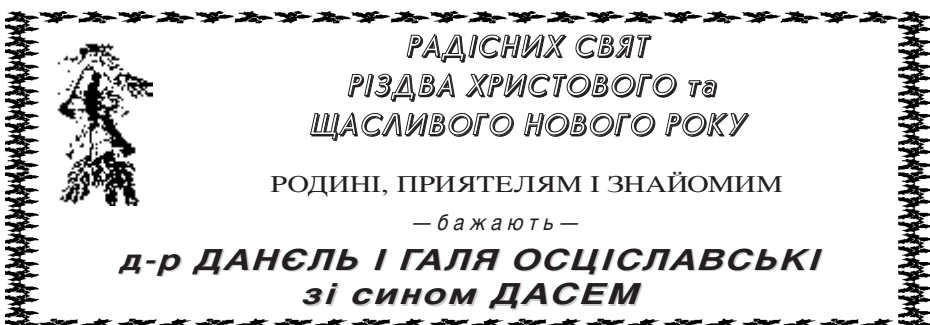
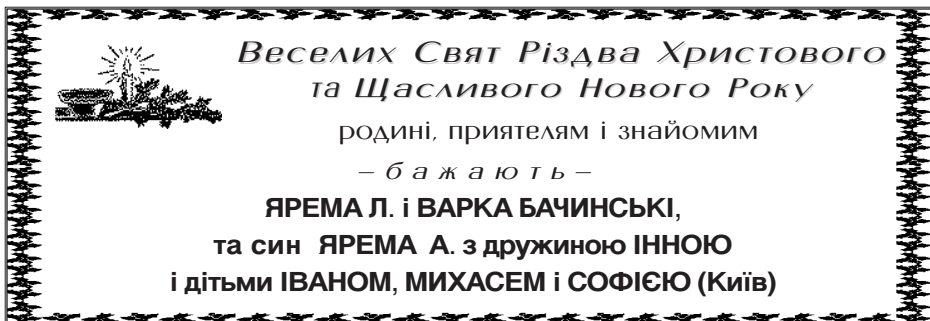
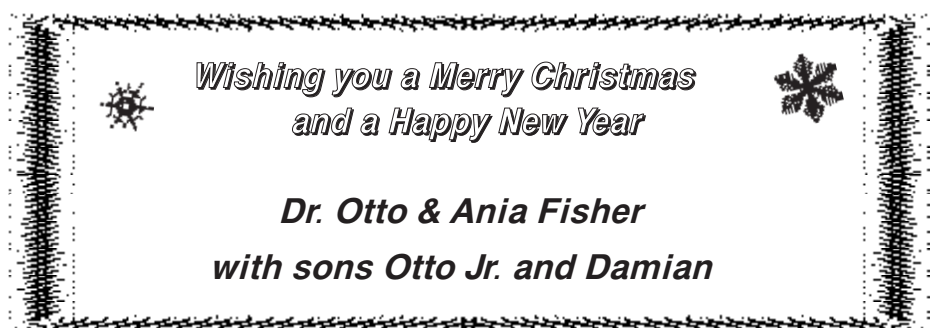
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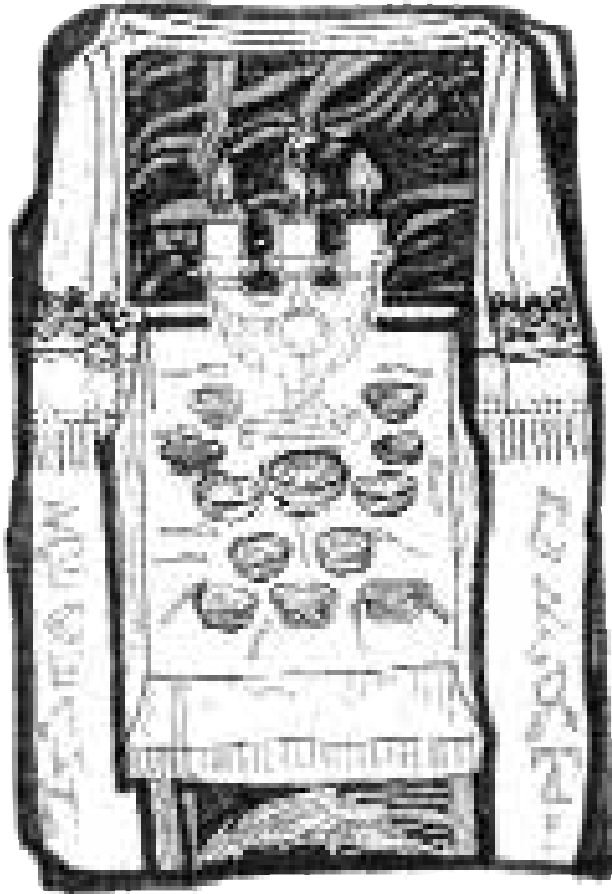
