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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Kateryna Yushchenko and TNK-BP donate \$200,000 to Oncology Institute

by Olga Bondaruk

Special to the Weekly

KYIV — First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko's Ukraine 3000 International Charity Fund teamed up with oil company TNK-BP in donating nearly \$200,000 worth of oncology equipment and medicine to the children's unit of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences' Oncology Institute.

At a December 23 ceremony at the Ukrayinskyi Dim on European Square, Mrs. Yushchenko handed a certificate for the new equipment to Hryhorii Klymnyuk, Ukraine's chief child oncologist.

"For the first time, authorities, the business sector and charity organizations have turned their attention to the most unfortunate," Mr. Klymnyuk said.

Among the technology received by the Oncology Institute was a device bought in the U.S. that enables doctors to diagnose cancer within an hour, as well as a fastening device to secure children during laser therapy.

Government hospitals have never had such high-technology equipment, Mr. Klymnyuk said. It helps doctors prescribe necessary treatment in time and therefore avoid various complications, he said.

About 1,000 children in Ukraine are diagnosed with cancer-related illnesses each year, according to official government statistics.

More than 350 children undergo medical treatment at the Oncology Institute



Olga Bondaruk

Kateryna Yushchenko, the first lady of Ukraine, and Hryhorii Klymnyuk, of the Oncology Institute of the Academy of Science of Ukraine, address the press in Kyiv on December 23.

annually, or about 70 percent of Ukrainian children being treated for cancer, hospital officials said.

It was the first time that the Ukraine 3000 Fund and TNK-BP teamed up to

(Continued on page 22)

Verkhovna Rada passes 2006 budget by a single vote

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — By a single vote, the Verkhovna Rada on December 20 passed Ukraine's 2006 budget, which was bolstered by a 67 percent increase in government revenue from the prior year, according to Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk.

The jump in tax income revealed the progress made by the Ukrainian government to collect taxes and import duties from businesses, said Andrii Dmytrenko, a research analyst with Dragon Capital, a Kyiv-based investment bank.

It also revealed that businesses have started to slowly report more of their profit.

"There was improved reporting from local companies," Mr. Dmytrenko said. "As a result, the tax base increased because companies paid higher taxes."

The 2006 budget plans for \$25 billion in revenues and about \$27 billion in spending, amounting to an estimated \$2.6 billion deficit. Significant amendments are certain, government and private economists said.

The International Monetary Fund recently recommended that Ukraine's budget deficit not exceed 2.5 percent of Gross Domestic Product, a goal which the government's economists will try to adhere to.

They have projected the deficit at 2.5 percent of GDP, but that is based on a very optimistic projection that Ukraine's GDP will grow by 7 percent next year.

The sale of the Kryvorizhstal Steel

Company recently did not contribute to the revenue increase because privatizations are not included when accounting for government revenues, Mr. Dmytrenko said.

Instead, it was the Yushchenko government's decision to eliminate the free economic zones — which offered certain companies special privileges over others — that most significantly improved tax revenues, he said.

Rather than drawing in foreign investment, it was mainly Ukrainian companies abused the investor-friendly initiative, Mr. Dmytrenko said.

For example, Ukrainian companies would set up special trading companies within the zones and move their profits from Ukraine to offshore zones in order to avoid taxation, he said.

The Stop Contraband program launched by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko resulted in an 80 percent increase in import duty collection as well, Mr. Dmytrenko said.

Stop Contraband was among the Yushchenko government's first major initiatives. It was launched in late February in order to stem the flow of illegal imports and exports with the goal of more effective taxation and collection of revenues.

Another noteworthy success of the budget was that for the first time in many years, it was free from the large-scale corruption schemes that former President Leonid Kuchma's government was notorious for, said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is exclusively financed by Ukrainian business donations.

For example, credits with favored companies without collateral have stopped, he said.

Mr. Kuchma's budgets set aside enormous sums of money for its State Administration of Affairs, a bureaucracy that was directly under the former president's control.

