



ХРИСТОС РОДИВСЯ! CHRIST IS BORN!

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXXIII

No. 52

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2005

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

World Bank evaluates Ukraine's economic and fiscal policy in 2005

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The Yushchenko government is correct to halt any further reprivatization of valuable assets, but needs to limit government spending, which is now 5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to the World Bank's evaluation of Ukraine's economic and fiscal policy in 2005.

"It is important to provide certainty and stability to investors following a period of protracted uncertainty," said Paul Bermingham, World Bank director for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, in a December 16 statement released at a press conference that day.

"In this regard, the government's stated intention of not proceeding with further reprivatizations is welcome. At the same time, we urge Ukraine to adopt the legislation needed to set clear European-style rules to govern corporate activity," he added.

Such laws include a new joint stock company code, amendments to the law on stock markets and amendments to the law on banks and banking, he said.

While further such efforts aren't necessary, the Kryvorizhstal sale was a critical step toward Ukraine's modernization, said Mark Davis, the World Bank's senior country economist for Ukraine, in the press release. It demonstrated to all investors the benefit of a transparent privatization process, Mr. Davis commented.

"It promises to bring technology, market share, investment and jobs to Ukraine at a time when energy price increases will require technological innovation in heavy industry," he said.

The threat of wide-scale reprivatization and subsequent uncertainty regarding property rights contributed to this year's investment decline, the release said. Other factors were public investment cutbacks and increased tax pressures.

World Bank experts lauded President Viktor Yushchenko's government for "better-than-expected" budget execution.

Increased social spending has been paid for by eliminating most remaining tax privileges and tightened tax collection, the press release said. However, a significant share of the revenue increase came from the value-added tax (VAT) on imports, which is not a stable basis for social spending increases, the release said.

The World Bank supported Ukraine's decision earlier this year to eliminate free economic zones, the release said. Rather than serving the purpose they were created for, they provided large tax loopholes to privileged companies at the expense of taxpayers and investors outside the zones, the release said.

"In particular, it was noted that goods originating in the zones and shipped within Ukraine were often exempt from customs duties," the statement said. "This was unfair to investors outside the zones who had to pay customs duties on imports, and it created potential rent-seeking opportunities for zone administrators."

Eliminating free economic zones won't significantly affect economic growth, Mr. Davis said.

Looking ahead, the World Bank's Ukraine experts emphasized the need for limiting the budget deficit, which Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov recently projected won't be any higher than 2.5 percent of next year's GDP.

"In 2006, the fiscal policy needs to be directed into financing more of fixed and human capital, with limited increases of recurrent spending to keep the budget deficit under control and not to undermine macroeconomic stability," the release said.

The U.S. should follow the European Union and declare Ukraine a market economy, Mr. Davis said, and the Ukrainian government should pass all legislation for World Trade Organization ascension.

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Yekhanurov returns from Moscow without deal for natural gas supplies

by Yana Sedova
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's natural gas crisis escalated after Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov returned from a failed December 19 meeting in Moscow with



Ukrainian Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov answers journalists' questions at a December 20 press conference.

Russian counterpart, Mikhail Fradkov.

At a press conference in Kyiv the next day, President Viktor Yushchenko accused the Russian state-controlled natural gas monopoly, Gazprom, of blackmailing the Ukrainian government.

"You know, one has to be absurd in resolving this problem by resorting to such [methods] ... it's blackmail," Mr. Yushchenko said. "I don't think that authorities from both sides would lower themselves to such tones, to such methods. That is not my policy. I'm not used to solving problems through confrontation."

Rather than pursue further political negotiations, the Ukrainian leadership will turn to the Stockholm International Arbitration Court, Mr. Yekhanurov said at the December 20 press conference.

"We have received no written requests to break the contract so far," he said. "On the contrary, we were assured that the contract would remain intact. I hope we will stay within the limits of these civilized relations in future."

Gazprom triggered the crisis on December 14 when it announced that it would not give Ukraine discounted rates under its current contract and has threatened to cut supplies altogether if new terms aren't reached by January 1.

Ukraine depends on Gazprom for 31 percent of its natural gas supplies. The remainder comes from domestic sources and Turkmenistan.

Showing no flexibility thus far, Gazprom sent the new terms for a bilateral agreement and pricing formula to Kyiv on December 20.

Russia currently provides Ukraine with natural gas at a price of \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters in exchange for transporting it through Ukraine to Europe.

The Putin administration wants to switch to cash payments and more than quadruple the price to between \$220 and \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters, the approximate market rate that wealthier European nations pay.

The Russian government has offered Ukraine another way out of the crisis, expressing interest in a Russian-Ukrainian natural gas consortium that would give it co-ownership of Ukraine's transit pipelines, the Russian daily newspaper Kommersant reported. Under that condition, Russia is ready to limit natural gas price hikes, Kommersant reported.

Mr. Yekhanurov rejected this plan, instead offering to pay market prices for natural gas as part of a gradual shift from barter transactions to cash payments during the next two or three years.

As negotiations remained at an impasse, President Yushchenko prepared Ukrainians for the likelihood of the crisis being unresolved by the January 1 deadline. However, he assured Ukrainians

"Race for the Rada" series promotes interest in 2006 parliamentary elections

by Tamara Gallo Olexy

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – Continuing in the spirit of the Orange Revolution slogan "Razom Nas Bahato" (Together We Are Many), the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Shevchenko Scientific Society, Columbia University Ukrainian Studies Program and the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group (BUG), have joined forces to launch their "Race for the Rada" discussion series, in an effort to generate support for and interest in Ukraine's upcoming parliamentary elections.

The co-sponsoring organizations have chosen a variety of topics to appeal to different interests and tastes enabling participants to obtain a better understanding of the "hot topics" in today's Ukraine and provide an open exchange of ideas in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

The first such event, hosted by the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group (BUG), was held on Thursday, December 15, at the UCCA's National Office. Serving as the evening's MC, Roxy Toporowych, co-founder and board

member of BUG, welcomed the guests to the first Race for the Rada discussion on the topic of the influence of musicians, celebrities and music on the Orange Revolution and during the run-up to the parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

The evening's guest speaker, Dr. Adriana Helbig, an ethnomusicologist, delivered an interesting presentation on "Music and the Orange Revolution: Sounding the Ukrainian Nation." Highlighting how times have changed, Dr. Helbig illustrated a simple comparison of how, prior to the Orange Revolution, it was difficult to find Ukrainian music CDs, while now, for example at the recent international ethnomusicology conference in Atlanta, Ga., the association of Ukraine with rock music has "begun to push Western researchers toward serious analysis of the complex musical and socio-cultural phenomena taking place in Ukraine today."

Commenting on the role of the musicians on the maidan – Kyiv's Independence Square, the focal point of

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ANALYSIS

Parties get down to crucial election campaign

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Ukraine has started its campaign for next year's parliamentary elections. They will be the country's first under a fully proportional, party-list system. And with constitutional reform taking effect on January 1, 2006, they are expected to produce a legislature with much heavier political clout than all the previous ones.

Earlier this month, Ukraine's three most important political forces held conventions to approve their lists of candidates for the March 26, 2006, ballot.

The Party of the Regions, led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, President Viktor Yushchenko's main rival in the 2004 presidential election, approved its list on December 3.

The Party of The Regions now leads in public opinion polls, enjoying the support of around 25 percent of the electorate. A recent simulation by the Kyiv-based Democratic Initiative Fund (DIF) pollster suggests that Mr. Yanukovich's party could count on 165 mandates in the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada.

The pro-presidential Our Ukraine People's Union (OUPU) also put together its election list on December 3.

The OUPU is planning to form an election coalition called the Our Ukraine Yushchenko Bloc with five other parties. It reportedly wants its coalition partners to provide 35 percent of the candidates to be included on a joint election list.

According to opinion polls, the OUPU is currently supported by some 13 percent of voters. That, the FDI says, could translate into 93 parliamentary mandates.

Ukraine's third major political force, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, was able to determine just the 10 top names on its election list at a congress on December 7, pledging to supply the remainder the following week.

The Tymoshenko bloc, which supported Mr. Yushchenko's presidential bid in 2004, will run independently from the Our Ukraine Yushchenko Bloc in 2006, following the sacking in September of Ms. Tymoshenko's Cabinet by President Yushchenko. According to the DIF, with support of around 12 percent, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc could win 88 seats in the Verkhovna Rada.

The Yushchenko-Tymoshenko split may have a huge impact on both the progress of the election campaign, the results of the parliamentary elections, and the shape of a future ruling coalition. At present, it is unlikely that Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko will join forces.

Ukrainian political scientist Kost Bondarenko told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service that it is difficult to predict who will run the government in Ukraine after the elections.

"There may be the most unbelievable [postelection] alliances. Today's political opponents may become political allies, while erstwhile allies may become political foes," Mr. Bondarenko said. "We have often seen such diverse ups and downs in affinities between political parties."

According to Mr. Bondarenko, Mr. Yanukovich's Party of the Regions now seems to be the most likely center for a future parliamentary coalition, either with Mr. Yushchenko or Ms. Tymoshenko.

But the confusion among voters after the split of the Orange Revolution coalition has other grave consequences.

DIF Director Iryna Bekeshkina told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service that, less

than four months before election day, Ukrainians continue to lose faith in their political leaders.

"[Public] trust in all political leaders continues to decline. At present none of [Ukraine's] political leaders enjoys a positive trust-distrust balance. Distrust in all politicians exceeds trust in them, and it does quite significantly. That's the first thing," Ms. Bekeshkina said. "Second, what disturbs us is that the belief that the elections will be unfair is now the same as it was on the eve of the past elections. I personally don't want to assert that the elections will be such, but voters are convinced in advance that the elections will not be fair."

Ukrainian voters may also find more reasons for intensifying their distrust in the political establishment after they look more closely at some party election lists.

The Party of The Regions election list includes not only the richest man in Ukraine, dollar billionaire Rynat Akhmetov, but also 12 managers of companies united in Mr. Akhmetov's corporation, Capital System Management. In addition, the list also names four former or present managers of the Shakhtar Donetsk soccer club owned by Mr. Akhmetov.

All of Akhmetov's people are positioned high enough on the list to practically guarantee their election to the Verkhovna Rada. One Ukrainian commentator remarked sarcastically that they will be able to form a full-fledged faction within the Party of Regions' parliamentary representation. A faction in the Verkhovna Rada may be formed by at least 14 deputies.

Moreover, the Party of the Regions election list includes – apart from its leader, Mr. Yanukovich – Mr. Yanukovich's son, lawyer and press secretary.

The pro-Yushchenko OUPU also has some interesting candidates on its list. A month ago, during an OUPU convention, Mr. Yushchenko reportedly urged delegates to kick out of the party those of his Orange Revolution comrades who had been accused of corruption and then fired from government posts.

A subsequent investigation has not confirmed the corruption allegations, but President Yushchenko apparently felt such candidates could be liabilities in the election campaign.

However, delegates at the OUPU convention in November did not heed Mr. Yushchenko's advice. Those politicians, mostly with murky links to big business, stayed in the party ranks. And on December 3 some of these individuals were placed on the OUPU election list in positions guaranteeing their election.

Mr. Yushchenko, who was given the first place on the list, failed to appear at this gathering and later said he was withdrawing his name from the list.

It is perhaps easy to understand why.

Apart from having been accused of corruption and running a "parallel government" in Ukraine, some of these undesirable parliamentary candidates have also been charged of using money of exiled Russian oligarch Boris Berezovsky to fund Mr. Yushchenko's presidential campaign. Those allegations won't go down well with Ukrainian voters.

In theory, the fully proportional, party-list system was devised to structure the traditionally volatile Ukrainian Parliament more distinctly and produce a lasting ruling majority. The 2006 parliamentary elections may well achieve these objectives.

But will Ukrainians be more happy with a new Parliament, for which some crucial choices were already made by party bosses and their sponsors behind closed doors, without asking the permission of ordinary voters?

NEWSBRIEFS**Gongadze trial starts in Kyiv**

KYIV – The Kyiv Appellate Court on December 19 began preliminary hearings in the case involving the murder of Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze in 2000, the Ukrayinska Pravda website (<http://www.pravda.com.ua>) reported. The proceedings take place behind closed doors and are attended by three former police officers suspected of killing Gongadze, Mykola Protasov, Valerii Kostenko and Oleksander Popovych, as well as their lawyers. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Mace honored by Yushchenko

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko posthumously conferred the Yaroslav the Wise Order II on American scholar and public figure James Mace, according to Ukrainian News, which cited decree No. 1655 of November 26. The order is bestowed for personal contributions to the Ukrainian nation in revealing the truth to the world community about the 1932-1933 Great Famine in Ukraine, for fruitful research work and public activities. (Ukrainian News Agency via Action Ukraine Report)

PM: radical reform impossible now

KYIV – It will be impossible to carry out radical reform in Ukraine in the near future, Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov said in an interview published in the December 12 issue of Ekonomicheskyye Izvestia. "I think that Ukraine is prepared for reform, but the main problem is reform technique. I have studied our Constitution closely and have realized that no reform can be achieved in the near future. Its implementation would prove impossible," he said. The time to have implemented reform was last spring, when the authorities enjoyed "a colossal amount of confidence," the prime minister explained, adding that this window of opportunity had now been missed. Ukraine will not be able to push through pensions or housing and public utility reforms in the foreseeable future, he said. "Nor will there be any health care or administrative-territorial reforms in the near future and we cannot dare to begin structural reform. We want to make the transformations painless. We are against surgery, we want therapy, therefore we will develop slowly." Tax reform will not be quick either, Mr. Yekhanurov

added, saying that such reform may be possible in 2008. Ukraine should use common sense in the development of the economy and authorities' attitude to business, he noted. (Action Ukraine Report)

Ukraine begins final pullout from Iraq

KYIV – On December 20, Ukraine began pulling its remaining 876 troops out of Iraq. The multinational force has steadily unraveled as the death toll rises and angry publics clamor for troops to leave. Ukraine originally contributed 1,650 troops to the U.S.-led force in Iraq. The 876 Ukrainian troops still in the country are serving under Polish command in southern and central Iraq. All are due home by December 30. The Ukrainian government began withdrawing its troops in March. Eighteen Ukrainian soldiers died and 32 others were wounded in Iraq. The United States is picking up the \$3 million cost of Ukraine's withdrawal. (Associated Press)

Peacekeepers donate wheelchairs

KYIV – The Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service reported on December 6 that Ukrainian peacekeepers in Iraq continue rendering humanitarian aid to the residents of Wasit Province. Personnel of the 81st Tactical Group delivered 800 wheelchairs to the Wasit Province Health Department. Commenting on the humanitarian aid delivery, Sabbah Dahir Nassir, director of the Center for Disabled Persons, said Ukraine had been the first nation to render aid to that organization, which unites over 4,700 disabled persons in En-Numania, Al-Azizia and Es-Suweira. (Ukrinform)

50 servicemen headed for Iraq

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on December 1 signed an order to send 50 servicemen to Iraq in 2006, Ukrainian media reported, citing the presidential press service. According to Ukrainian Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko, this group will consist of 30 army officers, 10 border guards and 10 police officers, who will help Iraqi authorities implement projects to restore Iraq's infrastructure. Mr. Hrytsenko added that the group has nothing in common with the 1,600-member Ukrainian military contingent that is cur-

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$55; for UNA members – \$45.

Periodicals postage paid at Parsippany, NJ 07054 and additional mailing offices. (ISSN – 0273-9348)

The Weekly: Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510
UNA: Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:
The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
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Andrew Nynka
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The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com; e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, December 25, 2005, No. 52, Vol. LXXIII

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

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U.S. ambassador presents Ukraine with equipment to fight avian influenza

Embassy of the United States

KYIV – U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John E. Herbst on December 21 presented the government of Ukraine with the first delivery of reagents, detection kits, laboratory supplies and protective equipment to bolster Ukraine's capacity to detect and combat avian influenza. Advanced laboratory equipment will soon follow.

Ukraine's Vice Minister of Emergency Affairs Vitalii Romanchenko and the First Vice Minister of Health and Chief Sanitary Doctor of Ukraine Serhii Berezhnov accepted the donation on behalf of the Ukrainian government.

At the press conference, Ambassador Herbst stated, "Avian influenza is a serious threat to Ukraine and the rest of the world. It is a global problem requiring a global response."

The equipment donation is only one portion of U.S. support of Ukraine's efforts to contain the outbreak of avian flu.

In addition, the U.S. government is

working closely with Ukrainian government officials on a public education campaign to better inform Ukrainians about the safety of their poultry and how to protect themselves from possible exposure to the avian virus.

Developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the State Veterinary Service, this \$150,000 outreach campaign placed radio and television programs on avian influenza, aired radio and TV public service announcements, and printed and distributed informational brochures.

In closing, Ambassador Herbst highlighted, "The threat avian flu poses is real." He encouraged the audience to "stay on guard and vigorously control the spread of this dangerous virus."

For additional information about the U.S. Agency for International Development's avian influenza technical assistance, readers may log on to <http://www.usaid.kiev.ua/>.

Yushchenko names new ambassador to U.S.

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on December 20 appointed Oleh Shamshur, who has served as vice minister for foreign affairs since February 2004, as Ukraine's extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to the United States. News of the appointment

was reported by the Ukrinform news service.

Mr. Shamshur worked with the Ukrainian Embassy in the Benelux countries and chaired the European Union department of Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Quotable notes

"When certain politicians seek to gain Russia's support, they bring the Russian language issue to the forefront. In the meantime, it would be more appropriate to consider giving Russian the status of an official language, and not of a second state one. It is a historically accomplished fact that Russians in Ukraine cannot be called a minority."

"It is a historically accomplished fact that both languages are our mother tongues. And this fact of history has to be recognized, without attempts to dictate decisions. Either in terms of Ukrainianization or in terms of Russification. Nor should any one try to capitalize on this sensitive issue."

"I am a firm opponent of Ukrainianization. True, certain legal acts can be adopted. But this will not change anything, because the Ukrainian Constitution and the law on languages should be complied with first. These documents clearly state the preferential status of the Russian language."