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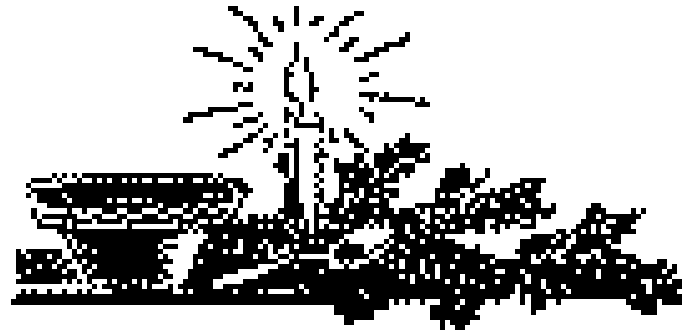
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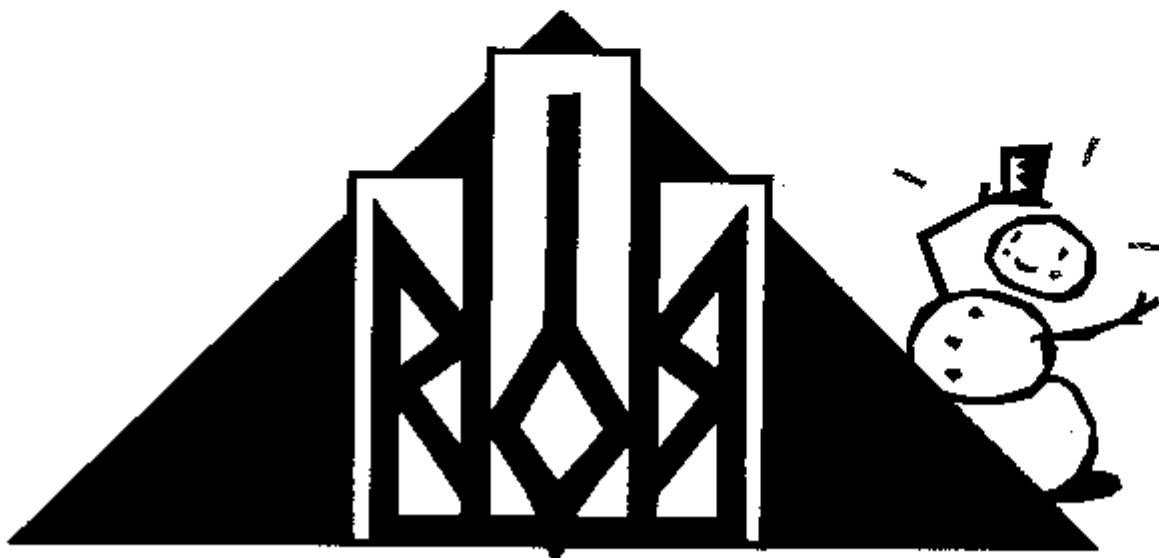
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