"The parliament didn't control that sizable part of the budget, whose sole purpose was for Kuchma to retain power," said Dr. Serhii Taran, director of the Kyiv-based International Democracy Institute, which is financed by mid-level Ukrainian businesses and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

"Now this sizable part of the budget is absent," Mr. Taran said.

Politically, the 226-0 vote for the budget revealed that President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine coalition is just barely forming a parliamentary majority.

The budget was fully opposed by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which is behaving as much of an opponent of Our Ukraine as the Party of Regions and Communist Party.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc's 37 national deputies abstained or were absent from voting.

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Orthodox Church consecrates bishop for Western Europe

by Hieromonk Daniel Zelinsky

CHICAGO — Seven bishops of the Orthodox world, along with over 30 priests and deacons, gathered on December 13, 2005, at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Chicago for the consecration of Bishop Andriy (Peshko) as a new bishop for Western Europe.

The ceremonies took place on the Feast Day of St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle and founder of the Church in Ukraine, with the participation of several hundred faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and the Diaspora.

The consecration was the result of Archimandrite Andriy's election during the ninth Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Diaspora, held on October 20-23, 2005, in London with the blessing of Metropolitan Constantine, prime hierarch. The sobor examined the vital concerns of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Prior to the convocation of the sobor, the Standing Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops beyond the Borders of

Ukraine held its annual meeting. The bishops' conference nominated Archimandrite Andriy for the position of bishop for Western Europe, whose seat will be in the British capital.

Bishop Andriy (secular name: Bohdan Peshko) was born on April 27, 1972, in western Ukraine. Following the completion of his elementary and high school education, he enrolled in the St. Petersburg Spiritual Seminary in 1989, completing his seminary education in 1993.

He then came to the United States and enrolled at Christ the Savior Seminary of the American Carpatho-Rusyn Orthodox Church, Johnstown, Pa., for a year of post-graduate study. He returned to Ukraine and completed the post-graduate course of theological studies at the Kyiv Theological Academy, receiving his master's degree in 1999. In 2000 he received the academic status of a doctoral candidate in Orthodox theology.

After returning to the United States, he was ordained to the diaconate on April 8, 2001, by Archbishop Vsevolod at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Chicago. In 2004 Deacon Bohdan was tonsured as a

monk and took the name Andriy. On September 29 of that year Archbishop Vsevolod ordained Monk Andriy to the holy priesthood with the rank of ihumen.

On October 21, 2005, during the London Sobor, Metropolitan Constantine elevated Ihumen Andriy to the rank of archimandrite.

On December 12, 2005, again in St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Chicago, many clergy and faithful witnessed the "Engagement" Service during which Bishop-elect Andriy pronounced his confession of faith and his dedication and commitment to Christ our Lord and the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church and his promise to serve faithfully as bishop of London and Western Europe of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Diaspora.

Presiding over this service was Metropolitan Constantine, along with Metropolitan Nicholas of the American Carpatho-Rusyn Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., Archbishop Vsevolod, Western Eparch U.O.C. of U.S.A., Archbishop Yuriy, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada; and Archbishop Job of the

ANALYSIS

Will Russian-Ukrainian gas row go to Swedish arbitration?

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Despite an apparent war of nerves behind the current Russian-Ukrainian dispute over gas supplies to and transit across Ukraine in 2006, official Kyiv has been showing a fairly relaxed attitude in public to Moscow's demand that gas prices next year be increased more than fourfold from the current level of \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said earlier this week that Gazprom is taking an "irresponsible approach" in demanding such a price hike. "I cannot comment on the statements of Gazprom officials that the price [for gas] in Ukraine will be \$220 or \$230 for 1,000 cubic meters. Why not \$500 or \$700? You know, this is not a basis for a political dialogue," Mr. Yushchenko said on December 20, 2005. "Those people who believe it is possible to do it [introduce new gas prices] starting January 1 – I wouldn't call them professionals."

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov, who failed to find a way out of the gas impasse in talks with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov in Moscow on December 19, 2005, did not seem to be particularly worried either. He told journalists in Kyiv the following day that the new gas price proposed by Moscow was "taken from the top of

one's head" and cannot be discussed seriously.