"One more remark. If our countries are politically close to each other, and if we cooperate closely in the economy, then there will be no need for making any special decisions regarding the Russian language. The realities of life will force each Ukrainian to know Russian."

– *Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, speaking in Moscow on December 8, as quoted by the ITAR-TASS news service.*

"... One year later, the Orange Revolution and its promise continue to inspire Ukrainians and others. Much progress has been made. The Orange Revolution brought together Ukrainians with diverse political views, but who were united by the understanding that without a truly free democracy, their voices would not be heard. Their unity was decisive. The tremendous diversity among the Orange Revolutionaries also meant that as the political process developed, differences would have to be addressed.

"There has been much discussion about the break-up of the Orange Coalition since the government was dismissed in September. Some question the stability and future of Ukraine's democratic trajectory. Others see a chance to rekindle the excitement and dynamism associated with the Orange Revolution.

"Events of the past year remind us that we need to have realistic expectations. No country has made the transition from communism to democracy and a market economy without some turmoil. This is normal, as the emerging democracies in new Europe showed in the 1990s. Coalitions, parties, alliances and individual players rise and fall – this is part of the very nature of the evolution of democracy.

"Ukraine has encountered difficulties in turning from the exhilaration of the Orange Revolution to the hard work of transforming Ukraine into a modern, European state. But it is important to acknowledge the progress Ukraine has made over the past year. Today, the Ukrainian people have a sense of ownership in their country that did not exist before the Orange Revolution. They understand the power of democracy and freedom, and they are exercising that power every day. ..."

– *Remarks by Paula J. Dobriansky, undersecretary of state for democracy and global affairs, U.S. Department of State, at the roundtable on "The Orange Revolution: A Year After" held at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington on December 5.*

Ukraine upgraded to "free" status in Freedom House's global survey

NEW YORK – Ukraine has been upgraded from a "partly free" country and designated as "free," according to an annual report released by Freedom House on December 19.

The global survey, "Freedom in the World 2006," which covered events throughout 2005, ranked 192 countries on a scale from 1 to 7, with 1 representing the most free and 7 representing the least free rating. In this year's survey, Ukraine received a rating of 3 for political rights and a 2 for civil liberties. Both of these ratings were increases for Ukraine, which last year scored a 4 in both categories.

On the whole, the state of freedom worldwide showed substantial improvement, with 27 countries and one territory registering gains and only nine countries showing setbacks.

The people of the Arab Middle East experienced an increase in political rights and civil liberties in 2005.

"The modest but heartening advances in the Arab Middle East result from activism by citizen groups and reforms by governments in about equal measures," Thomas O. Melia, acting executive director of Freedom House, said. "This emerging trend reminds us that men and women in this region share the universal desire to live in free societies."

"As we welcome the stirrings of change in the Middle East, it is equally important that we focus on the follow-through in other regions and appreciate the importance of the continuing consolidation of democracy in Indonesia, Ukraine and other nations," Mr. Melia said.

"These global findings are encouraging," said Arch Puddington, director of research at Freedom House. "Among other things, the past year has been notable for terrorist violence, ethnic cleansing, civil conflict, catastrophic natural disasters and geopolitical polarization. That freedom could thrive in this environment is impressive."

In East-Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, there is now evidence of a deepening chasm. In Central Europe and

parts of Eastern Europe, including the Baltic states, democracy and freedom prevail; in the countries of the former Soviet Union, however, progress has been decidedly mixed.

Of the former Soviet republics, the report found that one country (Ukraine) is free, four are partly free, and seven are not free.

Further gains in the region will likely depend on the development of the kind of mature and credible opposition that emerged in Ukraine and Georgia prior to their non-violent revolutions. At the same time, authoritarian leaderships in Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Belarus and, most importantly, Russia have adopted policies that will make it more difficult for the development of a genuine civil society and will impede the development of a democratic political opposition, the report noted.

Freedom House, which first began measuring world freedom in 1972, also announced that detailed country narratives would be released in book form in summer 2006. The current ratings reflect global events from December 1, 2004, through November 30, 2005.

According to the survey, 89 countries are free, the same as the previous year. Nearly 3 billion inhabitants (46 percent of the world's population) in this category enjoy open political competition, a climate of respect for civil liberties, significant independent civic life and independent media.

Another 58 countries representing 1.2 billion people (18 percent) are considered partly free. Political rights and civil liberties are more limited in these countries, in which the norm may be corruption, weak rule of law, ethnic and religious strife, and a setting in which a single political party enjoys dominance.

The survey found that 45 countries are not free. The 2.3 billion inhabitants (35 percent) of these countries are widely and systematically denied basic civil liberties and basic political rights are absent.

This article is based on a Freedom House press release.

As Gongadze proceedings start, CPJ says much work remains

NEW YORK – As court proceedings are about to begin against three defendants in the 2000 murder of Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze, the Committee to Protect Journalists on December 16 urged Ukrainian authorities to identify and prosecute all those responsible for plotting the brutal slaying.

Preliminary hearings were set to begin on December 19 in Kyiv against former police officers Valerii Kostenko, Mykola Protasov and Oleksander Popovych, according to international news reports. A fourth suspect, Gen. Oleksander Pukach, former head of the Internal Affairs Ministry's criminal investigation department, is being sought on an arrest warrant, the news agency Interfax reported.

"This is a very important step in bringing to justice those responsible for the murder of our colleague Heorhii Gongadze," CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper said. "Yet, much work remains. We urge Ukrainian authorities not to shy away from an aggressive pursuit of every lead – no matter how high a level it may reach."

The defendants are charged with pre-

meditated murder and abuse of power in office in the killing of Gongadze, editor of the independent news website Ukrayinska Pravda, Interfax said. The Procurator General's Office said it is continuing to investigate those who may have ordered the killing.

Gongadze's murder was among the catalysts for the popular uprising in late 2004 that ousted former President Leonid Kuchma's corrupt government and propelled reformist President Viktor Yushchenko to power. Allegations of high-level government involvement in the Gongadze murder had dogged Mr. Kuchma throughout his final term.

On audiotapes made secretly by a former presidential bodyguard, President Kuchma is allegedly heard to instruct Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Kravchenko to "drive out" Gongadze and "give him to the Chechens," according to transcripts obtained by news agencies. Also in March, the Internal Affairs Ministry acknowledged that its officers had conducted surveillance of Gongadze shortly before he

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Central and East European Coalition for Ukraine's graduation from Jackson-Vanik restrictions

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – In a December 9 letter to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas (R-Calif.), the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) urged support of House Resolution 1053, which would repeal the Jackson-Vanik amendment for Ukraine and grant the country permanent normal trade relations with the United States.

By encouraging the favorable consideration of H.R. 1053, the Central and East European Coalition is putting the weight of 18 national, grassroots organizations and more than 22 million Americans of Central and East European heritage behind the House bill. The member-organizations of the Central and East European Coalition constitute Americans of Armenian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Georgian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak and Ukrainian heritage, and thus represent a broad base of support for the measure.

Following the U.S. Senate's repeal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment on November 18, Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.) introduced H.R. 1053, a bipartisan measure in the House of Representatives aimed at graduating

Ukraine from the Cold War-era amendment and granting it permanent normal trade relations status.

"The elimination of this relic of Soviet-era politics," the Central and East European Coalition's letter reads, "will benefit American business in Ukraine, as well as increase trade with that country."

As Ukraine pursues World Trade Organization accession and European integration, and the United States seeks to foster new democracies, the repeal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment takes on considerable global significance.

Given the recent statements of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on the growing strategic partnership with Ukraine and the actions of the U.S. Senate in passing the repeal of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, H.R. 1053 has gained more prominence.

Repealing the Jackson-Vanik Amendment would be of clear benefit to Ukraine, as the CEEC's letter to Chairman Thomas states, "Ukraine is moving in the right direction, though sustained support from the United States Congress will assist Ukraine down its arduous path."

The letter was signed on behalf of the CEEC member-organizations by Nino Japaridze, president, Georgian Association in the U.S.; Lya M. Karm, M.D.,

chair, Joint Baltic American National Committee Inc.; and, Alice Kipel, Belarusian-American Association.

Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, expressed the organization's appreciation to the CEEC for its support of H.R. 1053: "This is a very sensitive issue for Ukraine and one that needs to be resolved quickly for the betterment of U.S.-Ukrainian bilateral relations. The letter from the CEEC, as well as individual letters from respective CEEC member-organizations, is both helpful and truly appreciated. We thank our Central and East European colleagues for their support."

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian National Association were founding members of the Central and East European Coalition. Other coalition members include: the American Latvian Association, the Armenian Assembly of America, the Belarusian-American Association, the Bulgarian Institute for Research and Analysis, the Congress of Romanian Americans, the Czechoslovak National Council of America, the Estonian American National Council, the Georgian Association in the U.S.A., the Hungarian American Coalition, the Joint Baltic American National Committee, the Lithuanian-American Community, the Lithuanian American Council, the National Federation of American Hungarians, the Polish American Congress, the Slovak League of America and the U.S.-Baltic Foundation.

OSCE organizes international rule of law conference in Ukraine

KYIV – Strengthening the rule of law in national legislative, executive and judicial affairs was the focus of a recent international conference hosted by the OSCE project coordinator in Ukraine.

Judges from the Supreme, Constitutional and Higher Administrative courts of Ukraine and their peers from the European Court of Human Rights, the United States and Germany, as well as national parliamentarians, state officials, scholars and students took part in Ukraine's first ever conference on the rule of law.

The two-day event, held in early December under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), allowed participants to reach a common understanding of the principle of the rule of law and its implications for executive, legislative and judicial bodies.

"Ukraine has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment toward building and sustaining effective mecha-

nisms for the rule of law," said Ambassador James Schumaker, OSCE project coordinator. "We are pleased to support their efforts by hosting this conference as part of a comprehensive project to strengthen the rule of law in close cooperation with our Ukrainian partners."

Ukraine's Justice Minister Serhii Holovaty, added that, "Ukrainian legal doctrine must evolve by taking our traditional legal understanding and embracing the concept of natural law. One of the most effective ways of moving closer to liberalism is to reform legal education in our universities based on these principles."

The event was part of a United States-funded comprehensive rule of law project, currently being implemented by the OSCE project coordinator, which helped introduce the first ever rule of law curriculum to the country's universities, and to publish a compendium of key rule of law texts, some of them translated into Ukrainian for the first time.

Governor appoints Mazurkevich Team Pennsylvania Ambassador

PHILADELPHIA - Gov. Edward Rendell appointed Ulana Baluch Mazurkevich, a Philadelphia businesswoman and Ukrainian activist, to become a Team Pennsylvania ambassador.



Ulana Mazurkevich

In appointing Ms. Mazurkevich, Gov. Rendell stated "we engage the best and brightest of Pennsylvania's business, academic, civic and cultural leaders in helping to promote the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as the pre-eminent location for global commercial enterprises and expansion."

The governor continued, "our involvement with issues impacting Pennsylvania's employers and your community leadership experience will make this a win-win opportunity to you and the Commonwealth."

As an ambassador for the Commonwealth Ms. Mazurkevich will be in the front line of Gov. Rendell's proactive public partnership for business development and job growth. She will, as schedule permits, serve as an emissary for Pennsylvania, regionally, nationally and internationally to promote the benefits of doing business in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Mazurkevich is the owner of a restaurant and night club in the city of Philadelphia and is a well-known Ukrainian activist.

When Gov. Rendell was mayor of Philadelphia, he appointed Ms. Mazurkevich to serve on the board of the Private Industry Council of Philadelphia, which was responsible for economic development and growth in the city of Philadelphia. These same goals are being pursued by the ambassador program for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: November

Amount	Name	City	Name	City
\$500.00	Irene Komarynsky	Stamford, Conn.	M. Borkowsky	Yonkers, N.Y.
\$130.00	Thomas Olijnyk	Rosedale, N.Y.	Larysa Kurylas	Kensington, Md.
\$125.00	Irene Zyla	Lubbock, Tex.	Xenia Lynch	Queens Village, N.Y.
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TOTAL: \$2,216.00

Sincere thanks to all contributors to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund. The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund is the only fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the work of this publication.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Three UNA districts hold joint organizing meeting at UNA headquarters

by Roma Hadzewycz

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Three area district committees of the Ukrainian National Association held a joint fall organizing meeting here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters on Saturday, December 3. In attendance were officers, secretaries and members of the UNA districts of Northern New Jersey, Central New Jersey and New York City.

The principal topic of the meeting was organizing activity to increase enrollment in the UNA.

First, however, representatives of the three districts spoke briefly about their activity. Reporting were: Stephan Welhasch, chairman of the Northern New Jersey District Committee; Nadia Sawczuk, acting chairperson of the New York District Committee, who assumed that role after the death of District Chairperson Barbara Bachynsky; and Michael Zacharko, former longtime chairman of the Central New Jersey District, who spoke in place of District Chairman Yaroslav Zaviysky, who could not attend the meeting.

Representing the UNA Executive Committee was Treasurer Roma Lisovich, who reported on the UNA's organizing activity as per National Secretary Christine Kozak's request.

She cited organizing statistics for the first nine months of 2005: the UNA enrolled 238 new members for \$5.86 million of insurance coverage, meeting 28 percent of the membership quota set for the year. Northern New Jersey enrolled 37 members insured for \$2.4 million; Central New Jersey had 10 new members insured for \$169,000; and New York City had 14 new members insured for \$100,000.

Ms. Lisovich noted that poor organizing activity strongly affects the UNA's bottom line. She pointed out that most sales these days can be attributed to the work of the UNA Home Office staff, and she emphasized that the UNA needs others besides Home Office staff to enroll members.

Ms. Lisovich cited a very positive development: the involvement of young activists such as Maya Lew, a new UNA branch secretary. Ms. Lew, who hails from Brooklyn, has become active and declared as her goal helping Soyuzivka, the UNA estate in upstate New York. She has said she will focus her branch's activity on that goal.

The UNA treasurer also commented that "we need a different approach to sell to today's potential members," adding that playing up the UNA's community involvement is crucial. That involvement, she said, takes many forms, including publishing two newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, which receive a subsidy of approximately \$250,000 from the UNA; and operating Soyuzivka, a cultural-educational venue for Ukrainian Americans. She underscored that commercial life insurance companies, unlike fraternal associations, do not support such community endeavors.

She continued by noting that the UNA

Roma Hadzewycz is the English-language press liaison of the Northern New Jersey District Committee.



Participants of the fall organizing meeting of the Northern New Jersey, Central New Jersey and New York district committees of the Ukrainian National Association.

recently agreed to sponsor the men's soccer team of the Sitch sports club. This, she said, will give the UNA increased visibility within the community, especially since the team plays about 30 games per year.

She encouraged branches and districts also to sponsor teams, artistic ensembles, etc. as a way to entice members. Thus, these groups receive a tangible benefit (sponsorship), while the UNA can enroll new members.

During the discussion portion of the meeting, UNA activists touched upon many issues and ideas.

Among the suggestions made:

- The UNA needs to appeal to members receiving endowment policy payouts to use these funds to purchase new life insurance certificates.

- The UNA needs to establish better contact with its branch secretaries, who are essential to the well-being of the organization as the UNA's local representatives.

- Better cooperation is needed among local branches to promote the UNA and its activities.

- At least once a year, branch secretaries should get a full print-out of the status of all their members, including active, dues-paying members; members with paid-up policies; and those whose endowments have matured or are about to mature.

Another topic of discussion at the meeting was the UNA Convention, which is scheduled to take place over Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29, 2006, at Soyuzivka. The Convention Committee chair, Ms. Lisovich noted, is Oksana Trytjak, the UNA's national organizer. She and her fellow committee members are preparing a convention banquet and program, as well as a convention journal.

As regards potential changes to the UNA By-Laws, the UNA treasurer said that no changes have been proposed, but added that suggestions for amendments can be submitted to the UNA Home

Office. The UNA's two newspapers in early 2006 will publish more information about the upcoming convention and pre-convention procedures, such as electing delegates and submitting by-laws proposals.

The final topic on the agenda was the latest developments at Soyuzivka. Ms. Lisovich explained that the estate continues to experience financial difficulties and noted that the Soyuzivka Heritage

Foundation was recently established because of tax advantages.

The foundation, a non-profit charitable entity, has applied for 501 (c) (3) status; a decision by the Internal Revenue Service on that status is expected in the near future. The foundation will operate Soyuzivka as a cultural and educational venue, Ms. Lisovich explained, adding that the UNA is the owner of the foundation.

UNA creates new position

Please join us in welcoming Walter Prochorenko, who has joined us in a newly created position of director of pub-



Walter Prochorenko

lications. He comes to us with extensive expertise and experience in the field of business management and finance. Mr. Prochorenko has a Ph.D. in international business management. He has lived and worked internationally, specifically in both Ukraine and the United States.

Its newspapers have been an integral part of the UNA for over 112 years. It is important for us to ensure that their operation continues for the next 100 years. To achieve this goal, we must expand our distribution network, increase our advertising sources, gain efficiencies with technology, analyze our format and design, and implement an Internet subscription-based paper.

Mr. Prochorenko will join our team of capable publications staff, working together with the Executive Committee and the editors of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly to meet these challenges.

– The UNA Executive Committee

**Visit the websites
of the UNA's publications:**

www.ukrweekly.com
www.svoboda-news.com

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine's rating as "free"

According to an annual report released this past week by Freedom House, Ukraine now ranks among the free countries of the world. The report, "Freedom in the World 2006," found that Ukraine moved from the previous year's rating of partly free to the highest rating of free.

"In all, five countries that were once part of the Soviet Union recorded gains, the most significant being Ukraine's improvement from the status of partly free to free," Arch Puddington, director of research at Freedom House, wrote in the report, released on December 19, which covers developments in 2005.

While political events in the aftermath of last winter's Orange Revolution have somewhat clouded the gains Ukraine made during the 2004 presidential election, the country has nonetheless moved forward.

On a scale from 1 to 7, with 1 representing the most free and 7 representing the least free rating, Ukraine received a 3 for political rights and a 2 for civil liberties. Both of these ratings were increases for Ukraine, which last year scored a 4 in both categories.

"Ukraine thus becomes the first non-Baltic country of the former Soviet Union to attain a rating of free," Mr. Puddington, the report's author, wrote.