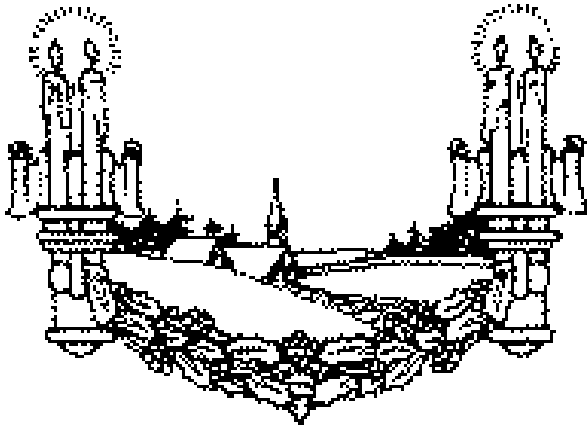
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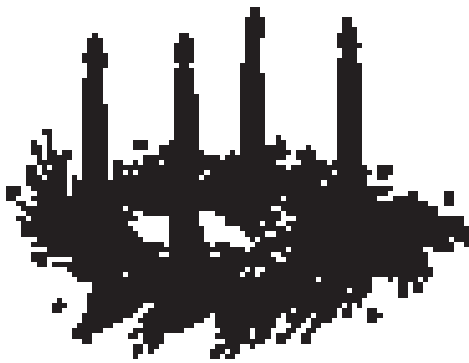
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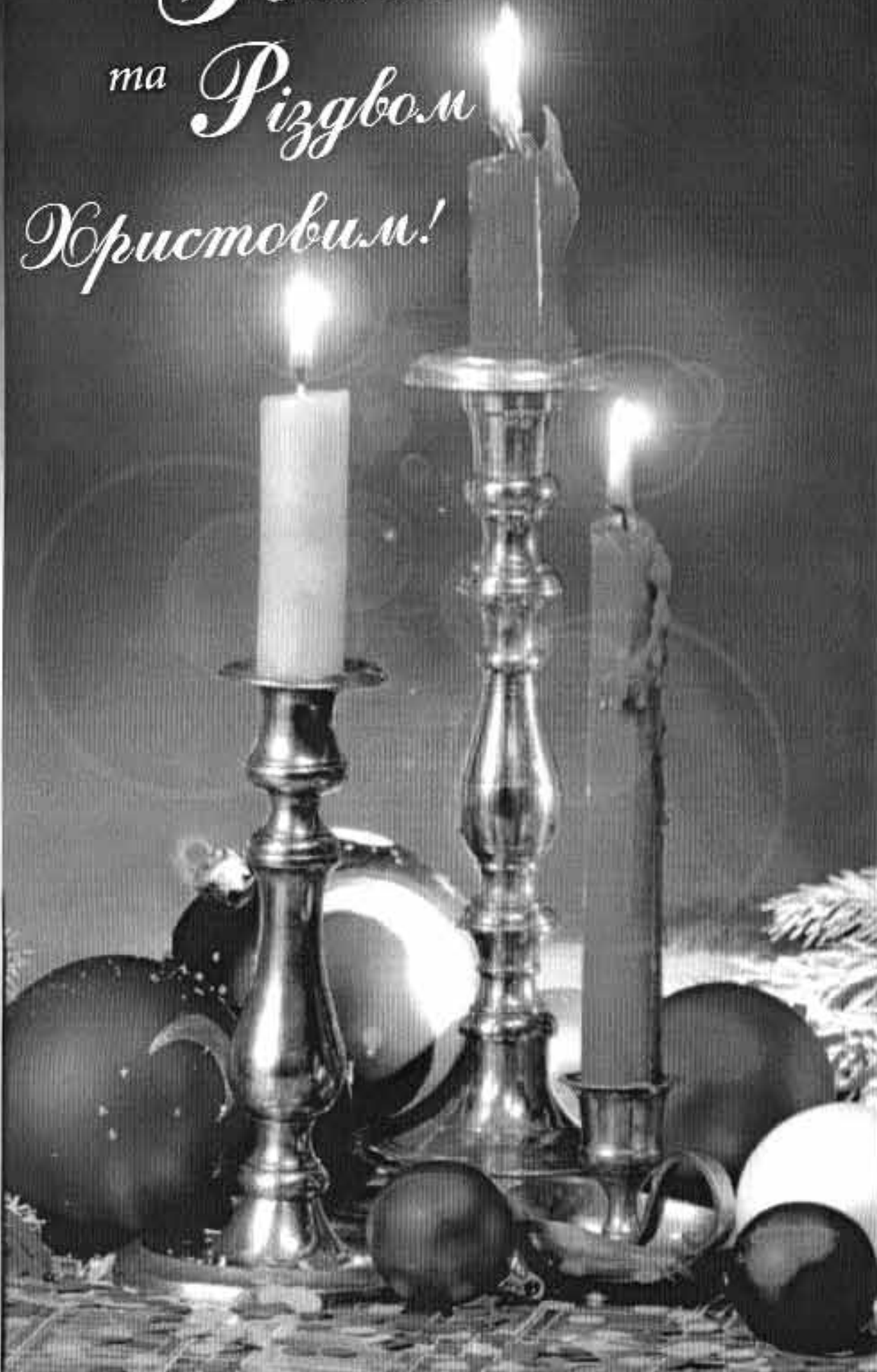