Moreover, Mr. Yekhanurov assured reporters that Moscow is not going to break the existing gas delivery and transit contract with Ukraine. "We have a contract [in force] and all issues, if there are any problems, can be settled in the Stockholm court [Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce]," he added.

What contract was Mr. Yekhanurov talking about? And why was he apparently confident that Ukraine could prevail in a potential arbitration case in Stockholm?

Naftohaz Ukrayiny, Ukraine's gas-transport company, announced on December 7, 2005, that it has a document in which Gazprom obliged itself to supply Ukraine with gas in 2005-2009 at \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters as payment for Russian gas transit across Ukraine in that period.

Naftohaz specified that the document at issue is a 2004 addendum to the 2002 contract with Gazprom on conditions and volumes of Russian gas transit across Ukraine in 2003-2013. The addendum, Naftohaz said, explicitly fixes the gas transit tariff at \$1.09 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers and the gas price supplied to Ukraine as payment for transit at \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters in 2005-2009.

Gazprom immediately reacted to this Ukrainian assertion with a statement saying that Russian gas shipment to and across Ukraine, in accordance with an intergovernmental accord of 2001, is pri-

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Kyiv brings Black Sea Fleet into unresolved gas dispute

by Valentines Mite

RFE/RL Newsline

In the midst of ongoing gas talks, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko suggested on December 20, 2005, that the Kremlin should pay more to base its Black Sea Fleet in Crimea. Russia currently pays \$98 million annually to station the fleet – left over from Soviet times – in the port of Sevastopol.

Many analysts are doubtful that Ukraine playing the Black Sea Fleet card will have much effect. Nikolai Petrov, a political analyst at the Carnegie Center in Moscow, said the Black Sea Fleet has already lost its strategic importance for Russia.

"On the one hand, during the 15 years that Ukraine has existed as an independent state, the Black Sea Fleet has on the whole lost its importance as a military-strategic unit," Mr. Petrov said. "On the other hand, Ukraine has used the fleet as an instrument of pressure many times and now it does not have this kind of urgency or importance that it had at the beginning of the 1990s."

Not all analysts think along the same lines. Tatyana Stanovaya, who heads the analytical department at the Center for Political Technologies, a Moscow-based think tank, said strategic considerations play a secondary role in the Black Sea Fleet issue.

"In this case, the psychological angle is of utmost importance. If Russia is forced to move the fleet out, it will be a serious blow to Russia's image, it will

discredit Russian foreign policy and it will be considered to be a serious set back in [President Vladimir] Putin's policy in Russia," Mrs. Stanovaya said.

However, Mrs. Stanovaya said the Ukrainian side will probably be reluctant to put the Sevastopol base issue on the table. "Kyiv cannot link these two problems [gas and the base] in the negotiations with Gazprom," she said. "Only Yushchenko can link these topics in negotiations with Putin. So far, the [gas] negotiations haven't reached such a high level."

Some analysts have said that, in addition to raising the Black Sea Fleet issue, Ukraine could take advantage of other Russian vulnerabilities – such as its military's reliance on two early warning radar stations, located in the Ukrainian cities of Mukachiv and Sevastopol.

The two countries also have a high level of military codependence – something that Ukraine could use as leverage.

The Russian military still relies on the Ukrainian defense industry for spare parts and for the maintenance of equipment designed and manufactured in Ukraine during Soviet times. Such equipment includes intercontinental ballistic missiles and Antonov planes. Ukraine also supplies air-to-air missiles to Russia, gas-turbine engines for some warships, and engines for almost all Russian-made helicopters. But Mr. Petrov, the Carnegie Center analyst, thinks it is unlikely that Ukraine will exert such pressure – as it