Ukraine improved due to "overall changes in the political process and the civil liberties environment following the Orange Revolution of December 2004," according to the report.

In an interesting turn of events, Russia, which dropped from a rating of partly free to not free in the 2005 report, scored a 6 for political rights and a 5 for civil liberties. In 2005, it scored a 5 in both categories.

But, more importantly, the report found that, while many countries around the globe have made significant gains, other countries, notably Russia, have not only regressed, but seem willing to pull others down with them.

"In this, Russia's position is the most powerful and influential," Mr. Puddington wrote. "Furthermore, [Russian President Vladimir] Putin has taken initiatives to undermine the success of neighboring democracies – such as Ukraine, Georgia and the Baltic states – while offering support to some of the region's most repressive regimes, most notably those in Belarus and Uzbekistan."

The report found that, "the Putin leadership's anti-democratic tendencies appeared, if anything, more pronounced in 2005."

This is, indeed, a worrying trend. For, while Ukraine has made great strides to become a strong and influential Eastern European democracy, Russia seems stuck in the mentality that it must rule the region. Now that it no longer directly controls the former Soviet space, Russia seems intent on indirectly influencing its neighbors abroad and strongly suppressing any democratic movements within its borders.

It is encouraging that, while freedom in Russia has deteriorated, Ukraine has not fallen prey to its neighbor's pressure. It has, on the contrary and in spite of some setbacks in the wake of the Orange Revolution, moved forward. We only hope this trend continues and that political rights and civil liberties in Ukraine continue to improve.

Dec.
26
2004

Turning the pages back...

One year ago, The Ukrainian Weekly Editor Andrew Nynka, then assigned to the Kyiv Press Bureau, wrote about a procession of approximately 50 cars – dubbed the "Friendship Train" – that drove throughout Ukraine's southern and eastern regions. The

organizers hoped to "spread a spirit of democracy and freedom" to places they said had seen little of either, Mr. Nynka wrote. Along the route, however, the group encountered a number of antagonistic roadblocks and setbacks. Following are excerpts from Mr. Nynka's story.

With their cars covered in presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko's trademark orange campaign color, organizers of the procession – who spoke with The Ukrainian Weekly via mobile phone during their trip – said the goal was not political.

"We are not supporting any one specific candidate," claimed Vasyl Khudariavets, one of several people who worked to arrange the approximately 2,300-mile trip.

Mr. Khudariavets was among the thousands who camped out in the tent city on Ukraine's Independence Square in the aftermath of the November 21 run-off election. He said his time there inspired him and other organizers of the Friendship Train to plan their trip. The group has shown video footage and pictures of the demonstrations that took place throughout Kyiv last month to Ukrainians in areas considered to favor Mr. Yanukovich.

"We wanted to help carry the democratic spirit throughout Ukraine," said Mr. Khudariavets, 34, a native of Lviv. "This is not a political action. We found there were many other people who also wanted to help us carry this spirit to regions of Ukraine that we thought needed to know about this."

The procession, which left Kyiv on December 14, stopped in the industrial city of Zaporizhia on December 20 and passed through the city of Dnipropetrovsk the following day, before driving toward Ukraine's Donbas region, Mr. Yanukovich's largely Russian-speaking political bastion.

But the procession encountered several roadblocks put up by Mr. Yanukovich's supporters. On December 19 organizers canceled their visit to the Crimean city of Sevastopol, fearing incidents with more than 200 of Mr. Yanukovich's supporters who blocked the city's main square in the morning.

Local media reported that Mr. Yanukovich's supporters damaged several cars decorated with Mr. Yushchenko's orange campaign color on December 19 in Sevastopol. One woman was slightly injured when a pro-Yanukovich crowd threw bottles and attempted to overturn a vehicle.

Participants in the tour included approximately 180 artists, musicians, journalists and political activists. Damian Kolodiy, a Ukrainian American from New Jersey who

(Continued on page 17)

COMMENTARY

To Viktor and Yulia, with love: a letter, and advice, from Aesop

by Tammy M. Lynch

Aesop, who lived in ancient Greece during the sixth century B.C., was well-known in his time for his fables – stories with simple moral truths written to oppose tyranny. Many of Aesop's Fables and proverbs remain popular today. Through the miracle of technology, Aesop humbly submits the following letter, based on his most important proverbs, to Ukraine's Orange leaders.

Dearest Viktor Andriyovych Yushchenko and Yulia Volodymyrivna Tymoshenko:

I have watched with concern as the unity that prevailed against a corrupt, discredited regime has crumbled. Back in September, I had great hopes that following the initial shock over the dismissal of the Tymoshenko government, you both would return to the understanding that union gives strength. Alas, this understanding has not come. To be sure, we've heard protestations of the desire to work together, but it seems that I was not mistaken in my belief that appearances can be deceiving.

My friends, I am sure the grapes are sour. It could not have been easy, Viktor Andriyovych, to see your former prime minister's rating pass yours. It could not have been easy having your closest friends whisper that your former revolution ally wanted nothing more than to replace you. Or to have her publicly oppose certain policies of your administration, and to later diminish your position by claiming that your office will be of little consequence next year.

And it could not have been easy, Yulia Volodymyrivna, to be told immediately upon taking office that many of the duties which should have been yours would instead be handled by another. It could not have been easy having your closest friends whisper that your former revolution ally did not want you around. Or to have him publicly disavow previously agreed-to policies, and to later diminish your work by claiming that you neither helped him during his election, nor produced any positive results as prime minister.

But, it seems that you both have miscalculated. In believing that you both could succeed without the other, you have forgot-

Tammy M. Lynch is a senior research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Conflict, Ideology and Policy in Boston. Chartered in 1988, ISCIP focuses on conflict-prone societies in crisis, especially Russia and other post-Soviet republics, paying particular attention to destabilizing factors of a political, ethnic and/or international nature. The institute is affiliated with Boston University.

ten my time-tested advice to not count your chickens before they are hatched. According to my information, both of your political parties are struggling – in fact, they are losing support. A recent poll by In Mind, not inappropriately, troubles my mind. Combined, the support for your two parties (Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc 11.8 – percent and Our Ukraine People's Union – 10.8 percent) barely surpasses that of the rehabilitated Party of Regions (21.5 percent). It does now seem that you both may lose the substance by grasping at the shadow. You should remember, friends, that we often give our enemies the means of our own destruction. With so much important work to do, and so many depending on you, why risk this possibility?

Yes, Viktor Andriyovych, your revolution partner entered office with less popularity than you and came out with slightly more, and quite obviously from your response, it stung. Yes, Yulia Volodymyrivna, you were criticized, isolated and dismissed, and quite obviously from your response, it stung.

Recriminations have followed, and continue unabated. But I believe you both have much for which to be proud. Your citizens have been freed, and although mistakes were made and much work remains, you have done your best to ensure that they stay this way. Your Ukraine is a different, better, more hopeful Ukraine.

Nevertheless, I fear that pride is in danger of coming before duty. It is true that people often begrudge others what they cannot enjoy themselves, but please understand that the unique strengths and attributes of each team member complement the others. Be content in your lot, my friends, since one cannot be first in everything. Together, however, first place might be assured. Continuing criticism of each other might assure just the opposite.

Viktor Andriyovych and Yulia Volodymyrivna, it is with great admiration for both of you that I write this letter. But I ask you to remember the sad tale of The Lion and the Four Bulls:

Four bulls, which entered into a very strict friendship, kept always near one another, and fed together. The lion often saw them ... but, ... he was afraid to attack the whole alliance ... At last, ... he took occasion, by whispers and hints, to foment jealousies and raise divisions among them. This stratagem succeeded so well, that the bulls grew cold and reserved toward one another ... and, at last, ended in total separation. The lion had now obtained his end ... he found no difficulty, now that they were parted, to seize and devour every one of them, one after the other.

The moral, my good friends? United we stand; divided we fall.

Notice to Readers

Every year around this time The Ukrainian Weekly receives complaints from readers about the late delivery of our newspaper to subscribers.

Please be advised that this is not the result of any delays caused by our publications since our papers are printed and delivered to the post office on schedule to ensure timely delivery to you.

During the holiday period it is understandable that there may be delays due to the sheer volume of mail, but this also happens at other times of the year.

Our suggestion is that subscribers write a short letter to their local post office requesting a review or investigation into the cause(s) of these delays. This is much more effective than expressing your complaints to us. Officials at the U.S. Postal Service will be more responsive if they receive 500 letters from their clients than one letter from us.

We would very much appreciate receiving a copy of your letters to the Postal Service for our records. Thank you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ukrainian studies and students

Dear Editor:

In a letter to the editor on October 9, Dr. Roman Procyk, executive director of the Ukrainian Studies Chair Fund, made a startling acknowledgment:

"The ranks of qualified Ukrainian studies experts has thinned out dramatically. We face the inevitability with this trend that, sometime in the future, experts in Ukrainian history or literature may come from Russian studies or other disciplines, or have had little formal training in the Ukrainian area."

This is a remarkable statement given that the Ukrainian American community founded the Ukrainian Studies Chair Fund and thus generously funded the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute to educate experts with terminal degrees in Ukrainian history, literature and language.

Are we to believe that there are no graduate students in Ukrainian history, literature, or language in the pipeline at Harvard and Columbia so generously funded by the Ukrainian Studies Chair Fund?

The recent disputatious exchanges in The Ukrainian Weekly and online between Dr. Roman Procyk on one side and Dr. Taras Kuzio and Orest Deychakiwsky have shed little light on the place of Ukraine at American universities. They have offered no plausible solutions.

I would, rather, recommend that all university chairs of Ukrainian studies, whether in the United States or in Canada, which solicit funds from the Ukrainian North American communities, submit comprehensive annual reports of their activities to The Ukrainian Weekly for publication. These reports would inform those who contribute money with detailed objective information about the current amount of the endowments at the various universities, the annual inflow of contributions and of grant monies, a summary of their academic activities and the number of undergraduate majors and graduate students in Ukrainian studies on their campuses.

The current lack of Ukrainian studies graduate students in the United States, if true, would necessitate a fundamental review in strategy on the part of the Ukrainian Studies Fund.

At the very least, the Ukrainian North American community deserves substantially more information about its investment in the Ukrainian Studies Chair Fund in North America.

Bohdan A. Oryshkevich
New York

PS: Please publish my e-mail address so that interested parties can reach me if they so wish. It is bohdan_oryshkevich@post.harvard.edu.

Michael Ignatieff: a left-wing liberal?

Dear Editor:

Myron Kuropas refers to embattled political neophyte Michael Ignatieff as a "left-wing intellectual" (December 11), an odd label for one of academia's staunchest supporters of President George W. Bush's war in Iraq and the use of torture by the U.S. government.

Indeed, in Canada Mr. Ignatieff's candidacy has stirred much controversy not

only because he got it without the possibility of a challenge and because of his antipathy toward Ukrainians, the reasons given by Dr. Kuropas. On December 2, Ottawa Sun columnist Michael Harris wrote: "Here is a human rights professor who believes what 80 percent of Canadians, his own party, and two-thirds of Americans do not: That the war in Iraq was a good idea. He is also the Wagneresque creator of the doctrine that lesser evil is allowed in the fight against greater evil, a notion that warms the hearts of people like Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld, as their people waterboard the enemy for the homeland."

"Ignatieff, from his illustrious perch at Harvard, not only supported, but vigorously promoted the war, 'whose essential prize is preserving the identity of liberal society itself,'" commented the Toronto Star's Joey Slinger in his December 1 column. "And there is torture, a modest form of which – sleep deprivation, 'disorientation,' hooding – he accepts as a 'lesser evil.' [...] Neither sat well with many of his fellow specialists in the international human rights trade who condemned him for giving the U.S. 'the intellectual tools' to justify the war and creating an atmosphere that left the Americans free to employ what might be called much greater evils."

"There has been no shortage of cranks in Canadian politics, although it could be that Ignatieff has been away too long, and too out of touch, to appreciate that a huge majority in this country is revolted by the directions he urged on the U.S.," the Toronto Star columnist concludes.

Walter R. Iwaskiw
Arlington, Va.

Melnitchenkos respond to letter

Dear Editor:

The accusations by Oksana Pisetska Struk, in her December 11 letter to the editor, of inaccuracies in our article "Personages in Literature: Ivan Bahriany, Tribune of the Republic," are grossly overstated. Ms. Struk uses a single reference (her mother's) about Borys Antonenko-Davydovych, who was mentioned in passing, to cast a shadow on the whole article.

The information on Antonenko-Davydovych came from Bahriany's paper "Ukrainian Literature and Art under Communist Moscow Terror," which he prepared in 1954 for a U.S. congressional committee. In it, he listed 59 writers and intellectuals "destroyed or eliminated" during 1922-1938, including "Number 22, B. Antonenko-Davydovych, writer, exiled, died in Tchyty isolation."

We are pleased to learn that Antonenko-Davydovych survived the gulag. It is unfortunate that Bahriany believed that his friend had perished.

For our articles on literature, history and philosophy published in The Ukrainian Weekly, we go to original sources, usually in Ukrainian. For our analysis, we read Bahriany's works, as well as various critiques of his works. We spoke to people who knew and worked with him. A few paragraphs in an encyclopedia is not our idea of research.

Eugene Melnitchenko
Helena Lysyj Melnitchenko
Owings, Md.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Christmas: past, present, future

When I was growing up in Chicago during the '30s and '40s, I was considered the luckiest kid on the block. I enjoyed two Christmases.

My family celebrated commercial "American" Christmas on December 25. In our public school, we sang Christmas carols, wished everyone "Merry Christmas" and were visited by Santa Claus. Even though we were in the throes of the Depression, I was the beneficiary of candy canes, chocolates and, of course, presents, in school and at home.

My family celebrated a spiritual "Ukrainian" Christmas in January. On the 6th, we had the traditional 12 course dairy-less, meatless, Sviat Vechir which began when the youngest child spotted the first star of the night. Occasionally, we were visited by carolers. The following day we attended liturgy at St. Nicholas Church. No candy canes, chocolates or presents. Kneeling before the creche of Baby Jesus reminded us of the reason for the season.

I enjoyed the best of my two worlds. "Two Christmases" confirmed both sides of my Ukrainian American identity. The tradition ended soon after Chicago became an eparchy and the bishop, a spiritual and good man, was misled by advisors and reluctantly declared the formal adoption of the Gregorian calendar for St. Nicholas Cathedral. We were down to one Christmas.

Later, when I was an elementary public school teacher, we studied "Christmas Around the World," had Christmas trees and Christmas decorations, sang Christmas carols, wished each other "Merry Christmas," exchanged Christmas cards and had a school-wide Christmas program.

I enjoyed our faculty parties, especially those held in the home of a teacher who played the piano and led us in singing traditional Christmas carols. She was Jewish. She once explained that she loved the carols when she was growing up, and that singing them was a cultural experience. It didn't make her less Jewish.

By the end of my elementary school career, things were beginning to change. We still had a Christmas tree and Santa Claus, but Christmas carols were a no-no. The Christmas program was replaced by a "Holiday Program" during which children sang "Frosty the Snow Man," "Jingle Bells" and certain proscribed Hannukah songs. Santa Claus was still OK and we could still wish others a "Merry Christmas," but "Happy Holidays" was preferred.

Today we have come full circle. As Fox News commentator John Gibson points out in his book "The War on Christmas: How the Liberal Plot to Ban the Sacred Christmas Holiday is Worse Than You Thought": "Liberals' attacks now focus on symbols regarded by most Americans – and even by the Supreme Court ... to be secular symbols of the federal holiday that is Christmas. Wannabe constitutional lawyers in local government offices all over the country are declaring unconstitutional normal and traditional Christmas representations such as Christmas trees, Santa Claus, treetop stars, wreaths, the singing and listening to Christmas carols or Christmas instrumental music, attending a performance of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol,' the publication of the word 'Christmas' itself, and even the colors red and green."

Mr. Gibson offers eight case studies: Covington, Ga., where the ACLU demanded that the word "Christmas" be deleted from the school calendar; Mustang, Okla.,

where the school superintendent ordered the elimination of a nativity scene from the Christmas pageant but approved references to Hannukah and Kwanzaa; Baldwin City, Kan., where the ACLU demanded that references to Santa Claus be stricken; Plano, Texas, where J-shaped candy canes were ordered kept out of children's goodie bags because the "J" could be construed to represent Jesus; Eugene, Ore., where Christmas trees were banned from public property; Indianapolis, Ind., where a Christmas tree was banned from a law school atrium because "it was a symbol of Christianity"; and Maplewood, N.J., where grade school field trips to see Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and instrumental Christmas music were banned for reasons of "religious content."

In the forefront of the battle to diminish Christmas is the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a shadowy, extremist organization whose lawyers bully and badger misinformed school boards, school superintendents and municipal authorities into submission simply by threatening a lawsuit. Resistance is expensive. Capitulation costs nothing.

Fortunately, the tide is turning in favor of Christians and the future looks brighter for Americans who resist having their constitutionally guaranteed religious right of "free exercise thereof" prohibited. A number of organizations are standing up to the ACLU, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and People for the American Way, listed by Mr. Gibson as "backers of the war on Christmas." Fighting back are organizations such as The Rutherford Institute, the American Center for Law and Justice, the Thomas More Law Center, the Alliance Defense Fund, the Liberty Legal Institute, the American Family Association, and the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights.

Fox News host Bill O'Reilly is also pro-Christmas, as are Jewish radio show hosts Michael Medved, Dennis Prager and Ben Stein. An organization called "Jews Against Anti-Christian Defamation," was recently established by Don Feder, a former Boston Herald columnist.

"Those who would ban Christmas and Christians should not mistake the signs on the horizon," concludes John Gibson. "The Christians are coming to retake their place in the public square, and the most natural battleground is this war on Christmas." A December 17 article in World, a Christian weekly, confirms the comeback by describing recent developments and proclaiming that: "Around the country, the American 'Scroogocracy' shows signs of warming up to the traditional Christian holiday."

And it's all very legal. As a December 19 issue of USA Today explained, "the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that municipalities could display manger scenes and menorahs in public places alongside secular symbols of the holidays ..." A sure sign that the tide is turning is the recent ACLU denial that there ever was a "war on Christmas."