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Which way...

(Continued from page 2)

of buying time. It did not, however, stop debate and speculation in and outside Ukraine. An interview by the new U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, John Herbst, (carried by the Zerkalo Nedeli website) and some "off-the-record" remarks by a U.S. Embassy official were interpreted by the media into a supposed commitment by Chevron to purchase oil delivered to Brody via the pipeline. (The U.S. Embassy subsequently put out a denial, but belief in the commitment continued to circulate in Ukraine.)

In Kazakstan, which is keen to use the pipeline to transport its oil to Europe), Foreign Minister Qasymzhomart Toqayev and President Nursultan Nazarbaev stressed that the Odesa-Brody pipeline and its extension to the Polish port of Gdansk is a top priority in Kazak-Ukrainian relations. And at the EU-Ukraine summit in late October, the issue of the pipeline was raised again, with the EU delegates warning against "reverse flow."

Then, in the last days of November, several weeks before the expected announcement on the feasibility study, the Ukrainian government acted. The timing may have been fortuitous (international agreements, even ones that have long been discussed, cannot be drawn up overnight). However, recent events must have strengthened the hand of those favoring the "Western" option.

The current investigation into Russia's Yukos oil company has put a question mark on the future of all other Russian oil companies. The nationwide commemoration on November 22 of the Ukrainian victims of the Famine-Genocide of 1933 (deliberately created by Stalin to subdue Ukrainian resistance to the Soviet system) inevitably stirred old fears of Russia. And the "Rose Revolution" in Georgia evoked pointed suggestions from Ukrainian opposition activists that President Kuchma should follow the example of Eduard Shevardnadze and resign his presidency early. All factors that made the decision on the pipeline enhance the "Western-looking" image of the Ukrainian government, while still leaving their ultimate option open.

Sen. Campbell..

(Continued from page 13)

ing scope of corruption and the rule of law deficit in Ukraine today. While the matter was repeatedly raised by the State department several years ago, I am concerned that the Ukrainian side might assume that the matter is a closed case. I urge officials at the departments of State and Commerce to disabuse Ukrainian government officials of such an impression.

If the Kuchma administration is serious about rooting out corruption and advancing democracy and the rule of law, these cases provide a good starting point. Only time will tell if they are up to the challenge.



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

court said the president of Ukraine enjoys immunity from prosecution, meaning that no criminal proceedings may be instigated against the president during his or her term in office. The court also concluded that impeachment, which is essentially a non-judicial procedure, is the only way the Ukrainian president may be held accountable for misdeeds. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Soviet-era residency permits abolished

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 11 passed a law “on the freedom of movement and free choice of residence” to replace the Soviet-era system of residency permits (propysky) with a more liberal residence-registration system, Interfax reported. Under the new regime, individuals are obliged to register a change of residence within 10 days following their arrival at a new address, requiring the submission to an appropriate registration office of a written statement, a passport, tax documents and a certificate showing that the previous registration has been canceled. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada to check funding of NGOs

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 10 voted 289-5 to set up an ad hoc commission to investigate the legality of “foreign interference in financing election campaigns in Ukraine through non-governmental organizations [NGOs] that are supported by foreign states’ grants,” Interfax reported. The Our Ukraine and Socialist Party parliamentary caucuses did not take part in the vote. The commission consists of 13 lawmakers and is headed by Valerii Mishura from the Communist Party. A draft bill to set up the commission was prepared by Petro Symonenko (Communist Party), Ihor Sharov (Labor Ukraine), Valerii Pustovoitenko (National Democratic Party), Yulia Tymoshenko (Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc) and Mykola Hapochka (People’s Choice). According to a survey by the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center, foreign grants account for 58 percent of the budget of nearly 100 non-governmental “analytical centers” in Ukraine. Major foreign providers of grants to Ukrainian NGOs include the Renaissance Foundation (the Soros Fund in Ukraine), Freedom House, the Poland-America-Ukraine Cooperation Initiative, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the National Endowment for Democracy, and the World Bank, according to Interfax. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian journalist found hanged

MELITOPOL – Volodymyr Karachevtsev, an Internet reporter and the head of an independent journalists’ union in Melitopol, Zaporizhia Oblast, was found hanged from the handle of his refrigerator on December 14, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported on December 16, citing the vlasti.net website for which Mr. Karachevtsev worked. “Forensic experts found that death was due to mechanical asphyxia caused by hanging,” the website reported. “We have a lot of questions. First, the wife of the deceased said Volodymyr’s death was not accidental. Second, it is not clear how an adult ... could be hanged on the handle of a refrigerator.” Local police are investigating the incident. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Deputy’s house fire cited as suspicious

KYIV – The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc has appealed to the Procurator-General’s Office, the Internal Affairs Ministry and the Security Service of Ukraine to investigate the circumstances under which Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc National Deputy Yevhen Kyrylchuk’s house and car caught fire in Lutsk, northwestern Ukraine, on December 15, Interfax reported. The appeal calls the fire an “act of political terror,” adding that it took place after Mr. Kyrylchuk convinced a public forum in Lutsk to oppose proposed constitutional amendments that would allow the Verkhovna Rada, rather than voters, to choose Ukraine’s next president. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Cabinet recommends a week off

KYIV – The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers on December 17 recommended that Ukrainian businesses, institutions, and organizations make the week of January 1-7, 2004, an official holiday, thus allowing people to celebrate the New Year and Christmas freely (Christmas falls on January 7 in accordance with the Julian calendar), UNIAN reported, citing Vice Prime Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv accepts loan to fight AIDS

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma accepted a \$60 million World Bank loan on Wednesday to fight AIDS and tuberculosis in Ukraine, which is the epicenter of the AIDS epidemic in Eastern Europe. Ukraine has the highest HIV infection rate in the region. An estimated 500,000 people – 1 percent of the population – are infected. The Health Ministry of Ukraine said that more than 60,000 Ukrainians are officially registered as HIV-positive, but the United Nations estimates the actual infection rates to be 10 times higher. Tuberculosis cases in Ukraine have doubled in recent years to almost 700,000, and the death rate from the disease is mounting, Interfax reported. Ukraine’s post-Soviet economic meltdown and the degradation of its state-run health care system have contributed to the spread of both diseases. (Associated Press)

Ukraine arrives...