The United States is not a nation of atheists. It was founded by Christians and continues to be a nation where 84 percent of those polled call themselves Christian and 96 percent say they celebrate Christmas. Ukrainians take heart. We are not alone.

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The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

What's for Sviat Vechir at your house?

So what are you having for Sviat Vechir? The usual? The 12 dishes? Of course. And just what are they? In casual conversation with your friends, you may be surprised to discover that your 12 dishes are not exactly their 12. And if their grandparents and more distant relatives were from villages and regions different than your own, well, those dishes can be quite distinctive.

There will be kutia, and uzvar (the compote of dried fruits), and borsch, fish, varenyky/pyrohy, holubtsi and mushrooms for starters. But what kind of borsch? And what fillings for the holubtsi and varenyky? And even the kutia – thick or more liquidy, with or without raisins, walnuts, and/or pieces of dried fruit, and with or without a touch of brandy? And your kutia may not have wheat grains, but millet or barley. When is it served – as the first food of the evening, or the last?

The variety is endless, but does contain that central common theme of simple but special revered foods, meatless and non-dairy. Usually it is 12 different dishes that are served, a reminder of the important lunar symbolism of the Paleolithic era although in some areas seven, nine, or 17 different dishes were presented (also symbolic numbers).

In past years, this writer has written about the ancient prehistoric symbolism

of this Holy Night and its rituals and foods, the coming together of the extended family (past, present and future) and the continuity of pre-Christian beliefs intertwined with later Christian rituals. This material is available in The Ukrainian Weekly Archives online and, to no one's surprise, on the Internet in sometimes the most obscure and strangest websites.

Let us return to the foods of Sviat Vechir. The borsch (beet soup) for this evening is not meat-based, but a vegetarian tour de force often started on a dried Boletus mushroom broth. It could also be based on fish stock (Poltava region), or on fermented beets and kvas (the beet liquid in the process). Whether it is served full of all the vegetables that went into its simmering is up to the cook and her family traditions. Some prefer it full of all the vegetables, or thickened with zapazhka (roux), while others serve just the ruby liquid, sometimes with only the slivered beets.

Most often, the borsch is served with vushka (little ears). Yes, this is a meatless meal, and these vushka are harmless – they are tiny dumplings filled with chopped mushrooms. In many regions of Ukraine outside of Halychyna, borsch is always served with pampUSHky (with the accent on the second syllable, not

pampushKY). The former are small baked buns, slathered with butter, bacon-fat or oil and crushed garlic. For this non-dairy meatless evening, the butter would be replaced with oil, usually hemp oil – oliy. This hemp oliy is used in preparing most dishes for Sviat Vechir. In Manitoba, warm pyrizhky (tiny, flaky savory pastries, filled with sauerkraut and/or mushrooms, or kasha) are served with borsch.

The variety of fish served at Sviat Vechir can be endless: various marinated herring, baked (whole or filets), fried, in aspic (studynets', studynyna), gefillte-style, or dried and smoked fish. In Bukovyna they baked a fish stew with tomatoes and sliced peppers in a clay pot.

Linda Forsberg lives in Puyallup, Wash. Her grandparents, who came to the United States from Kobaky near Kolomyia (in the Carpathian foothills) in the early part of the 1900s, made a warm salad that included dried fish (now the family uses smoked salmon). It was "always eaten only at Christmas Eve or Day." It contains grated cooked beets, mushrooms, garlic, sautéed onions, and the dried or smoked fish, and is made a few days in advance to blend the flavors. Tsvikle, or grated beets with horseradish (usually served at Easter) is one of the dishes served in parts of the Carpathian region.

Khrystia Habrovych Momryk of Ottawa serves a fish casserole – "my mother made this fish only for Sviat Vechir, and she remembered her grandmother making it in the pich" (large clay hearth oven). It contains very many sautéed onions and fish pieces, and is baked at a low temperature for about six hours. "Serve hot on Sviat Vechir, delicious cold the next day. I think the secret to this recipe is using a very heavy casserole that holds the heat and the low temperature of the oven."

This dish is from the selo Rusiv, Sniatynskyi raion, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast – the region known as Pokuttia [the foothills of the Carpathians]. "Rusiv was the birthplace of [writer] Vasyl Stefanyk, he and my great-grandfather Matviy Stefanyk were first cousins, and my grandmother on my mother's side, her name was Evdokia, is the little girl Dotsia teaching the villagers to print their names in his novella 'Pidpys' – or so family lore has it," says Ms. Momryk.

The late Maryna Antonovych Rudnytska, who grew up in Kyiv in an accomplished family of the Ukrainian intelligentsia, told me once what she remembered about Sviat Vechir at home in the 1930s. There were so many varieties of fish caught in the Dnipro River, prepared in so many different ways, that most of the 12 dishes were fish. Varenyky were considered peasant food, not for city folk. While not traditional, caviar is also fish, and visitors to Ukraine bring it back and do serve it on this evening.

Varenyky (pyrohy in western Ukraine) can have a multitude of fillings, and potatoes are a later addition (from a few centuries ago, after their arrival in Europe from the Americas). The savory fillings are sauerkraut, cabbage, mushrooms or a combination of these, while the sweet fillings include various fruits and berries (plums, prunes, vyshni – sour cherries, pears, and – especially – poppy seeds, ground and flavored with sugar or honey).

Holubtsi are also varied, with kasha (buckwheat) and mushrooms, corn and garlic (in some Hutsul regions), barley, grated raw potatoes (Boyko region). Rice filling is also a later addition. Sometimes sour cabbage leaves are used (a whole cabbage head pickled in the manner of sauerkraut).

Mushrooms are obligatory, especially the mushroom sauce for the holubtsi and varenyky. Just any mushrooms will not do, and even though we are now used to

the champignon and Portobello varieties, for Sviat Vechir nothing but the Boletus will do. This is the porcini, cepes, or bilyi hryb, the borovyk, which cannot be cultivated and must be gathered in the wild. It is available dried for an exorbitant price per gram, and worth every penny. The mushrooms are also served with the beet salad, in nalysnyky (crepes), in the vushka, with garlic, mixed with other fillings in the holubtsi, and other dishes. On the Canadian prairies, pidpenky (honey agaric) are popular.

Kapusta (cabbage) is served both fresh and as sauerkraut, again, in many varieties. Kapusniak (sauerkraut soup) is very important, especially in the Carpathian regions. It may include dried peas, much garlic and mushrooms. In the Poltava region it was thickened with millet). A baked sauerkraut and dried peas casserole is the original "horokh z kapus-toyu" (later used as a phrase to indicate a hodgepodge). Sauerkraut filling in varenyky is a big favorite.

Dried broad beans and peas are served also. For example, in the foothills of Carpathian Bukovyna, a dried pea soup with home-made noodles, sweetened with sugar is a Sviat Vechir dish. Beeb – dried broad beans, are served mashed with garlic, and/or with onions, and baked in a clay pot. Then there is the broad beans and prunes casserole. Kasha (buckwheat) is served in some regions, as is kysil (a thickened pureed fruit or berry-based drink). Kokoshka is cooked corn kernels, a Hutsul dish.

Breads and buns are not a major part of this ritual dinner. But many pyrohy (the original pyrih – a filled baked bread) and knyshi (smaller filled buns) were prepared, because later in the evening these were taken along by the children with samples of the rest of the dinner to the grandparents, godparents, other relatives and the midwife. The kolach or kolachi in the center of the festive table were not eaten that evening.

There was another bread in Carpathian regions called a krachun, or vasyl', filled with whole grains of wheat, rye, corn, beans and garlic cloves. Clearly the grains were symbolic of earliest agriculture. Sometimes the bread was filled with samples of each dish of the evening. It remained on the table until the end of the holiday season, and was shared with the farm animals.

In her book "Tradyttsiyi i Zhyttiediyalnist' Etnosu" (Traditions and ways of Life of the Etnos, Kyiv: Kyiv University – UNISERV, 2000), historian and ethnographer Valentyna Borysenko notes that in western Ukraine, in the Carpathians and Polissia, vegetable, mushroom and fish dishes predominated, while in central and eastern Ukraine, the Dnipro and Poltava regions and southern Ukraine, various dishes made with flour were also included: mlyntsi (pancakes) and varenyky with berries. Traditional for all Ukraine were: kutia, uzvar, honey, kapusniak, fish, peas, beans, and varenyky.

The meal ends with uzvar, the compote of dried fruits. Then there are the sweets, the pastries, the various medivnyky and medivnychky (honey cakes, and honey cookies), pampushky (yeast-raised doughnuts filled with jams), cookies, tortes, makivnyk (poppy seed roll), khrustyky and so many more.

As to the question of whether alcoholic beverages were part of the meal – of course! The ancient pre-Christian koliadky (carols) mention the zelene vyno (green wine), the mead and the horilochka (horilka – the Ukrainian word for vodka). Borysenko mentions that after the first three spoonfuls of kutia, the family toasted each other with horilka in which fragrant plants or berries were steeped.

(Continued on page 21)



A depiction of Christmas Eve supper by Andriy Khomyk, as reproduced on a Christmas card issued in 2000 by the Ukrainian National Association.

NEWS AND VIEWS: Liturgical music: a venerable heritage at risk

by Maria Kulczycky

CHICAGO – “We need to devote more attention in our churches in Ukraine and the diaspora to the performance of the rich liturgical works of Ukrainian composers who dedicated their God-given talents to liturgical music and the enrichment of the national heritage of Ukraine,” concluded Archbishop Oleksander Bykovets of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate.

Speaking at the Kyivan Liturgy Symposium held in conjunction with the Festival of Kyivan Liturgical Music in Chicago in early October, Archbishop Oleksander emphasized that the biggest obstacle to the performance of these works, other than lack of familiarity, is the dearth of financial and publishing resources to increase familiarity.

Liturgical music was “destroyed in Ukraine by a godless government and has not been available in the free world.” Changing this situation, “should be one of the chief resolutions of this symposium,” he said.

The festival was held on the 120th anniversary of the birth of Prof. Ivan Truchly, a renowned Ukrainian choral conductor, a colleague of Alexander Koshetz, Mykola Leontovych, Kyrylo Stetsenko, and Mykola Lysenko, and an expert on the Kyivan liturgical tradition. A book of his notation and research, “Liturgy,” was recently published by his son, Dr. Vasil Truchly.

Archbishop Oleksander was one of four presenters at the symposium that opened the festival and examined the development of liturgical music in Ukraine in the ancient, classical and modern eras. Augmenting the lectures, Laurence Ewashko, choral studies professor at the University of Ottawa, conducted a two-hour master class that guided participants in the practice and refinement of their vocal techniques.

Ancient liturgical forms

Archbishop Vsevolod Majdanski of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., launched the symposium with a discussion of the origins of liturgical music and its earliest manifestations in Ukraine. He reviewed the earlier forms of hymns, canticles and psalms created in melodic lines, simple for the congregation to follow.

They were followed by elaborations that included the kontakion, then the troparion and sticheron. “Over the years, the more expert cantors began to prolong the hymns with an almost wordless vocalization that eventually even used meaningless syllables; the teretismata were often found as independent compositions, and were the chief element of the increasingly used kalphonic or beautiful chant,” Archbishop Vsevolod explained.

Modern recordings attempt to provide us with an idea of what this music sounded like. Contemporary Greek liturgical music includes a forced voice supported by a wordless drone, the ison. The early hymns would have sounded similar to contemporary medieval Western plainsong. Even in kalophonic music, the ison drone is not as prominent as in modern execution, according to the archbishop.

Byzantine chant came to the Slav nations with Christianity. The main point of diffusion was the Kyivan Caves Monastery. While the different structure and syntax of the languages has altered the music away from Byzantine chant melodies, what remains is “the fundamental principle that the chant was sung unaccompanied and in unison to a chant that simply served the words proclaimed,” Archbishop Vsevolod noted.

Later development saw progressive elaboration of the chant, but music still only enhanced the words. “The care for the words is well illustrated by the fact that most Russian and Ukrainian choral settings follow strict rules of composition in order to avoid the counterpoint and overlap of words that we find, for example, in western Renaissance polyphony,” said the Archbishop.

Classical Ukrainian liturgy

The dominant center for liturgical music in Ukraine has always been Kyiv, according to Dr. Truchly, another lecturer at the symposium and conductor of the Festival Choir.

A school of liturgical music was founded at the Kyiv Cave Monastery and its master – teachers disseminated the tradition, which was at first single-voice, but with a unique style differing from Western singing. Liturgical music was influenced by the genres and forms of the rich folk musical tradition of ancient Slavs. The earliest music evolved into “strokhnny” (multi-voice) singing at the beginning of the 16th century, which was followed by “partesan” singing that characterizes the best of Ukrainian classical composition.

Composition had been hampered by an inadequate notation discipline. The old kriukov notation was replaced by linear-note notation, called kyivan znamien. Mykola Dyletsky, a renowned music theoretician and composer (1630-1690) published the “Music Grammar” in 1677, a text that influenced generations of Ukrainian composers, as well as composers such as Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and Balakeriev. Among its practitioners were Maksym Berezovsky (1745-1777), Artem Vedel (1768-1808) and Dmytro Bortniansky (1775-1825), all of whom produced magnificent choral works, according to Dr. Truchly.

Bortniansky played a significant role in strengthening the national/ethnic roots of professional music and its release from feudal/scholastic leanings. Because Ukrainian folk musical traditions and its rich choral heritage imbued his compositions, Bortniansky had an unusually strong impact on Ukrainian composers, particularly in Western Ukraine, throughout the 19th century.

In the 1880s and 1890s, the model for Western Ukrainian composers became the works of the “father of Ukrainian music,” Lysenko, according to Dr. Truchly. “Lysenko took an active role in the struggle of progressive western Ukrainian activists for the unification of all Ukrainian lands, for the expansion of Ukrainian musical life, musical education, and for a higher level of artistic compositional creativity.”

Guided by the invocation “Praised be the name of God,” these musicians and composers “raised liturgical music to the highest levels of musical and esthetic beauty,” Dr. Truchly noted.

Modern liturgical music

The classical music composers were the teachers and models of liturgical music for the new composers of the pre- and post-revolutionary era in Ukraine, according to Archbishop Oleksander. The first liturgy in Ukrainian was held on May 22, 1919, in St. Michael’s Cathedral in Kyiv, when Leontovych’s liturgy was performed under the baton of the composer. It preceded the publication in Berlin in 1920 of a collection of liturgical compositions in Ukrainian by the prominent composer and conductor Alexander Koshetz.

An all-Ukrainian Orthodox Church Convocation was



Among presenters at the Kyivan Liturgy Symposium were (from left): Lawrence Ewashko, Archbishop Oleksander Bykovets and Dr. Vasil Truchly.

held in October 1921 in Kyiv with the participation of many of the day’s leading composers (Stetsenko, Vasyl Stupnytsky, Petro Honcharov, Hryhorii Davydovsky, Leviysky, Pylyp Kozytsky, Yakiv Yatsynevych and Mykhailo Haidai). It signaled the rich epoch of modern Ukrainian liturgical music.

Composers began creating entire liturgies, rather than portions or individual hymns. Among them is Stetsenko’s First Liturgy. The works of this group of composers are distinguished by octave endings, cadenzas without a thematic tone, frequent occurrences of the natural fifth and endings in major thirds in a narrow range to create long echoes in the cathedral rafters.

Not only complete liturgies, but cherubim hymns, chants, and smaller compositions continued to be created. After World War II, liturgical compositions were

(Continued on page 17)

Shevchenko Society organizes roundtables at AAASS

NEW YORK – At this year’s annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), which took place November 3-6 in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Shevchenko Scientific Society (known by its Ukrainian acronym as NTSh), which is an associate member of the AAASS, organized and conducted two roundtables.

The first roundtable, titled “Inter-Slavic Post-Soviet Cultural Influences: The Case of Ukraine,” was chaired by Prof. Taras Hunczak (Rutgers University and NTSh), with the participation of Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych (NTSh), Dr. Myroslava Mudrak (University of Ohio), Prof. Virko Baley (University of Nevada) and Prof. Vasyl Makhno (NTSh).

The second roundtable, titled “Facing Globalization?

Cultural/Linguistic Influences of Neighboring Countries on the Ukrainian Language in the Post-Soviet Period,” was chaired by Dr. Onyshkevych, with the participation of Prof. Vira Andrushkiw (U.S.-Ukraine Foundation), Dr. Laada Bilaniuk (University of Washington), Prof. Yuri Shevchuk (Columbia University) and Prof. Alexander Tsiolkh (University of Kansas).

In addition to the NTSh roundtables, the convention also had seven separate panels and other roundtables, as well as five individual presentations dedicated to Ukrainian topics.

Following a meeting of the American Association of Ukrainian Studies at the convention, NTSh hosted a reception for those interested in an exchange of ideas on Ukrainian subjects.



At the AAASS convention (from left) are: Dr. Marta Kukhar, Dr. Marianna Rubchak, Prof. Vira Andrushkiw, Dr. Taras Hunczak, Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, Dr. Maria Rewakowycz and Prof. Aleksander Tsiolkh.



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увінчаних успіхами у щасті і здоров'ю*

*Разом із Різдвяним привітом лине моя подяка
всім, хто так щиро і віддано працював,
щоби гідно відзначити
40-ліття студії*

*і
90-ліття мого життя.*

*Ви досягнули це з незвичайним успіхом. Рівнож
моя подяка тим, що усно і письменно надіслали
привіти і побажання.*

З глибини серця ще раз моя щира подяка.

Ваша Лідія Крушельницька

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ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ

Ukrainian American Veterans announce design competition

by Mathew Koziak
and Protopresbyter Frank Estocin

SOMERSET, N.J. – The Ukrainian American Veterans Inc. (UAV) is soliciting proposals for the design of a national monument to be constructed to honor Ukrainian Americans who served in the United States Armed Forces.

The UAV is a patriotic, educational, civic and social organization founded in 1948. It is composed of honorably discharged veterans of the United States

Mathew Koziak, past national commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans, and Protopresbyter Frank Estocin of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. are co-chairs of the UAV National Monument Committee.

Armed Forces who are of Ukrainian heritage. The mission of the UAV is to unite American veterans of Ukrainian descent and to support the Constitution, government and laws of the United States.

Local posts, state departments, members-at-large and a national executive board make up the structure of this nationwide organization. The UAV National Ladies Auxiliary, composed of veterans' wives and other volunteers, helps with fund-raising and various support activities.

While the UAV is the sponsoring organization of this project, the memorial is being erected to not only honor both present and past members of the UAV, but to remember and recognize all veterans of Ukrainian descent who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of

America. Hundreds of thousands of these men and women fought to protect freedom and liberty. In honoring them, we will acknowledge their service, sacrifice and contributions to the United States of America.

The monument will be erected on the grounds of St. Andrew's Memorial Church and Cemetery at the Ukrainian Orthodox Archdiocesan Center in South Bound Brook, N.J. The site already contains many monuments of prominent Ukrainians.

It also presents a unique opportunity to blend two histories, Ukrainian and American, as it has historical significance dating back to the American Revolution. The property was owned by Hendrick Fisher, who represented New Jersey in the Continental Congress and was present at the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. He and members of his family are buried in a family plot on the grounds.

The specific location for the monument is a plot, 30 feet by 30 feet, on the right side in front of St. Andrew's Memorial Church. There will be a walkway leading to the monument and this may be extended to go around the base. Ground and aerial pictures are included in the proposal packet to indicate the footprint.

The following describes the design elements that are required:

- The base of the design may not be over 30 feet by 30 feet.

- The height may not be above 20 feet.
- The design must take the peaceful religious location into consideration.
- A cross must be incorporated into the design.
- The design may not be militaristic in nature.

Members of the Ukrainian American community are encouraged to submit a proposal. Each proposal must include a clearly drawn and defined project design with an estimate of costs. A written description of the project must accompany the architectural drawing. The projected cost of the monument is \$250,000.

The Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument Committee will make the final proposal selection. Applicants may be asked to appear before this committee to discuss their proposals. All proposals must be received by Memorial Day, May 29, 2006.

Requests for the proposal application package may be obtained by contacting: UAV National Monument Committee, P.O. Box 5058, Somerset, NJ 08875-5058, Att'n: Design Selection; e-mail, UAVMON@aol.com. Please provide all identifying information including name, address, phone/fax number and e-mail address when requesting the packet.

Donations in support of this monument also may be sent to the above address.

For more information about the UAV, readers may visit the website at www.uavets.org.

The Ukrainian National Association has always participated and been the initiator of various projects that promoted Ukrainian culture and heritage. One of these projects has been the publication of Christmas cards. The UNA appreciates the initiative and cooperation of each of the artists who agreed to participate in the project. The UNA chose the works of contemporary artists that most describe our traditions. This year the UNA is publishing a set of 12 cards at \$25. The following artists were chosen, Jacques Hnizdovsky, John Jaciw, Vitaliy Lytvyn, and Marta Anna Shramenko-Randazzo. The cards have value in terms of promoting Ukrainian artists, reflecting Ukrainian traditions and heritage, and raising funds to subsidize various UNA cultural and educational projects at Soyuzivka.

Unfortunately, this year's Christmas cards had a printing error on the inside. Four out of the 12 cards had this misprint. Please know that prior to printing we had verified the proofs (there were no misprints then). Because the cards were shipped directly from the printer to the distributor, we did not have an opportunity to pull these misprinted cards. For your information, the printer has reimbursed us 1/3 of the cost of the printing. We apologize for the inconvenience and we will gladly mail 6 extra cards to you should you so desire. We thank you in advance for your understanding.

It is a tradition to send good wishes via greeting cards to family and friends wishing them Christmas blessings, good fortune and happiness in the New Year. During the Christmas season we tend to want to keep in touch with all those special people in our lives that we have inadvertently not reached out to in the last year. This hi-tech world of communication by faxes and e-mails should be used in business, but during special events and especially at Christmas time we would encourage you to send Christmas cards. With this in mind we hope that you will use the UNA's Christmas cards and send them out to all your friends and relatives be it next door, across the land or sea.

Keep in mind that by supporting the UNA's projects such as the Christmas cards you are supporting an organization that has been working in the community since 1894. In the spirit of Christmas, we wish you all much love, happiness, health, peace and prosperity in the New Year.

Oksana Trytjak
UNA National Organizer



Ukrainian American Veterans participate in ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery

by Anna Krawczuk

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Ukrainian American Veterans participated in the procession of colors at the opening ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., on Veterans Day, November 11.

UAV Past National Commander Mathew Koziak and UAV Post 30 Commander Bernard Krawczuk were the UAV color guards. UAV National Commander Anna Krawczuk, UAV National Ladies Auxiliary President Oksana Koziak and immediate past President Helen Drabyk, were in the audience.

The ceremonies started at 11 a.m. with the placing of the presidential wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns by U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney.

The ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater started with the procession of colors. "The National Emblem March," as well as other musical selections, were played by the U.S. Air Force Concert Band led by Col. Dennis M. Layendecker. A prayer for veterans was offered by Chaplain Hugh A. Maddry, director of the U.S.

Department of Veterans Affairs' National Chaplain Center.

The Veterans Day program continued with the national commander of the American Legion, Thomas L. Bock, whose organization hosted the event, leading "The Pledge of Allegiance." After the introduction of guests by master of ceremonies Bob Kingsley, Mr. Bock gave welcoming remarks. His patriotic speech was very well received.

The guest speaker was R. James Nicholson, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, whose department was celebrating its 75th anniversary.

He then introduced Vice-President Cheney. In his address, Mr. Cheney placed emphasis on the courageous American troops currently in harm's way, and also reflected on the service and sacrifice of all American military and veterans in the past.

The 52nd annual Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery ended with retiring of the colors.

Mr. Bock invited all the participating veterans groups to a luncheon at the Crystal City Marriott Motel.

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Ukraine's consul general in Toronto promotes reconciliation of World War II veterans

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – As the issue of the recognition of the fighting role of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) during World War II continues to divide Ukrainians in Ukraine, a small step in the direction of reconciliation was taken by the consul general of Ukraine in Toronto.

On November 10, on the eve of the commemoration of Remembrance Day in Canada (November 11), Dr. Ihor Lossovsky invited veterans of the UPA, the 1st Division of the Ukrainian National Army (as the Galicia Division is officially known), the Red Army the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as members of the Sich Riflemen Organization to a joint dinner and viewing of Slavko Nowytski's documentary film "Between Hitler and Stalin – Ukraine in World War

II" made by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC).

Also attending were three representatives of the armed forces of Ukraine currently on training exercises at the Canadian Armed Forces base in Borden, Ontario. The event, which was supported by a wide array of Ukrainian community organizations, was held at the Golden Lion restaurant and attended by about 60 persons.

Consul General Lossovsky said the aim of the event was to hold a "first in Canada gathering-reconciliation of veterans of the most horrific war in the history of Ukraine."

Speakers at the dinner included Prof. Orest Subtelny, who provided a short overview and the historical context of Ukrainians in the various fighting forces in World War II, stressing what the veter-

ans have in common today.

Prof. Wsevolod Isajiw, president of the UCRDC, explained that the aim of the film was to provide the "unknown story" the second world war – a story that has been left out of Western documentaries about World War II and not included in the Soviet ideology of the "Great Fatherland War."

Davyd Modylevsky, president of the Veterans of the Red Army club in Toronto, was the organizer of the Soviet veterans' group that came to the dinner. Not all of the current members of the club were actual combatants in the second world war (some had been too young to take a fighting role), but all those present said they found the film informative. Mr. Modylevsky agreed to maintain a relationship with the UCRDC by helping the center, which holds an archive of oral

testimony of persons involved in World War II events, obtain interviews with club members.

UCRDC archivist Iroida Wynnycky immediately made arrangements for interviews with several of the Soviet veterans present: Revekka Schindel, a Jew who served in the anti-aircraft artillery of the Red Army; Jewdokia Sawaskul, a Ukrainian, who was a nurse in the Red Army; and Mykhail Friedland, a Jew, a Red Army combatant who took part in the taking of Warsaw and Berlin and who was saved from the Holocaust by the Ukrainian Morozowski family in Vinnytsia.

Representatives of the veterans of the various armed forces expressed gratitude to the consul general, Dr. Lossovsky, for organizing the breakthrough event and expressed their desire to continue the dialogue.

"Race for the Rada"...

(Continued from page 1)

the Orange Revolution – Dr. Helbig stated that they "recognized their roles as not only cultural producers but as political and social leaders ... through this spectrum of sound, rock musicians helped forge a new, civic understanding of what it means to 'be Ukrainian.'" In conclusion, Dr. Helbig stated that the "Orange Revolution was not only the world's first Internet revolution, it was also the first revolution fought through tunes."

Following Dr. Helbig's presentation, over 30 participants engaged in a lively discussion, expressing their personal experiences of listening to the bands on the maidan, exchanging ideas on how music can influence events, what an important role music played in the peaceful revolution of 2004 and whether music will have a role in the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

Subsequently, the guests had an opportunity to view an exclusive interview conducted by Damian Kolodiy only a week ago in Ukraine with Taras Chubai, the lead singer of the Ukrainian rock group Plach Yemehiyi.

An active participant of the Orange Revolution, playing almost every day for the thousands gathered on the maidan, Mr. Chubai relayed his thoughts and feelings about how musicians fed the momentum of the protests. "We were playing not for a candidate, but for the concept of a free and fair election," he emphasized.



Participants of the first discussion in the "Race for the Rada" series held in New York City.

Speaking of the first "Race for the Rada" event, "BUG co-founder Maya Lew said: "We tried to create a warm and relaxed atmosphere for our participants. The hall was decorated with Christmas lights and photos from the maidan, the guests enjoyed tasty hors d'oeuvres catered

by Olesia Lew, while listening to music clips from the 2005 Maria Burmaka tour."

The co-sponsoring organizations thanked all who attended and invited everyone to the next "Race for the Rada" event which will be hosted by the Shevchenko Scientific Society in January

2006. The topic for January's discussion is the importance, or triviality, of the Ukrainian language for the electorate. For more information about the series readers may contact the UCCA, (212) 228-6840, or the Columbia Ukrainian Studies Program, (212) 854-4697.

To The Weekly Contributors:

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- News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.

- Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

- Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.

- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date the information is to be published.

- Persons who submit any materials must provide a daytime phone

number where they may be reached if any additional information is required.

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Zuk piano duo completes two-week concert tour of China



A large suspended banner, with images of Luba and Ireneus Zuk, at the entrance to the concert hall in Kunming, reads, in part, "The Zuk Piano Duo – concert of wonderful piano music – final performance on their China tour." Providing a sense of scale, is Luba Zuk, seen standing on the lower-right.

by Andy Jia

SHIJIAZHUANG, Hebei Province, China – The Canadian piano duo of Luba and Ireneus Zuk has completed a two-

Andy Jia is vice-president of Huihuang Entertainment Co. in Shijiazhuang.

Impressions of the concert tour

Asked to comment and offer personal impressions of the concert tour, which comprised eight performances in six cities in various provinces of China, Prof. Luba Zuk noted the following in conversation with *The Weekly's* editor Ika Casanova.

What was immediately apparent was that the concert tour was very efficiently organized. The pre-concert publicity and information in the media – including press and television coverage, as well as additional promotional aspects such as advertising and the printing of concert programs – were disseminated well in advance of the actual concert dates.

In each of the cities on the tour, a cultural organization, or group of organizations, was responsible for local arrangements.

Throughout the tour we were greeted with enthusiasm, lavish hospitality and genuine friendliness.

Large banners with greetings of welcome, rendered in big colorful Chinese characters, were displayed at the entrances of university buildings, concert halls and hotels, or spanned city streets.

A banner at the University of the Performing Arts of Yunnan, stated: "Zuk

week concert tour of China, which took place November 8-23, as part of an initiative to promote cultural relations between Canada and China.

An invitation was extended to the duo by the Performance Department of Huihuang Business and Advertising Co. of China [and by the country's Ministry of Culture]. The tour was supported by the Arts Promotion Division of Foreign Affairs, Canada, and the Canadian Embassy in Beijing.

The concert tour featured performances by the Zuk Duo in the following six cities: Shijiazhuang, Guangzhou, Changxing, Beijing, Guiyang and Kunming (two performances).

The piano duo's concert program included works by Max Bruch, Johann Nepomuck Hummel, Franz Liszt, Yannis Constantinides, Arvo Pärt and Myroslav Skoryk, and Canadian composers Clermont Pépin, Violet Archer and Roger Matton.

Throughout the concert tour audiences responded very warmly to the performances and took particular delight in the duo's playing of a Chinese work titled "Defend the Yellow River."

The Zuks, who are professors at Canadian universities – Luba Zuk at McGill and Ireneus Zuk at Queen's – also visited academic institutions, giving master classes and meeting with faculty at Shijiazhuang College, the Changxing Grand Theater, the University for Ethnic Minorities in Guizhou and the University for Art and Music in Kunming. These visits were greatly appreciated by both faculty and students.

The Zuk Piano Duo's concert tour of China was very successful. The tour

Piano Duo Conference – Observe and Learn." Also, in Kunming, the entrance to the Golden Dragon Hotel where we stayed was festooned with the greeting: "Warm welcome to the honorable guests – the Zuk Piano Duo."

The audiences, although probably not always familiar with the international repertoire presented in the concert program, especially with the Ukrainian and Canadian works, listened with great attention and responded enthusiastically to the performances.

At each concert, it was a pleasure to see that there were many young people and children in the audience. After the concert, they were most eager to talk to us (with the help of translators), take photographs and ask for autographs.

The press response to the concert performances also was very positive.

I might also add that the artists' profile that appeared as part of each concert program was slightly different in each city, but always complimentary and citing important career acknowledgements.

It was gratifying to see special mention being made of our commitment to Canadian and Ukrainian music, as well as reference to our "Merited Artist of Ukraine" award.

organizers very much look forward to working with Canadian artists of such caliber and prominence in the future.

The Zuk Duo also appeared in a concert held at the Ambassador's Residence of the Canadian Embassy in Beijing on November

14, as part of a special event to welcome Robert G. Wright, the new Canadian ambassador to China and Carol Smith-Wright. The audience included Canadian consuls from all consulates in China, as well as from Hong Kong and Taipei, and several representatives from large Canadian firms and corporations.



Luba and Ireneus Zuk in front of the Hall of Supreme Harmony in the Forbidden City – the former Imperial Palace, Beijing.

Press response to the Zuk Duo

"Music Brings Joy to the City of Spring as the Zuk Duo Ends Concert Tour on a Note of Perfection" – was the headline on a review, penned by Liu Guizhi, which appeared in the newspaper *Evening News of Chun-cheng (City of Spring)* on November 21. Below are excerpts.

The Zuk Piano Duo appeared in concert in the city of Kunming, showing a world-class standard in piano performance.

The evening's performance was the final concert given by the piano duo, in a series of masterful piano performances and other music activities held in Kunming. Kunming is one of several stops on the duo's first performance tour in China.

He Wei, piano professor at the University of Performing Arts of Yunnan,

spoke highly of the Zuk Duo's concert performance, noting that the superb quality of the performance was not merely manifested in the pianists' excellent skills and technique, but also in the expression of their great enthusiasm and passion for music.

Young students of piano have benefited greatly from such a masterful performance and the concert provided the audience of the City of Spring with an excellent opportunity to enjoy a wonderful musical feast.

The students and the many fans and admirers conveyed their impressions in comments made after the concert to this reviewer generally noting that the Professors Zuk's music accomplishments and excellence in piano performance have greatly enhanced their enthusiasm for and their fascination with music.

Biographies of the artists

Luba and Ireneus Zuk, who perform both as soloists and as a piano duo, have appeared in concerts to critical acclaim in North America, Europe and the Far East, as well as in Ukraine. They have also performed and recorded for CBC Radio, Austrian National Radio and Polish Radio.

The Zuk Duo is known for its consistent promotion of music by contemporary Canadian and Ukrainian composers. The duo has premiered many of their works, and several prominent composers have written especially for the Zuks.

In 1999, in recognition of their significant artistic achievement, the Zuk Duo was awarded a medal and the title "Merited Artist of Ukraine."

Luba Zuk is professor on the faculty of music at McGill University in Montreal. Ireneus Zuk is professor and former director of the School of Music at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Luba Zuk and her brother, Ireneus, are also frequent jury members in Canada and at international music competitions.

Born in western Ukraine, Luba and Ireneus Zuk are graduates of McGill University and the Conservatoire de Musique de Québec. Ireneus Zuk is also a graduate of the Royal College of Music in London and The Juilliard School in New York, and holds a doctorate from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University.



After a concert in Guiyang, the Zuk Duo appears on stage surrounded by young members of the audience.



At the University for Art and Music in Kunming, Prof. Li introduces Ireneus and Luba Zuk prior to their presentation of a guest lecture and master class.

Pittsburgh society honors Viktor Yushchenko as Ukrainian of the Year

PITTSBURGH – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko was honored with the 2005 Ukrainian of the Year Award for his lifelong advocacy of democracy and human rights in Ukraine by the Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh at the society's 36th annual dinner-dance on Saturday, November 26, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association building in the university section of Pittsburgh. The society is an association of Ukrainian professionals and businesspersons from Western Pennsylvania.

After the social hour beginning at 6 p.m., guests were welcomed by UTS President Debra Walenchok, who also briefly reviewed the society's Scholarship Program results. She then introduced the society's vice-president, Charles Kostecki, who made the nomination of President Yushchenko as the Ukrainian of the Year.

The presentation of the award plaque, creatively designed and calligraphed by graphic artist Kathy Boykowycz, was made by President Walenchok and Vice-President Kostecki. Executive Board Member Michael Korchynsky read the Ukrainian inscription, while Secretary Irene Grimm read the English inscription and proclamations from Mayor Tom Murphy and City Council President Gene Ricciardi. November 26, 2005, was declared "Viktor



At the Ukrainian Technological Society's Ukrainian of the Year dinner, (from left) are: Irene Grimm, Charles Kostecki, Dr. Sergiy Korsunsky, Debra A. Walenchok, Michael Korchynsky and Nickolas Kotow.