(Continued from page 10)

and youth of Ukraine, in the name of NCW/Ukraine and the Ukrainian government, issued a formal invitation to the ICW Executive Committee and proposed that the 2006 ICW General Assembly be held in Kyiv. The invitation was enthusiastically accepted.

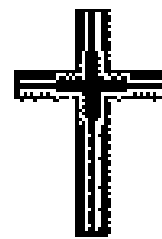
Among the delegates representing NCW/US was this writer, the current president of the UNWLA, the United Nations liaison for the International Council of Women and proxy president of the National Council of Women/US.

For Mrs. Kurowyckj and other UNWLA members attending the General Assembly, it was a significant moment. A mission begun so long ago had been accomplished. Ukrainian women, long oppressed and long dependent on representation by the UNWLA at such international events, were finally representing themselves. Ukraine’s National Council of Women, chosen to host the 2006 ICW General Assembly, had truly arrived.

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Chicago's UIMA honors benefactors



CHICAGO – The Friend of the Institute Award Dinner honored four benefactors of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) on October 4. The four honorees were Dr. Marian Demus, Drs. Lidia and Jurij Procyk, and Dr. Myron Wojtowycz. This annual event at the UIMA has become an important tradition which gives recognition to individuals who give financial support to the Institute.

“Connections:...

(Continued from page 14)

group shows, including another Studio Montclair exhibit titled “Heartstrings” at the Clifton Arts Center in Clifton, N.J., and the Annual Members’ Show at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit, N.J.

This spring the Members Gallery at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts was the host for her large solo exhibit showcasing two years of evolution in her work titled “Trans-Morphologies: Evolving Artwork of Alexandra Isaievych.”

Accompanying the “Connections” exhibit is a full-color catalogue, with a page dedicated to each artist. The catalogue includes letters of greeting from the mayors of Graz and Montclair, Siegfried Nagl and Robert Russo, respectively; and the director of the Montclair State University Galleries, Theresa Rodriguez; as well as an essay by Ms. Shevchenko.

Ms. Shevchenko, an independent curator and freelance art writer, as well as occasional teacher in the field of art history, is currently doing graduate work at Hunter College.

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Visiting Ottawa...

(Continued from page 1)

the Constitutional Court gave its approval to the bill's wording.

A blonde-haired and youthful-looking 43-year-old, Ms. Tymoshenko spent nearly two hours delivering her remarks, translated into English, and fielding questions from the audience. Among the issues: Ukraine's ongoing conflict with Russia over Tuzla Island (she wouldn't hand over "a single centimetre of Ukrainian land to Russia"), and the flow of culture and talent out of the country (she'd staunch that drain).

She also expressed her deep commitment to both a free and transparent electoral process and press, both of which she said have become mired in corruption.

Indeed, Ms. Tymoshenko herself is no stranger to such charges. A leading light in Ukraine's nascent private sector, the Dnipropetrovsk-born economist led United Energy Systems of Ukraine, (UESU) once the country's largest oil and gas trading company, in the mid-1990s. During that time, she built a reputation as Ukraine's "gas baroness" and amassed a fortune to become, as some have said, a "billionairess."

According to her website (www.tymoshenko.com), she also cleared Ukraine's massive natural gas-related debt to Russia; almost doubled Ukrainian industrial imports to Russia; and "renewed" Ukraine's international business ties in machine building and housing construction.

Presumably, Ms. Tymoshenko expected to use the same kind of broom that swept in change on the economic front to sweep in political reform when she entered politics and was elected a member of the Verkhovna Rada in 1998 and chosen to head its budget committee.

Yet a brief stint as vice prime minister

in Mr. Yushchenko's Cabinet, when she "took unprecedented steps to decriminalize the backbone of Ukraine's economy, fuel and energy sector," ended when President Kuchma fired her in early 2001.

Ms. Tymoshenko blamed financial and industrial "lobbyists," who took a financial hit when her reforms ended their shadow economies, for her dismissal.

In February of that year, after she had called for President Kuchma's political head over accusations of corruption, abuse of power and alleged involvement in the 2000 murder of journalist and Ukrainska Pravda founder Heorhii Gongadze, Ms. Tymoshenko was arrested on what would become a series of charges laid against her in Ukraine and Russia.

Among those charges: bribery and customs violations, which were also laid against her husband, Oleksander, a former director of UESU; tax evasion; embezzling funds from the purchase of Russian natural gas; conspiracy to organize a fraud; and abuse of power as a government minister.