Yushchenko Day" in Pittsburgh.

Accepting the award on behalf of President Yushchenko was Dr. Sergiy Korsunsky, the chargé d'affaires from the Embassy of Ukraine. In his acceptance remarks, he brought greetings to the society's members and the Western

Pennsylvania Ukrainian community from President Yushchenko and expressed thanks for the award.

He also noted that the Senate and House delegations from Pennsylvania have been strong supporters of Ukraine. He urged all present to continue to write

to their senators and representatives on all issues affecting Ukraine and Ukrainians.

Dr. Korsunsky also pointed out that although the award was to a single individual, whose determination to achieve what is right was being honored, the award in a sense also recognized the achievement of the Ukrainian nation. Not only has Ukraine achieved its historical long and hard-fought independence, but with its Orange Revolution Ukraine had shown the way for other people to achieve their own democracy and human rights. This will be remembered by history, he underscored.

After the conclusion of Dr. Korsunsky's acceptance remarks, Msgr. George Appleyard, pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pa., and the Very Rev. Timothy Johnson, pastor of St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church in McKees Rocks, Pa., along with Marijka Jula and Lee Grimm, Jr., choir members of the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Pittsburgh, led the singing of "Mnohaya Lita" for the health and long life of President Yushchenko.

UTS Executive Board Members Ihor Havryluk, Michael Jula, Nickolas Kotow and Kristina Szmul then joined other members and guests at dinner, after which all enjoyed the music of the Muzikanti Band.

Shevchenko Foundation celebrates opening of new offices in Winnipeg

WINNIPEG – In the presence of Metropolitan Michael Bzdel of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and Archbishop Yuri of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and over 80 members of the Ukrainian Canadian community, Dr. Leo Mol cut the ribbon officially opening the new offices of the Shevchenko Foundation on Friday, November 4.

The official celebrations were conducted under the direction of foundation Vice-President Oleh Gerus. In his remarks, Dr. Gerus welcomed his fellow directors of the foundation, all of whom were in attendance; members of the clergy, including the Very Rev. Richard Soo, S.J., chancellor of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg; the Rt. Rev. Michael Skrumeda and Father Roman Bozyk of St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg; as well as the many guests in attendance for this celebration. Official greetings were brought from Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Orysia Sushko, who emphasized the close historical relationship between the UCC and the foundation over these last 42 years.

By decision of the fifth Congress of Ukrainian Canadians, held in Winnipeg in 1956, the UCC began the initial task of establishing a monument in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Shevchenko's death; which was unveiled in 1961 by the late John Diefenbaker, prime minister of Canada. From the residuals, amounting to \$30,000 from this project, the seventh Congress of Ukrainian Canadians held in 1962 agreed to invest this amount in a fund to be known as the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko – the establishment of which was formalized by an Act of Parliament in 1963 with the assistance of Sens. John Hnatyshyn, William Wall and Paul Yuzyk and Member of Parliament Nicholas Mandziuk.

Since its initial grant of \$400 in 1964-1965, the Shevchenko Foundation today provides over \$300,000 in the preservation and promotion of Ukrainian

Canadian cultural heritage and the advancement of a flourishing Ukrainian community for the enrichment of Canada.

Following the official greetings, the traditional blessing was undertaken by the hierarchs of both the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in Canada.

The program concluded with an address from the president of the foundation, Andrew Hladyshevsky. He expressed his deep appreciation to Ben Wasylyshen for the architectural interior design and Mike Kuzyk of Sparkus Construction for creating space for the foundation. The new office reflects and showcases the work of the foundation, and the new home is truly a space that the Ukrainian community can be proud of, Mr. Hladyshevsky said.

In expressing his tremendous thanks to the donors and supporters of the foundation, Mr. Hladyshevsky also reflected on the new chapter that the opening of these offices provides in the life of the foundation. He reflected on the fact that making the decision to leave the former offices at 456 Main St. was not an easy choice. Throughout the last 40 years those premises provided the initial ground upon which the foundation was nurtured and developed.

However, thanks to the support of Ukrainian Canadians, the foundation today walks confidently into the 21st century secure in the knowledge that this partnership – the community and the foundation – is making a difference for the future of the community and for Canada. The president concluded his remarks by thanking the members of the board of directors for their ongoing work; he indicated that it was appropriate that this opening should correspond with a meeting of the board on Friday and Saturday.

With the formal part of the program completed, guests enjoyed refreshments and toured the new offices located on the second floor of Carpathia Credit Union Building at 952 Main St.

Saskatchewan UCC awards recognize 'Nation Builders,' community activists

SASKATOON – The contributions of some very special people were acknowledged at a formal luncheon in the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon on November 6.

This year marked the 11th time that the Ukrainian Canadian community of Saskatchewan, under the auspices of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Saskatchewan Provincial Council (UCC-SPC), celebrated the accomplishments of some of its notable citizens.

After 10 highly successful years of paying tribute to its "Nation Builders," UCC-SPC enhanced this prestigious recognition program as part of its Saskatchewan Centenary celebration by establishing a second award: the Community Recognition Award.

Community Recognition Awards will be bestowed annually upon persons who have made or are making meritorious contributions in the areas of youth achievement, leadership, volunteerism, cultural preservation and development and/or creativity and innovation in the Ukrainian community and/or Saskatchewan-Canada. The combined total of Nation Builders and Community Recognition awards will remain at about 10 in any particular year.

The recipients of the 2005 Nation Builder Awards were:

- Mike Boychuk (posthumously) was a Saskatoon businessman and construction contractor. The award was received on behalf of the family by his daughter Honya Olson.

- Stefan Franko is a community leader and benefactor who over the years played a major role in the Ukrainian Self-Reliance movement and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

- Ehor Gauk is an internationally renowned retired pediatric neurologist who has visited Ukraine on numerous occasions dealing with the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster.

- Jennie Ortynsky is a retired registered nurse and president of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, who is playing a pivotal role in retaining

Ukrainian traditions in Canada.

- Anastasia Zuck (posthumously) was a teacher and pioneering leader with the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada. Receiving the award was her sister Julie Saganski and niece Eileen Ewanchuk.

The 2005 Community Recognition Awards recipients were:

- Patrice Detz (for leadership and cultural preservation and development) is a specialist in Ukrainian costuming and history, as well as an ardent community supporter.

- Shawna Lee Kozun (for cultural preservation and development) is a highly accomplished dance instructor serving rural communities.

- Stacey Nahachewsky (for youth achievement) is an aspiring Olympian who has received numerous medals in canoeing-kayaking.

- Theresa Sokyrka (for youth achievement) is a renowned singer and a youth role model for Saskatchewan's Centennial.

- Yaroslav Sywanyk (for volunteerism) is a community leader and a supporter of many Ukrainian Canadian community initiatives.

The master of ceremonies for the afternoon's luncheon and festivities was George Hupka, with Nadia Prokopchuk presenting the citations on each of the honorees. Presiding over the entire event was Ed Lysyk, vice-president of the UCC-SPC.

Formal greetings from the City of Saskatoon were brought by Mayor Don Atchison, from the Province of Saskatchewan by Andrew Iwanchuk, member of the Legislative Assembly (Saskatoon-Fairview) and by Orysia Sushko, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Attending the luncheon were about 200 individuals from across Saskatchewan and Canada, as well as two students from the State Oil and Gas University in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. The semiformal luncheon was complemented with traditional Ukrainian decor.

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World Bank...

(Continued from page 1)

WTO membership would boost Ukraine's GDP by 3.5 percent per year, World Bank experts said.

Inflation was lower in 2005 than the prior year, but while monetary reserves are at an all-time high, "policy conditions haven't aligned with the announced goal of single-digit consumer inflation," the World Bank statement said.

Further expected declines in export prices accompanied by higher import prices, most energy-related, "is making economic performance in 2006 more challenging," Mr. Bermingham said.

At the same time, "2006 could be extremely good" if there's a good budget, relatively smooth elections and if investment increases, he added. "If not, we'll see more delay and stagnation."

President Viktor Yushchenko has announced a projected 7 percent GDP growth for 2006.



Paul Bermingham, the World Bank director for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

As Gongadze...

(Continued from page 3)

was abducted.

In September, a parliamentary commission investigating the case accused Mr. Kuchma, the late Mr. Kravchenko, Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn and former Security Services of Ukraine chief Leonid Derkach of plotting the journalist's murder. The commission recommended that the prosecutor general open criminal cases against Messrs. Kuchma, Lytvyn and Derkach. But the commission, which dissolved after its sensational September 20 announcement, had no judicial authority, and prosecutors are not bound to act upon its findings.

The presidential bodyguard, Mykola Melnychenko, returned to Ukraine on November 30 after a five-year absence. He is expected to be among the prosecution witnesses. Mr. Melnychenko told reporters he was "back for justice to triumph and Kuchma to be held responsible," the Associated Press reported.

Gongadze's family has repeatedly complained about the slow progress of the investigation, particularly the efforts to identify and prosecute the masterminds.

CPJ is a New York-based, independent, nonprofit organization that works to safeguard press freedom worldwide. For more information on Ukraine, visit www.cpj.org.

Yekhanurov...

(Continued from page 1)

that Russia wouldn't cut off natural gas supplies as threatened.

He characterized Gazprom's new pricing policy as "an irresponsible viewpoint," asking officials to explain how they came up with a formula that resulted in a price of between \$220 and \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters. "Why not \$500 or \$700?" he asked rhetorically.

The gas conflict with Russia shouldn't be transformed into harsh treatment of Ukrainian democracy, Mr. Yushchenko said. "It is no secret that there are hot-heads both in Kyiv and Moscow who would not mind capitalizing on the gas issue," he said in a December 17 radio address. "It is not so much about the economy as it is about the political kitchen."

Mr. Yushchenko pointed out that Ukraine signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1994 in which Russia was among five nations assuring that it would not threaten Ukraine's sovereignty.

At the same time, Ukraine is ready to pay the necessary price for its independence, Mr. Yushchenko said.

"If Ukraine truly wants to become

economically independent, sooner or later we will have to accept market relations in the energy sector and move toward rational energy consumption," Mr. Yushchenko said. "The energy independence of Ukraine is equal to its political independence."

The Ukrainian government will begin elaborating an energy security policy for the country in early 2006, he said.

Despite words of calm and reassurance from Mr. Yushchenko, the Ukrainian government seems to be the only optimist in the situation.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc issued a statement on December 15 severely criticizing the government and declaring that Ukraine appears to be on the brink of a national energy crisis.

"The government has allowed foreign political pressure on the president," the statement said, adding that the Cabinet of Ministers should resign if it fails to solve the natural gas problem by the year's end.

At his December 20 press conference, Mr. Yushchenko said such statements were naive. "This is not an issue that can be solved in one day," he said. "We are talking about billions of dollars. Those people who think this can happen by January 1, 2006, are not professionals."

Mark Davis, the World Bank's senior

country economist for Ukraine, commented that, "At a price of \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters, unless Ukrainian heavy industry can become more energy efficient, it may have to cut down production and then you may find further declines in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)."

Meanwhile, Mr. Yushchenko has called for a review of lease payments paid by Russia for its Black Sea Fleet headquarters in Crimea, Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported.

"Of course we have to have the same approach," the president said, according to AFP, when asked whether Ukraine would review the terms of the 20-year agreement that Kyiv signed with Moscow in 1994.

Under current terms, Russia pays

Ukraine just under \$100 million per year to lease land and property for its Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, AFP reported.

Ukrainian officials privately have said that market lease rates for the land, seaside property in one of Ukraine's top tourist destinations, could be as much as \$2 billion, AFP reported.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian websites are responding to the latest Ukrainian political crisis in traditional fashion: by posting jokes. The latest:

January 2006, Russia: Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov enters the office of President Vladimir Putin.

"Mr. Putin, Ukraine is freezing without natural gas," Mr. Fradkov says. "What should we do?"

"Well, send them a supply of orange scarves," Mr. Putin answers.

Liturgical music...

(Continued from page 9)

written by Ivan Zayets, I. Novokhatsky and Hryhory Kytasty.

In addition, composers were creating all-night services, spiritual concerts to accompany communion, nuptial services, ethnic-lyrical chants and other religious music.

A special place in the creativity of this era is held by Stetsenko's Requiem (Panakhyda), which is a Ukrainian requiem without equal in the depth of musical thought and religious mysticism, according to the Archbishop. The strongest section, "Peace grant unto us, Saviour" contains clear motifs of ancient folk tunes.

"Perhaps the only time this Requiem was optimally performed by a large professional choir was in August 1919, with the composer conducting, on St. Sophia Square in Kyiv. The requiem was performed for the eternal rest of the soul of Hetman Ivan Mazepa. It is worth noting that on this occasion, none of the participants mentioned the anathema placed on Mazepa by the Moscow Patriarchate. And the services were conducted by Ukrainian Orthodox and Greek-Catholic prelates celebrating together," Archbishop Oleskander said.

"Much as the better known Verdi Requiem, this is our Ukrainian requiem, which we should be performing in Ukraine and the diaspora to commemorate tragic events in our national and church history," Archbishop Oleskander suggested.

The popularity of Stetsenko's work was so prevalent in Ukraine immediately after his death of typhoid fever in 1922, that almost every region had a singing club named after him. These clubs were quashed by the NKVD in the 1930s as bourgeois-nationalist religious organizations.

Archbishop Oleskander distributed a chart of liturgical compositions (mainly unpublished) of Ukrainian composers and urged the organization of an effort to address the lack of published copies of these compositions.

The Festival of Kyivan Liturgical Music was organized to rectify the problem of neglect of liturgical music in the Soviet era and the lack of adequate support in the diaspora that are contributing to its decline. Held over two days, the festival, in addition to the symposium, included a concert of liturgical and folk music presented by four Chicago Ukrainian choirs and two ensembles.

At the conclusion, the Festival Choir, under the baton of Dr. Truchly, sang a hierarchical liturgy sung in the Kyivan tradition. Afterwards, guests and choristers who had worked with Prof. Ivan Truchly met at a reception to share reminiscences. Dr. Vasil Truchly signed copies of "Liturgy" after the reception.

* * *

Full text documents of the lectures delivered at the Kyivan Liturgical Symposium, as well as the list of liturgical compositions by Ukrainian composers are available at kyivliturgyfest@aol.com. CDs of the liturgy will also be available.

and Yulia Tymoshenko.

The Interfax news agency later confirmed that a rally of some 5,000 Yanukovich supporters burned full-size dolls made to represent the three members of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada in the town's central square.

"We can't let the orange horde into Donetsk," one Yanukovich backer, Andriy Koloiko, told the Associated Press on December 22.

Source: "Pro-democracy 'Friendship Train' encounters antagonism, road-blocks," by Andrew Nynka, *Kyiv Press Bureau, The Ukrainian Weekly, December 26, 2004, Vol. LXXII, No. 52.*

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

was traveling with Mr. Khudariavets, said on December 21 that the group was stopped on the outskirts of Donetsk, considered hostile territory by the group and a political stronghold of the prime minister.

Various Ukrainian media reports confirmed that the group had made it to the outskirts of Donetsk, but would not travel to the city center, where several thousand of Mr. Yanukovich's supporters had gathered to burn life-sized effigies of Viktor Yushchenko, Petro Poroshenko



With deep sorrow we announce that on November 24, 2005, passed away our beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather

Vasyl Osadchuk

He was born on April 24, 1908 in Troy, New York, and raised from infancy until the age of 16 in Klymkivtsi, Pidvolochyskyi rayon, Ternopil oblast. He was a resident of Whippany, NJ most of his life.

In deep sorrow:

Son	Roman Osadchuk with his wife Slawka
Daughter	Barbara Kennedy
Grandchildren	Roman Osadchuk with his wife Roseann Tanya Sikora with her husband Mario Taras Osadchuk Natalia Osadchuk Taras Kennedy with his wife Sandra Alex Kennedy with his wife Jamie
Great-grandchildren	Max and Luke Kennedy Adrian and Alec Sikora

Eternal Memory



With deep sorrow we announce that on Tuesday, November 8, 2005, passed away our beloved mother and grandmother,

Maria Chudy

Born on December 12, 1920, in Ukraine, she was the widow of Ivan. Mrs. Chudy was a long-time resident of Astoria and belonged to the Holy Cross Church.

Funeral services were held at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Los Angeles, CA, followed by an interment at San Fernando Catholic Mission Cemetery, CA.

She is survived by:

daughter	Natalia Romana
granddaughter	Laryssa Husiak

Eternal memory

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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UKRAINIAN AIRLINES

“Whiskey Priest” by Alexander Motyl is launched at NTSh

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – Book presentations at the headquarters of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) are frequent events, but the event of October 22 assumed special significance in that the author of the presented work was one of NTSh's own – a member of the society's governing board.

For Dr. Alexander J. Motyl, professor of political science at Rutgers University, this was the launch of his first published novel, titled “Whiskey Priest” (Universe Inc., New York, Lincoln, Shanghai, 2005). Simultaneously, in another area of the NTSh building, there was an exhibit of Dr. Motyl's paintings.

In his brief introduction, Prof. Vasyl Makhno, who emceed the program, remarked that Dr. Motyl belongs to a unique generation of Ukrainian writers who were born in the 1950s outside Ukraine and who write on Ukrainian topics in English. Referring to the exhibition of Dr. Motyl's paintings, Prof. Makhno noted that what was on display at NTSh that day was two out of the three areas of Dr. Motyl's talent and expertise, the third being, of course, political science.

A thorough critical analysis of Dr. Motyl's novel was offered by NTSh President Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych, an expert on literature. She started by noting that “Whiskey Priest” contains all the ingredients of a good spy novel: a tense political situation, heroes and anti-heroes, coarse language, intrigue, sex, cruel scenes, murder, etc. She saw evidence that the author was emulating the styles of such well-established exponents of this genre as Graham Greene, Mickey Spillane and Ian Fleming.

However, Dr. Motyl's intense detective narrative is also rich with Ukrainian content, and it is a pleasure, for a change, to read a book by a political scientist where the facts pertaining to things Ukrainian are absolutely correct, continued Dr. Onyshkevych.