Both were detained by authorities as a seemingly endless cycle began during which charges were dropped and new ones introduced, including new allegations this year that Ms. Tymoshenko paid former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko (who faces his own legal problems with charges of money laundering) a bribe to give IESU a monopoly and create "favorable conditions" for its financial and economic operations on the gas market, according to prosecutor Andriy Khochunskyi.

In the meantime, Ms. Tymoshenko has fought to clear her name from what she considers to be a state-sanctioned smear campaign against her, only to find her detractors calling her "fascist."

But in the blood sport that is Ukrainian politics, Ms. Tymoshenko should not pay

much heed to such labels, according to one of her high-profile allies. Former Ukrainian Justice Minister Serhii Holovaty, who with fellow Tymoshenko Bloc member and Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party founder Stepan Khmara attended the Ottawa lecture, told the crowd that Mr. Yushchenko was called the same by opponents who derailed Our Ukraine's convention in Donetsk this past fall.

"Two years ago, our bloc was called 'fascist.' This year it's Yushchenko and his bloc," said Mr. Holovaty, who explained that Mr. Yushchenko, as prime minister, signed a statement with President Kuchma "naming us fascists."

Still, 49-year-old Mr. Holovaty, one of the key architects of the Constitution of Ukraine, said in English: "This is the time for us to be together. I want to be in a single united front of Ukrainian patriots adhering to ideals of democracy and working together."

Despite reports that she would avoid contacts with journalists, she consented to an interview with Radio Canada International's Ukrainian-language service to reach listeners in Ukraine, where her views aren't easily conveyed in a government-controlled media environment.

A bright, highly articulate speaker, Ms. Tymoshenko needed little effort to capture the attention of her Ottawa audience, given the frequent applause that punctuated her address.

While she expressed no ambitions for the presidency, she made it clear that the incumbent has got to go.

Referring to Georgia's recent "velvet revolution" that led to Eduard Shevardnadze's ouster as president, she said the anti-Kuchma opposition is poised for similar change. "I'd like to assume that Ukrainian blood is no colder than Georgian blood," she stated.

Sochynsky's...

(Continued from page 15)

obscure any particular association, as they hover hauntingly, reminding us of the often surreal juxtaposition of images found in her monumental works. In these works she seems to be exploring a personal shorthand.

Through the use of simple recurring shapes and interrelationships – Ms. Sochynsky continues to develop her own undeciphered mythology.

Ms. Sochynsky's exhibition at the Ukrainian Institute of America opened December 5 and will run through January 31. To see more of the artist's current work, readers may log on to <http://www.ilonasochynsky.com>.

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Victor Malarek...

(Continued from page 3)

throughout the world, foreign "prostitutes" – or victims, as Mr. Malarek prefers to call them – are rounded up and charged. For the most part, the authorities don't treat these women as victims of crime; they are regarded simply as illegal immigrants. No attempt is made to determine whether they were trafficked. They are processed for immigration or labor violations and deported as quickly as possible. In many of the sending countries, in spite of the fact that the trafficked women are local and the recruiters are local, the attitude is "out of sight, out of mind." This complacency plays directly into the hands of organized crime, Mr. Malarek emphasizes.

According to an Israeli human rights lawyer quoted in the book, "The attitude of Israeli society in general and Israeli authorities in particular to the issue of trafficking in women is tainted by indifference, prejudice and ignorance, thus making trafficking a profitable and risk-free business."

Why does trafficking exist? Although there are massive profits to be made for trafficking women into prostitution, the sex trade also relies on the hypocrisy of society. "In 1995, 50,000 NATO peacekeepers marched into Bosnia to restore law and order. A number of Serbian fighters were rounded up, charged with rape and sent to stand trial for war crimes. But in the peacetime that followed, thousands of women and girls – abducted from Eastern Europe and forced to work as sex slaves in the bars and brothels became fair game for the thousands of U.N. peacekeepers and international aid workers who poured into the region. The irony is ugly," Mr. Malarek concludes.

Mr. Malarek quotes the police commander of the Tel Aviv district who said, in 2001, "There are now about 200,000 foreign workers and tens of thousands of Palestinians living in the Tel Aviv area. What can you do? They simply need sex services." But, according to an Israeli human rights lawyer, "This claim borders on the ridiculous, since the prostitutes themselves claim that ... the biggest users are Israeli men, then Arab men and then migrant workers ... In the north part of Tel Aviv, the biggest group of Israelis frequenting the brothels are the religious men."

Others play the charity card – "These chicks are poor and I'm helping to feed their families" – which Mr. Malarek calls the absolute height of hypocrisy. "The actions of these global sex prowlers are directly responsible for the explosion in the trafficking of women and girls."