The novel written in the tradition of the best who-done-its, is set in post-

Soviet times, with a whirlwind of breathtaking events that keep propelling its characters between Kyiv, Lviv, Vienna and New York. Its hero and anti-hero – the “whiskey priest” – is Anatoly Filatov, a Russian Communist, who was brought to Lviv after World War II in order to combat Ukrainian nationalists there. Now he works as a hit man for the Russian mafia. To Filatov, the collapse of the USSR and the independence of Ukraine represent devastating tragedies.

Jane (Ivanka) Sweet, a Ukrainian-American, is an American diplomat whose ancestors came from Lviv and belonged precisely to that group of Ukrainians whom Filatov was sent to persecute. Another major player is Igor Bazarov, a Soviet immigrant to the U.S., who is described as “a cynical Ivy League professor.”

The lives of these three main characters – Filatov, Sweet and Bazarov – became entangled in a web of international intrigue and crime, that includes the Russian mafia, larceny, murder, sex and a prostitution ring that exploits Ukrainian women.

Last to speak was the author, who began by remarking that Dr. Onyshkevych had told more about his book that he himself ever could. He admitted to having been influenced by Graham Greene and to having read most of the who-done-it genre. Dr. Motyl said that as a political scientist he was also interested in the Soviet KGB as well as the Ukrainian nationalist Security Service. In his novel, Dr. Motyl said he tried to unite the two worlds of Ukraine – the Communists, as personified by Mr. Filatov, and the nationalists, represented by Ms. Sweet.

Dr. Motyl then read a couple of excerpts from his book, treating the audience to some fascinating story-telling, laced with historical insight as well as humor, and rendered in rich and expressive language.

Following the formal part of the program and a discussion, copies of the “Whiskey Priest” novel were offered for sale.



At the Shevchenko Scientific Society (from left) are Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, Dr. Alexander Motyl and Prof. Vasyl Makhno.

“Так! Українці перемагають сміючись” (Yes, Ukrainians Win Laughing”)

A unique publication about the events that took place during the 2004 presidential elections in Ukraine. The book features the Ukrainian people standing up for honest and transparent elections as well as combating the flagrant fraud of the vote by the government. Abundant in illustrations, it conveys the spirit of Independence Square in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, during the peaceful Orange Revolution. “Так! Українці перемагають сміючись” became possible thanks to the financial support by Alex, Halyna, George and Nina Woskob and the Ivan Bahriany Foundation. The project was administered and coordinated by Oleh Chornohuz and Yuri Zadoya, respectively.

To order the book, please send \$25 and your requests to: The Ivan Bahriany Foundation, Attn.: DeEtte K. Riley, AW & Sons, 309 East Beaver Ave., State College, PA 16801

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McGill Ukrainian Students Association is reactivated

by Artem Luhovy

MONTREAL – The McGill University Ukrainian Students' Association was reactivated this fall with a membership drive of over 70 students from across Canada and United States studying at McGill. Because of the diverse cultural and social program, the students' club has also attracted members from Montreal's Concordia University, and from the two French-language universities, the University of Quebec at Montreal and University of Montreal.

Working closely with the students is Prof. Yarema Kelebay from the McGill's department of education and president of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association.

The students have organized a varied program on the McGill campus. On October 24 the executive assisted the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa and the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Montreal to organize a very successful lecture by Kyiv-based Toronto lawyer Daniel Bilak at the McGill Faculty Club. Mr. Bilak spoke on "Democracy, Corruption and the Rule of Law after the Orange Revolution in Ukraine" to an audience of over 100.

Also, scheduled by the students for this year is Ukrainian caroling on the McGill campus and the planning of their Ukrainian week on January 23 to 27, 2006, as their major event. This will



At McGill University in Montreal (from left) are: Prof. Yarema Kelebay, speaker Daniel Bilak and Prof. Dominique Arel with members of the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association.



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include a talk by Prof. Roman Serbyn of the University of Quebec in Montreal on the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Soviet Ukraine and a lecture on Ukrainian architecture by Prof. Radoslav Zuk of McGill University.

The students have two delegates designated to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and work closely with the newly organized Ukrainian Students Association of Dawson College and its first elected president, Adriana Luhova.

Prof. Kelebay was proud to state: "Long in tradition, the McGill club has been revived by a very active, enthusiastic and impressive executive, with members studying in various faculties, having a desire to share a unique and rich

Ukrainian heritage within their university environment."

The executive for 2005-2006 is Johanna Paquin, president; Jaroslaw Holowko, vice-president; Christina Szuper, secretary; Artem Luhovy, treasurer; as well as Katherine Didus, Ksenia Yatsenko, Peter Shakotko, Nick Saldon, Alexandra Havrylyshyn, John Mongeau and Roxanne Zalucky.

The association belongs to the Ukrainian Canadian Students Union (SUSK) which comprises university students' groups from across Canada. For further information about McGill student activity, readers may e-mail anna-hoj29@gmail.com or call (514) 481-5871.



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Columbia University offers Ukrainian courses in spring 2006

NEW YORK – Columbia University and the Harriman Institute will offer a number of courses in Ukrainian history, literature and language during the spring 2006 semester, which will begin on January 17.

Descriptions of the courses offered are as follows (please note that dates and times are subject to change).

- “History of Modern Ukraine” (W3226) is a course for undergraduate and graduate students that covers Ukrainian history from the 18th century to the present. It examines the connection between modern Ukraine and early modern Ukraine, the evolution of the Ukrainian national movement and the interrelations of the peoples who populated Ukraine (Ukrainians, Poles, Jews, Russians, etc.).

Special attention is paid to the 20th century, including the contention of national and Marxist-Soviet ideologies, and the tragic consequences of Soviet and Nazi totalitarianism as well as of genocides and wars. The course concludes with a discussion of the emergence of independent Ukraine and the state's evolution in the last 15 years.

This course will be taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:10 p.m.-2:25 p.m. in 703 Hamilton Hall. The instructor is Prof. Frank Sysyn, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta.

- “The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Ukraine and Muscovy-Russia in the Early Modern Period” (G8231) is a course geared toward graduate students, which examines the politics, societies, and cultures of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Kozak Hetmanate and Muscovy-Imperial Russia in the 16th to 18th centuries.

Special attention is paid to the interaction of states and the flow of social models and cultural developments. The role of Poland in the “Westernization” of Ukraine and Russia, the relation of Western and Eastern Christianity, the remaking of Eastern Europe by the rise of the Russian Empire, and the relation of the political thought and identities of the period to modern nations are major themes.

The course will consist of discussion sessions based on reading (in English) of monographs on specific topics. The course will be taught on Mondays at 2:10 p.m.-4 p.m. in 302 Fayerweather Hall. The instructor is Prof. Sysyn.

- “Language, Culture and Identity Issues in Contemporary Ukraine” (G6100) is an interdisciplinary course geared toward graduate students. Ukraine, as a nation located on the border between two different civilizations – Eurasian and European – and exposed to various cultural and political influences throughout its history, provides students of the region with a great many paradoxes that often look like ambivalence, if not ambiguity.

Language, culture and identity issues contribute greatly to Ukraine's paradoxes

and controversies but, also, to the nation's uniqueness and potential dynamic. All these issues will be analyzed in the proposed course from a cultural-anthropological perspective, within the context of post-Soviet transition and the processes of de-communization, de-colonization, “delayed” nation-building, and re-adoption of liberal-democratic ideas of multiculturalism and multilingualism in a traditionally non-liberal and not-so-democratic-yet environment.

This course will be taught on Wednesdays at 2:10 p.m.-4 p.m. in 406 Hamilton Hall. The instructor is Mykola Riabchuk, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

- “Elementary Ukrainian II” (W1102) is a course for undergraduate and graduate students that is designed for individuals with little or no knowledge of Ukrainian. Basic grammar structures are introduced and reinforced with equal emphasis on developing oral and written communication skills.

Specific attention is paid to acquisition by students of high-frequency vocabulary and its optimal use in communicative transactions closely imitating real-life settings. By the end of the course, students are expected to conduct short conversations concerning common aspects of daily life; to be able to initiate, maintain and bring to a close simple exchanges by asking and responding to all major types of questions; and to read simple factual texts and write routine messages.

The course will be taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:40-6:55 p.m. in 716A Hamilton Hall. The instructor is Rory Finnan, department of Slavic languages and literature, Columbia University.

- “Intermediate Ukrainian II” (W1202) is a course for undergraduate and graduate students that starts with a review and subsequent reinforcement of grammar fundamentals and core vocabulary pertaining to the most common aspects of daily life. Principal emphasis is placed on further development of students' communicative skills (oral and written) on such topics as the self, family, work and leisure, travel, meals and others. A number of Ukrainian language idiosyncrasies, like verb aspect and verbs of motion, receive special attention.

Course materials are selected with the aim of introducing students to some functional and stylistic differences in modern Ukrainian, as well as distinctions between the Kyiv and Lviv literary variants. By the end of the course, students will be able to narrate and describe in all major time frames, and deal effectively with unanticipated complications in most formal and informal settings.

The course will be taught on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:10-7:25 p.m. in 716A Hamilton Hall. The instructor is Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, lecturer of Ukrainian

language and culture, department of Slavic languages and literature, Columbia University.

- “Advanced Ukrainian II” (W3002) is a course for undergraduate and graduate students who wish to develop their mastery of Ukrainian. Further study of grammar includes patterns of word formation, participle, gerund, declension of numerals, a more in-depth study of such difficult subjects as verbal aspect and verbs of motion. Original texts and other materials drawn from classical and contemporary Ukrainian literature, press, electronic media and film are designed to give students familiarity with linguistic features typical of such functional styles as written and spoken, formal and informal, scientific and newspaper language, etc.

The course is designed to enable students to discuss extensively a wide range of general interest topics and some special fields of interest, particularly relating to their research and work, politics and culture; to hypothesize; to support opinions and handle linguistically unfamiliar situations; as well as to conduct independent field research with Ukrainian

language sources.

The class is taught largely or exclusively in Ukrainian. The course will be taught on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:10-5:25 p.m. in 716A Hamilton Hall. The instructor is Dr. Shevchuk.

Many of these courses are open, in addition to Columbia students, to outside individuals interested in non-credit continuing studies, as well as to students from other universities in the New York metropolitan area. Undergraduate and graduate students from New York University can register directly with their school for Ukrainian language classes at Columbia, while Ph.D. candidates and master's degree students from universities that are part of the Columbia University Consortium (e.g., NYU, the City University of New York and the New School) can register for non-language courses by obtaining appropriate approval from both their home school and Columbia.

For further information, readers may contact Diana Howansky, Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, by phone at (212) 854-4697 or by e-mail at dhh2@columbia.edu.

Heritage Foundation donates \$25,000 to Kyiv Mohyla Foundation

The Kyiv Mohyla Foundation received a grant of \$25,000 from the Heritage Foundation of First Security Bank for support of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. This donation is one of the many grants that the Heritage Foundation has awarded to Ukrainian American institutions.

Julian Kulas, president of the Heritage Foundation, stated that the mission of the Heritage Foundation is to support the values and work of the Ukrainian community. The Foundation allocates grants to organizations, institutions and projects that develop and preserve the Ukrainian heritage in the United States, and also strengthen the interests of the Ukrainian American community and the ties between the United States and Ukraine.

The Kyiv Mohyla Foundation is a nonprofit organization established to support and assist the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and institutions of higher learning in Ukraine to reach excellence in education, innovative research, personal and intellectual growth of its students and faculty in a democratic academic environment that will facilitate and further Ukraine's democratic reform within the global community of nations. Thanks to the generous support of the Ukrainian community in the United States, the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation has been able to assist the Kyiv Mohyla Academy with funding for various projects, among them the ongoing construction of the new NaUKMA Library, faculty and student scholarships, aid to students during the Orange Revolution, exchanges with major American universities.

Immediate future needs include the funding of the Electronic Library of Ukraine, the completion of the Library of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, the Endowment Fund and academic and faculty scholarships. The KM Foundation is developing relationships with private and public foundations for further financial support.

During the commemoration of the 390th anniversary of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy in October, Julian Kulas announced the gift of \$25,000 to the Academy on behalf of the Heritage Foundation. The gathering was attended by almost one thousand people, among them the First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko, various members of Ukraine's government, ambassadors of various countries, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine and co-chairman of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation William Green Miller, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and many others. The gift of Heritage Foundation was a fitting tribute at this historic occasion. The support of higher education in Ukraine is perhaps the most significant contribution to Ukraine's future.



Photo: Taras Droz, Dr. Dmytro Shtohryn, Christine Wereszczak, Ihor Wyslotsky, Taras Gawryk, Julian Kulas.

What's for...

(Continued from page 8)

The family members wished each other health and bliss (schastia) for the coming year, and remembered those away from home as well as those departed into the next world. “Dai zhe, Hospody Bozhe, zdorovia nam usim! Dai zhe, Bozhe, shchaslyvoyu tsiu kutiu provesty ta i druhoyi do chekaty u schasti i zdorovy!... Prystavshym dushechkam tsarstvo nebesne, nekhai yim zemlia perom!”

We now have the convenience of mixers, food processors and freezers, as well as the church groups who sell Ukrainian “fast food.” Here in Manitoba, I can buy the whole Sviat Vechir meal, if I needed. One year, after major surgery, I was convinced

by my husband that I could not and would not prepare the full dinner. I did make kutia, borsch and the mushroom sauce, but the rest was bought at Alycia's Restaurant Deli, and Mom's Perogy Factory, and our “kuma” brought a few dishes.

One other “benefit” of living in the sub-Siberian climate of the Canadian prairies is that if you run out of room in your freezer when you are preparing some of the foods in advance, there is always the unheated garage or porch as the second deep freezer.

No matter how the foods we serve for Sviat Vechir arrive on the table, they are there because we want to celebrate this very special evening with our families in all its reverence, beauty and tradition. How fortunate we are that we have this heritage!

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"Spartanky" sorority of Plast meets at Soyuzivka estate

by Lida Chernichenko

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Plast sorority "Spartanky" descended upon the beautiful Soyuzivka estate in the Catskill region of upstate New York on September 30 for its annual two-day conference (rada).

With over 60 associates spanning two separate age groups – seniors and young adults – the mission of Spartanky is to mentor the youth of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in nature-based activities, as well as in celebrating their Ukrainian cultural roots.

The actual conference was preceded by several informal events. First on the agenda was a wine-tasting seminar conducted by Bill Guilfoyle from the Culinary Institute of America. The group was introduced to a number of varietals from across the globe and learned the art of assessing wine quality through proven sensory methods. This was followed by a delicious upscale buffet dinner, prepared by Soyuzivka's master chef, Andriy "Snake" Sonevtsky.

After dinner, the Spartanky proceeded to the Soyuzivka library for game night, where, amid much laughter, they learned intimate – and often hilarious – facts about each other, well into the wee hours.

Growing up with the discipline instilled by Plast, the Spartanky were up bright and early on Saturday morning and gathered on the Veselka patio to greet personnel of the Ellenville Moo Duk Kwan academy who conducted a seminar on women's safety. The group was given extremely valuable tips on how to avoid potentially dangerous situations. All agreed to look into conducting similar sessions for Plast's teenage girls at various Plast forums.

After fun and games, it was time to kick off the formal conference. As they do every year, the Spartanky rolled up their collective sleeves and established an annual plan focused on events for Plast youths. On the schedule for the Spartanky this year are: running the annual "Pochatkovi Tabir," an introductory summer camp for 6- and 7-year-olds at the Vovcha Tropa Plast campground in East Chatham, N.Y.; conducting testing for the Plast physical fitness badge for teenagers, also at Vovcha Tropa; and organizing locally based activities and Plast fund-raisers in the New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia

and Boston areas. Also on tap is the creation of a custom-made flag for the seniors' sub-group of the sorority.

The conference ended with the ceremonial induction of three new senior members and the election of a new leadership. Dr. Irka Sawchyn-Doll of Convent Station, N.J., was voted as the sorority's "kurinna" (leader) and Lesia Sikorska of Union, N.J., was elected as her assistant. Maintaining their positions and rounding out the Spartanky leadership are: Chrystia Demidowich of Livingston, N.J., as secretary; Chrystia Kozak of Canton, Mass., as treasurer; and Zezya Zawadiwsky of Mendham, N.J., as chronicler. Local chapter leaders

include Lesia Kozicky for the New York/New England chapter, Darka Halaburda-Patti for New Jersey and Irtzia Zwarych for Philadelphia.

The Spartanky sorority has been active in the United States for many years. The group's ranks continue to increase. Both the seniors' and young adults' sub-groups actively encourage new membership. Readers interested in learning more about Spartanky may contact Ms. Sikorskyj at (908) 686-0426.

Special thanks were extended to Chrystia Gnoy-Stasiuk of Rockaway, N.J., and the conference committee for planning a wonderfully memorable event.



The Spartanky Plast sorority during their 2005 conference at Soyuzivka.