Mr. Malarek describes some attempts to deal with the problem. He writes about people, like the Canadian police officer Gordon Moon who signed up in June 2000 to work as an international cop for the United Nations in Kosovo. He formed the Trafficking and Prostitution Investigation Unit and raids of flesh pits began. Mr. Moon is quoted as saying that 95 percent of the women and girls pulled out of those places were trafficked. He writes about the work of LaStrada – a nongovernmental organization in Kyiv dedicated to fighting trafficking – and how it affected the rescue of a woman trafficked in Montenegro, where a Serb and his Ukrainian wife had invited a group of Ukrainian women to work as waitresses at their restaurant but sold them to a nightclub owner. But such investigations and rescue attempts are on an individual basis. Broader initiatives

(Continued on page 45)



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Victor Malarek...

(Continued from page 44)

are usually thwarted by corruption or politics.

Mr. Malarek describes what happened to the Victims of Trafficking and the Violence Protection Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in October 2000 which, he says, was heralded as a hopeful sign that the United States would use its power and influence to coerce complacent and complicit governments into action against trafficking. One of the sticks was the publication of annual State Department reports on how countries were dealing with the problem of trafficking and ranking them into three tiers: Tier 1 was for nations fully compliant with the minimum standards; Tier 2 for those who were making significant effort; and the infamous Tier 3 for those who were not even trying. Beginning in 2003, countries in Tier 3 would be subject to economic sanctions.

In the first year, 23 countries ended up in Tier 3 including Greece, Russia, South Korea and Israel – the United States' major ally in the Middle East. This was seen as a signal that the U.S. was serious about the issue. But after the first report, Mr. Malarek writes, "cell phones started ringing all over Washington" and by the third report in 2003, when sanctions were to kick in, Russia, South Korea and Israel had all managed to jump out of Tier 3, with South Korea where, the U.S. was reminded, it had a hundred military bases, pole-vaulting from Tier 3 to Tier 1 in a single year.

By 2003, the only countries that were still in Tier 3 were (except for Greece) of no significant interest to the United States. Undersecretary Paula Dobriansky appeared before the House Committee on International Relations and said that, in ranking the countries, political considerations were not a factor, Mr. Malarek reports. She claimed that what constitutes significant effort is a judgment call which different people see differently.

Why is trafficking continuing to thrive? The main reason, of course, is

the amount of money to be made out of the sex trade. But there is also the fear of those unwilling to testify while the ones willing to testify find themselves facing cops who are not willing to investigate, Mr. Malarek notes. Women caught in the sex trade live in fear of deportation to their home countries where the contact men who had sent them in the first place wait with open arms.

Mr. Malarek points out that there is a link between legalized prostitution in countries like Germany, the Netherlands and Australia and the trafficking for the sex trade. There are few Dutch women in the brothels of Amsterdam and in Germany, 75 percent of those involved in legal prostitution are foreigners, 80 percent of whom come from Central and Eastern European countries.

Mr. Malarek concludes that "the only thing that will send the thugs involved in trafficking scurrying back into their rat holes is the full force of the law – unwavering prosecution, heavy prison time and confiscation of all profits amassed on the backs of these women. Applying the full force of law is also the only way to get through to the corrupt cops and public officials that enable the trade to thrive."

Robert Conquest...

(Continued from page 1)

acclaimed "Harvest of Sorrow" (1986). He served through World War II in the British infantry and thereafter in His Majesty's Diplomatic Service, being awarded the Order of the British Empire.

Dr. Conquest is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, a fellow of the British Academy, an adjunct fellow of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington and a research associate of Harvard University's Ukrainian Research Institute.

Dr. Conquest is also a poet and novelist, the author of six volumes of poetry and one of literary criticism, a science fiction novel and another novel authored jointly with Kingsley Amis.

In her remarks honoring Dr. Conquest, Prof. Kollmann stated: "In 'Harvest of Sorrow,' Prof. Conquest showed that the Famine that swept across Ukraine and Ukrainian ethnographic territories in the Kuban was a deliberate policy intended to accomplish what the campaign of collectivization in Ukraine had started – that is, the systematic elimination of social classes and national groups who posed a threat to Soviet power. In Ukraine, the target was peasants who rejected communistic collectivization of agriculture and who were regarded as the bedrock supporters of Ukrainian national culture. ... Conquest has put the Famine on the map as one of the most damning episodes in the tragic history of Soviet power."

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41	339.04	61	452.00
42	347.50	62	460.44
43	355.98	63	468.84
44	364.48	64	477.28
45	372.99	65	485.68
46	381.51	66	494.02
47	390.04	67	502.32
48	398.58	68	510.58
49	407.13	69	518.79
50	415.69	70	526.96
51	424.26	71	535.09
52	432.84	72	543.18
53	441.43	73	551.24
54	450.03	74	559.26
55	458.64	75	567.25
56	467.26	76	575.20
57	475.89	77	583.12
58	484.53	78	591.01
59	493.18	79	598.87
60	501.84	80	606.70

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Houston's Ukrainian Americans elect officers, look ahead to 2004

by Eugene A. Kuchta

HOUSTON – The Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston (UACCH) conducted its year end meeting and held its traditional Christmas Party on Saturday, December 6, at the home of Bill and Nicole Dijk.

The main orders of business were the election of the executive board, by-laws changes, acceptance of new members and review of the major objectives for 2004.

Olia Holowka Palmer and Bill Dijk were elected president and treasurer, respectively for a two-year term. They join Helen Filenko, secretary, and Max Vityk, vice-president, as members of the executive board for 2004. Mrs. Palmer and Mr. Dijk replace Oleksander Lytvynchuk and Eugene A. Kuchta, respectively, as they were term-limited.

The UACCH voted to accept 13 new members for 2004 and then passed administrative changes to the by-laws which will best reflect the realities of Houston's Ukrainian community in the year 2004.

Looking forward to 2004 the UACCH has four major objectives: promoting the NASA Space Shuttle Flight, which includes Cmd. Heidi Stefanysyn Piper

(U.S. Navy), continuing its commemoration of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, continuing its support of charitable, educational and humanitarian causes, and groundbreaking on a UACCH building.

With the return of space shuttle flight, the UACCH will promote the journey of Cmdr. Stefanysyn Piper via the Ukrainian and American press. The UACCH looks forward to jointly working with The Ukrainian Weekly in this noteworthy endeavor.

The UACCH looks forward to continuing its successes of previous years in promoting and educating the metropolitan Houston area about the Ukrainian Famine and to maintain its support of worthy causes.

The groundbreaking of the UACCH building will be a historic event for Houston. UACCH has raised most of the funds needed to complete the building prior to the groundbreaking; however, donations are still being accepted. Donations may be sent to: UACCH, P.O. Box 91443, Houston, TX 77291-1443, Attention: Eugene A. Kuchta. Donors will be acknowledged, and, at the time of building completion, a permanent "Donors List" will be displayed in the building foyer.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

December 24

Ukrainian Christmas Eve Dinner, Traditional 12-Course Meal, 6 p.m., \$27.50+per person overnight package available

December 31

New Year's Eve formal banquet and zabava with Tempo, \$85 per person. Overnight packages available. Stay 3 nights 4th night FREE! (see ad for details).

January 6, 2004

Ukrainian Christmas Eve Dinner, Traditional 12-Course Meal, 6 p.m., \$27.50+per person overnight package available

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

Saturday, December 20

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a pre-Christmas literary bazaar, featuring Marta Tarnawska, Dima, Maria Shun, Tamara Hanenko and Vasyl Makhno. The program will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

Saturday, December 27

HORSHAM, Pa.: The Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center, County Line and Lower State 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 Viennese dessert table will be served at midnight. Entertainment will be provided by 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.

Sunday, December 28

NEW YORK: The Verkhovynky Plast sorority invites the general public to their Christmas Bazaar, which will be held at the Self-Reliance Association, 98 Second Ave., (between Fifth and Sixth streets), at 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For sale: home-baked holiday treats – "kolachi," honey cakes, cookies, canapés, kutia and poppy seeds, as well as Christmas ornaments, children's books, Christmas cards and gifts. There will also be a raffle for a basket of cheer. For additional information call (732) 225-6865.

Tuesday, January 6, 2004

HARTFORD, Conn.: The Ukrainian National Home invites members and guests with their families to a Ukrainian Christmas Eve dinner to be held in the main hall at 961 Wethersfield Ave., starting at 6 p.m.

Donation: \$12, adults; \$6, students. Advance tickets only may be purchased from the UNHH office, (860) 296-5702.

Saturday, January 10, 2004

HARTFORD, Conn.: The traditional Ukrainian New Year's Eve dance – Malanka – will be held at the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford 961 Wethersfield Ave., starting at 9 p.m., with dancing to the music of the Halychany Orchestra. Donation: \$20, adults; \$15, students. For table reservations call the SUMA Cooperative Ukrainian Gift Shop, (860) 296-6955.

Saturday, January 17

BOSTON: The Boston Ukrainian community, as represented locally by Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Ukrainian American Heritage Foundation and the Ukrainian American Veterans, is hosting malanka 2004, to be held at Cedars of Lebanon, 61 Rockwood St., Jamaica Plain, Mass., starting at 7:30 p.m. Music will be by Zolota Bulava. Advance purchase tickets (before January 12, 2004): \$30, adults; \$15, youths. Tickets at the door: \$40, adults; \$25, youths. (Appetizers are included in the ticket price). For tickets or information call Ihor Mykyta, (508) 359-8058, or e-mail kosteck-isj46@aol.com.

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 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.

Listings of no more than 100 words (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent a week prior to desired date of publication to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510.



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