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

rently being withdrawn from Iraq. Ukraine is to conclude the pullout of its peacekeeping contingent from Iraq by the end of this year. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Parliament adopts 2006 budget

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 20 adopted a 2006 budget bill, Ukrainian media reported. The document was supported by 226 deputies, the minimum number required for its passage. The bill was adopted after three abortive votes earlier the same day. The Verkhovna Rada on December 15 had failed to approve the 2006 budget bill. The motion was supported by just 122 votes, with at least 226 needed for approval. Another motion to reject the budget bill also failed, mustering 202 votes. Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn on December 16 appealed to the Budgetary Committee and the government to modify the bill and submit it for another vote the following week. (RFE/RL Newsline)

ADL: Keep restrictions on Ukraine

WASHINGTON – The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) urged Congress on December 8 not to remove trade restrictions on Ukraine. The ADL said anti-Semitism

persists at “worrying levels” in Ukraine, and thus the country should be denied normal trade relations. “We expect more from democratic states than we do from totalitarian ones,” ADL National Director Abraham Foxman said, according to the JTA news service. “This year alone has seen a steep increase in acts of violence and vandalism against Jews across Ukraine.” The Senate passed a bill last month graduating Ukraine from the trade restrictions imposed by the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Other Jewish organizations, such as National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), have supported Ukraine’s graduation from the Cold War-era measure. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

Yushchenko rules out energy crisis

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said in a weekly radio address on December 17 that Ukraine will not face any energy crisis in connection with Gazprom’s recent announcement to increase gas price for Ukraine more than fourfold in 2006, Ukrainian media reported. “One has a price to pay for everything, first and foremost for independence. If Ukraine truly wants to become economically independent, sooner or later we will have to accept market relations in the energy field and switch to rational energy consumption,” Mr. Yushchenko said. He asserted that both Russia and Ukraine will benefit from a switch to market relations and prices in gas

supplies and transit. “I am convinced that the price should be increased gradually, without shock therapy for national industry,” Mr. Yushchenko noted. “It is necessary to draft and implement a transitional system of gas rates which would minimize repercussions for the population. The system of transitional rates should be in place for two or three years and should gradually lead to a single rate which would reflect the real cost of gas for Ukraine.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM: Kyiv ready for new gas deal

KYIV – Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov told journalists in Kyiv on December 19 that Ukraine does not object to Russia’s proposal to switch to new conditions of Russian gas supplies to and gas transit across Ukraine as of 2006, Interfax-Ukraine reported. According to Mr. Yekhanurov, both sides have not yet agreed on an acceptable “price formula.” He added, “We are ready to switch to a new price formula,” but stressed that the prices Gazprom has proposed to Ukraine so far were quoted “without thinking.” Mr. Yekhanurov was commenting on the failure to reach a compromise in his gas talks with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov in Moscow earlier the same day. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President on industry and gas prices

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said on Ukrainian Television on December

14 that the Russian gas that is to be supplied at a new price outside a barter scheme next year should be sold primarily in the country’s industrial sector, while gas prices for Ukrainian private and municipal consumers should be increased gradually. “This is a concept envisioning that liberalized prices will be met by the industrial sector, while private and municipal consumers will be given the possibility to conclude the heating season with traditional prices, as they are today, or with a small increase in them during the second quarter [of 2006],” Mr. Yushchenko said. He explained that with new gas prices and transit tariffs in 2006, Ukraine will be able to receive a somewhat lesser volume of Russian gas under the barter scheme than it does now. President Yushchenko did not say what new Russian gas price could be acceptable to Ukraine or what gas transit tariff Ukraine would levy on Gazprom in 2006. Gazprom deputy chief Aleksandr Medvedev said on December 14 that Russia is going to sell gas to Ukraine for \$220-\$230 per 1,000 cubic meters. Ukraine now pays \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters of Russian gas received as payment for transit of Russian gas to Europe, and \$80 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas supplied by Gazprom outside this barter scheme. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Factions want higher rent from Russia

KYIV – On December 16 the factions of the Ukrainian People’s Rukh Ukraine and Our Ukraine made a statement in the Verkhovna Rada to demand that the National Security and Defense Council and the government of Ukraine regulate the issue of rent for the Russian Black Sea Fleet’s naval base in Crimea, the amount for which must be adjusted to international standards. Citing experts’ calculations, the statement said that Ukraine annually loses about \$3 billion (U.S.) by charging a rent that is too low. According to the statement, a U.S. military base in Germany pays about \$2 billion annually to the German government, while Russia pays around \$97 million to Ukraine for stationing its Black Sea Fleet on Ukraine’s soil. Both factions said they believe that raising this issue would be a good lever in Ukraine’s negotiations with Russia regarding gas supplies. (Ukrinform)

Parties approve election lists

KYIV – A number of Ukrainian parties and blocs held conventions on December 17-18 to endorse their lists of candidates for the March 26, 2006, parliamentary elections, Ukrainian media reported. They included the Our Ukraine Yushchenko Bloc, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Socialist Party, the Not So! Bloc based on the Social Democratic Party – United, and the Lytvyn People’s Bloc based on the People’s Party led by Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn. Central Election Commission Chairman Yaroslav Davydovych said last week that 38 political parties and blocs want to take part in the 2006 parliamentary elections. The elections will be Ukraine’s first under a fully proportional, party-list system. Polls suggest that six to seven parties have a chance of obtaining no less than 3 percent of the vote, which qualifies them for parliamentary representation. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kostenko-Pliusch bloc compiles list

KYIV – An election list was approved at an inter-party congress of the Ukrainian People’s Bloc of Yuriy Kostenko and Ivan Pliusch on December 16. The list’s first 10 is topped by Mr. Kostenko, leader of the Ukrainian People’s Party; and Mr. Pliusch, the honorary leader of the Party of Free Peasants and Entrepreneurs; Oleksander Slobodian, president of the closed-type joint-stock company Obolon; National

(Continued on page 25)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 24)

Deputy Ivan Zayets; Anna Skrypnyk, director of the N. Rylskyi Institute of Arts, Folklore and Ethnology Studies of the National Science Academy of Ukraine; Vice Prime Minister Yurii Melnyk; Rivne Oblast Administration Chairman Vasyl Chervonii; Donetsk Oblast Administration Vice-Chairman Oleksander Klymenko; Kyiv Oblast Administration Chairman Yevhen Zhovtiak and National Deputy Valerii Asadchev. The election list includes 290 persons. Mr. Kostenko told journalists that his party partners are proposed five seats each, proportionally to the list. He said he believes the Kostenko and Plusch Bloc will be able to gain some 10 percent of the votes. The congress also passed a draft election program, whose key provisions are cancellation of all levels of deputies' immunity; state support for small and mid-sized business and farmers; judicial reform; development of the fuel-energy complex; and revival of the national culture and spiritual values. (Ukrinform)

Seven parties in "For Union!" bloc

KYIV – The Ukrainian political parties Union, Socialist Ukraine, Slavonic Party, Women of Ukraine, New Force, Integral Family and the Political Party of Small and Mid-sized Business have decided to form an election bloc called "For Union!" This was the decision of the eighth regular congress of the Union Party. Union Party leader Lev Myrmyskyi told delegates to the congress that uniting in the bloc is necessary for victory in the 2006 parliamentary elections. He said they had a choice: join the Party of the Regions or establish a smaller, but powerful political force. "We are not ready to merge

with any leader, as in that case we lose seats in local councils," Mr. Myrmyskyi noted. He said the bloc won't have a leader because its member-parties "have equal partnership relations." The bloc's list will be topped by a neutral person. (Ukrinform)

Kunitsyn election bloc formed

SYMFEROPOL – An election bloc of ex-Prime Minister of Crimea Serhii Kunitsyn was established in Symferopol on December 16. The agreement on establishment was signed by chief of the Crimean organization of the Democratic Party of Ukraine, Sergey Kozachenko; the chairman of the Crimean organization of the Party of State Neutrality of Ukraine, Vitalii Trefelov; and the chief of the Crimean organization of the People's Democratic Party of Ukraine, Mr. Kunitsyn. According to Mr. Kunitsyn, his bloc claims for not less than 30 of 100 seats of the Crimean Parliament. (Ukrinform)

Lazarenko bloc preps for election

KYIV – The first inter-party sitting of the Lazarenko bloc was held in Kyiv, with the participation of more than 245 delegates. The participants approved the bloc's format, according to which such parties as the All-Ukrainian Union Hromada, the Social-Democratic Party of Ukraine and the Social-Democratic Union are forming a bloc. Pavlo Lazarenko is No. 1 on the bloc's election list, followed by his brother Ivan Lazarenko, SDPU leader Yuriy Buzduhan and the SDU leader Serhii Peresunko together with Dnipropetrovsk journalist Viktoria Shylova. Speaking with the meeting's participants via telephone, Mr. Lazarenko said that he expects at least 5 percent of the electorate's support in the parliamentary elections of 2006. He also reassured the participants that

he will soon return to Ukraine. Mr. Lazarenko suggests that taxation on enterprises' salary funds be abolished. He also suggests in his bloc' platform that the retirement age for women be changed to 52 and for men to 58. (Ukrinform)

Rada rejects two WTO-related bills

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 14 rejected two bills required for Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Interfax-Ukraine reported. The bills proposed lowering export tariffs on ferrous scrap metal, live cattle and leather materials. Meanwhile, U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman told journalists in Hong Kong on December 14, on the sidelines of an ongoing WTO ministerial conference, that Russia and Ukraine should join the World Trade Organization together, Interfax reported. "I hope Ukraine and Russia come into the WTO and they come in together," Mr. Portman said, adding that the accession negotiations for the two countries will be completed "soon." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Hrytsenko meets with Rumsfeld


WASHINGTON – Ukrainian Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko and U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on December 7 discussed the pullout of Ukrainian peacekeeping forces from Iraq. The meeting was held within the framework of the 10th conference of the Southeastern European Defense Ministerial in Washington, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service said. The gradual withdrawal of troops was approved with the coalition and Iraqi partners, Mr. Hrytsenko said. He added that about 50 peacekeepers will remain in Iraq, as will some military equipment that will be hand-

ed over to Iraq. Mr. Hrytsenko thanked the U.S. for training Ukrainian officers in U.S. military colleges. In related news, Ukraine formally joined the Southeastern Europe Defense Ministerial (SEDM) on December 6 at a brief ceremony in Washington. "You will see Ukraine more responsible and more engaged in dealing with regional security institutions," said Defense Minister Hrytsenko. SEDM is an organization of 13 southeastern European countries and the United States. It was formed in 1996 against the backdrop of the Balkan conflict. SEDM includes Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, Bosnia Herzegovina, Moldova, Serbia Montenegro and the United States. (Interfax-Ukraine, BBC)

Tymoshenko Bloc drafts election list

KYIV – The political bloc of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko held a congress on December 7 at which it approved the top 10 names on the bloc's list of candidates for the March 2006 parliamentary elections, Interfax-Ukraine reported. The list is topped by Ms. Tymoshenko; Oleksander Turchynov, former Security Service of Ukraine chief and her closest aide; former Vice Prime Minister Mykola Tomenko; journalist Andrii Shevchenko; and National Deputies Vasil Onopenko, Levko Lukianenko and Hryhorii Omelchenko. Ms. Tymoshenko said on December 7 that if her bloc comes to power after the 2006 elections, she will give the opposition important prerogatives in forming the executive branch, including the right to nominate the procurator general. At present the procurator general is nominated by the president and appointed by the Parliament. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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The successful candidate will possess superior project management, communication, financial fundraising and marketing skills, have a graduate degree and no less than 6 years of government or related experience. A working knowledge of French and Ukrainian would be an asset, as well as a familiarity with the Ukrainian Canadian community and Canadian NGO's active in fields such as justice, human rights and civil liberties, multiculturalism, or history. Must be prepared to work some evenings and weekends and to travel within Canada as required.

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BRANCH 76 announces that its

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All Branch 76 members are welcome

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 259

Please be advised that Branch 259 has merged with Branch 125 as of December 15, 2005. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Gloria Paschen.

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCHES 261, 331 and 378

Please be advised that Branches 261, 331 and 378 have merged with Branch 116 as of December 15, 2005. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Stephan Shilkevich.

Mr. Stephan Shilkevich
109 Genesee Street
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(609) 695-8867

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCHES 377, 380

Please be advised that Branches 377 and 380 have merged with Branch 381 as of December 15, 2005. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Barbara O. Boyd.

Mrs. Barbara O. Boyd
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(941) 627-1082

Charitable organization focuses on needs of orphans in Odesa

by Bozhena Olshaniwsky

NEW MILFORD, N.J. – A "Breakfast for Love and Caring" was held on Sunday, November 6, here at the Elks Club. The brunch was organized by Maryanne Olsen, founder and director of the Cross Cultural International Institute – New Hope for Children and the Elks.

transports of beds, cribs, mattresses, medical equipment, toys and medications to Odesa's orphanages during the past five years. She also collects money to pay for the transport of these items. There is a number of people and children who already volunteer and help with the work, and she is currently reaching out to Ukrainians for help.



Natalka (left) and Nadia Pawlyshyn at the fund-raising event.

The program lasted from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., and was very well attended. People came, ate and stayed to witness a vocal performance by two sisters, Nadia and Natalka Pawlyshyn. The mistress of ceremonies was Dr. Marta Kokolska, who explained the purpose of the event, as well as geographical and historical facts about Ukraine, the dire status of children in Ukrainian orphanages and the meaning of the songs performed by the two young girls.

The main focus of the program was on fund-raising for the orphanages in Odesa. It was the best possible way to spend a Sunday morning – good food, good company and lovely music sung by a very talented duo, and all for a good cause.

Ms. Olsen explained to the audience how she was teaching a humanistic method of treating children with psychological problems in Moscow (in 1998) and Odesa (in 1999) by using the arts – music, dance and drama. She told of how there is a great need in Ukraine's orphanages for basic supplies and equipment. Among the items lacking are beds, mattresses, bed linens, medications, etc. As a result, she established an organization called Cross Cultural International Institute – New Hope for Children. She is both the founder and director of this group, and believes that all people in the world are connected and should help each other.

She managed to send several large

On display during the fund-raising event were posters with photographs of orphans holding the toys they had received. The American children who wrapped the toys for the orphans recognized their gifts and felt connected to their young counterparts, which made them more enthusiastic about continuing to help.

Musical interludes were provided by Nadia, 13, and Natalka, 11, who were dressed in beautifully embroidered stylized costumes made in Ukraine. They emigrated to the U.S. from Sambir, Ukraine, five years ago, and have already performed more than 150 concerts.

Their parents, Ihor and Vira, work very diligently with them by providing lessons and ample support. The sisters inherited a love for music from their grandparents in Ukraine and have made two CDs of their songs in the U.S. The audience received them with applause.

In addition to proceeds from the general admission, chances were sold for prizes and donations were given by businesses, all of which worked without remuneration. The event was a great financial success.

Ms. Olsen is appealing to people of good will to donate and help the cause. Donations can be sent to: CCII: New Hope for Children, Maryanne Olsen, 740 Plympton St., New Milford, NJ 07644. Ms. Olsen may also be reached by phone at (201) 262-6544 or fax at (201) 262-7579.

Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

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It gives me immense pleasure to be able to personally wish you a Merry Christmas, the Happiest of Holidays, and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

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At this time, however, we also require and respectfully request increased support from our community. The UNA publications have never been a for-profit venture, rather, they have served our community as part of our fraternal endeavor. However, now, as with most print publications that serve a limited readership, the costs of publishing exceed revenues, and the diversification of media choices makes new subscribers harder to find. Therefore, we turn to you, our readers and friends, for generous support.

If you feel as strongly as our staff and parent company do about leaving a legacy for future generations of Ukrainians, I urge you to send whatever contributions you feel would be worthy for the continuity of this effort to "The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund."

Contributors of more than \$10,000 will be honored with an issue dedicated to the contributor or in honor of their designated person or persons. Donations of current Apple equipment would also be useful and appreciated.

Your contributions and generosity will be remembered by all present readers and in future years by way of the archives of our publications.

Wishing you the best in this Holiday Season,

Walter Prochorenko, Ph.D.
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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|---|--|
| December 30, 2005
Pub Night with coffee and desserts featuring music by Vidlunnia, 9 pm | February 11, 2006
Five-Course Dinner featuring music by Askold Buc |
| December 31-January 1, 2006
New Year's Eve Extravaganza
5:30 pm - Cocktail Hour in Main House Lobby; 7 pm - Formal Dinner Banquet in Veselka Hall; 10 pm - New Year's Eve zabava featuring Tempo | February 17-20, 2006
Family Winter Weekend |
| January 1, 2006
New Year's Day Brunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., \$14 per person | February 18, 2006
Pub Night with music featuring Zukie & Friend |
| January 6, 2006
Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve Supper, 6 p.m., \$25 per person, overnight packages available | February 25, 2006
Wedding |
| January 27, 2006
Pre-Malanka Pub Night featuring music by Zukie & Friend, 9 pm | March 3-5, 2006
Plast Kurin "Khmelnynchenky" Annual Winter Rada |
| January 27-29, 2006
Church of Annunciation Family Weekend, Flushing, N.Y. | April 16, 2006
Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 am |
| January 28, 2006
2006 Ukrainian Engineers' Malanka | April 22, 2006
Alpha Kappa Sorority Formal Dinner Banquet |
| February 10-12, 2006
Valentine's Day Weekend | April 23, 2006
Traditional Blessed Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 am |
| | April 28, 2006
Ellenville High School Junior Prom |



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
216 Foordmore Road P.O. Box 529
Kerhonkson, NY 12446
E-mail: Soyuzivka@aol.com
Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 31

PALOS PARK, Ill.: A New Year's Eve celebration will be held at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mark Ukrainian Catholic Church Parish Hall at 8530 W. 131st St. from 6 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. It will be sponsored by the Parish Hall Manager Mark Bregin. Tickets for single adults are \$45, and couples are \$80. No tickets will be sold at the door. There will be an open bar, and appetizers, as well as dinner and desserts. At midnight, there will be a Cash Balloon Drop. For more information, or for reservations, call Hanya Kickio, (708) 361-8876, or e-mail mkak57@yahoo.com.

Friday, January 6, 2006

HARTFORD, Conn.: The board of directors of the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford Inc. invite you and your family to the Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve Dinner at 6 p.m. at 961 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford. Donations: adults, \$14; students, \$7. Advance purchase of tickets only. For tickets, please contact board members or call the UNHH office, (860) 296-5702, up to one week before the event. For more information, please visit www.ukraniannationalhome.org.

Saturday, January 7, 2006

NEW YORK: All are welcome for Rockefeller Center Christmas Caroling. All nationalities that celebrate the Julian calendar Christmas are urged to join us at the Rockefeller Center Tree at 7 p.m. for candlelight caroling. Please bring your own candles.

Saturday, January 21, 2006

CARTERET, NJ: The St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka, which will be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret, N.J. Musical performance by Fata Morgana. Tickets are \$45 (includes admission, choice of meal, drinks, midnight hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast). There will also be a cash bar. The St. Demetrius Center is located off Exit 12 of the N.J. Turnpike. There is also a Holiday Inn near the exit. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and music starts at 8:30 p.m. For table and ticket reservations, please call Peter Prociuk, (732) 541-5452. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Deadline for tickets is January 16.

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, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information 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.

Items may be e-mailed to preview@ukrweekly.com.

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