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NEWSBRIEFS

Kyiv can claim Russian gas

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov said on Channel 5 on December 27, 2005, that Ukraine has the right to 15 percent of the Russian gas flowing in transit across its territory. "If 1,000 cubic meters of gas crosses the Ukrainian border, we have the right to take 150 cubic meters as payment for gas transit. This is a contract. This is a legal formula and our indisputable right," Mr. Yekhanurov said. Gazprom Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Medvedev said the previous day that Gazprom will stop gas supplies to Ukraine on January 1 at 10 a.m. if both sides fail to agree on a new gas price for 2006. "My forecast is that nothing will change after January 1, 2006," ITAR-TASS quoted Ukrainian Presidential Secretariat chief Oleh Rybachuk as saying on December 26, 2005. "Private consumers, individuals and communal services will feel no difference at all, while the interests of enterprises will be defended toughly, and the talks are conducted in this way," Mr. Rybachuk added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM says Swedish arbitration possible

KYIV – Prime Minister Yekhanurov said in Kyiv on December 23, 2005, that his cabinet is drafting documents for possible appraisal of its gas-price dispute with Moscow by the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, which is internationally recognized as a neutral venue for settling commercial disputes (see "RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova Report," December 27, 2005), Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. "I am asking for all necessary documents to be prepared in case of irresponsible statements, particularly those in written form," Mr. Yekhanurov said at a cabinet meeting. Earlier the same day, Russian gas giant Gazprom staged a televised rehearsal for switching off gas supplies to Ukraine. Naftohaz Ukrayiny chief Oleksandr Ivchenko said on December 26, 2005, that Ukraine's reserves of gas at underground storage facilities are sufficient to last the country through the winter but failed to mention any specific volumes. Ukraine has 13 underground storage facilities, whose capacity exceeds 30 billion cubic meters. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Our Ukraine bloc slams rivals

KYIV – The pro-presidential Our Ukraine bloc has condemned the position taken by the Party of Regions and other opposition forces in the ongoing gas dispute with Russia and accused them of "betraying national interests," Interfax-Ukraine reported on December 26, 2005. "We are surprised at the position taken by the Party of Ukraine [led by former Premier Viktor Yanukovich] that allows itself to be used as a means of pressure on the part of a foreign state and does not back Ukraine in its talks with Russia," Our Ukraine said in a statement. Our Ukraine also lambasted President Viktor Yushchenko's erstwhile ally, former Prime Minister Yuliya Tymoshenko, for what it called her "antipatriotic rhetoric" in the gas row. "We refuse to believe that Yuliya Volodymyrivna's antipatriotic rhetoric has something to do with the dropping of legal proceedings initiated against her in Russia," the statement notes. Russian prosecutors said on December 26, 2005, that they have closed a bribery case against Mrs. Tymoshenko because the statute of limitations has expired on the corruption charges against her. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine, Turkmenistan agree on energy

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan – Ukrainian Energy Minister Ivan Plachkov and Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov have reached an agreement on 2006 shipments of Turkmen gas to Ukraine, Interfax reported on December 23, 2005. Kyiv's NTN Television reported that Ukraine would pay \$60 per 1,000 cubic meters in 2006, an increase on the \$44 paid for 2005 shipments, but other reports gave no price information and suggested that the final terms would be announced at a later date. "The volumes and price parameters have been decided in principle and on mutually advantageous terms, and the corresponding documents will now be prepared for signing," RFE/RL's Turkmen Service quoted Mr. Plachkov as saying on December 22, 2005. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russian navy chief assails Ukraine

MOSCOW – Admiral Vladimir Masorin,

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ONE YEAR AFTER: Residents of Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, reflect on Orange Revolution

by Yana Sedova

Kyiv Press Bureau

"One Year After" is a four-part series examining the lives of Ukrainians one year after the Orange Revolution. The third part features Yevhen Nyshchuk, 34, a Kyiv resident, husband and parent of one son.

KYIV – Yevhen Nyshchuk felt terrified those few days after the first round of voting during last year's presidential elections, when the Central Election Commission (CEC) had awarded Viktor Yanukovych far more votes than Viktor Yushchenko.

"I went into this panic," Mr. Nyshchuk said. "And it wasn't only me."

That moment, the professional actor began thinking about whether he would be able to continue his career in the theaters of Ukraine, especially after having worked for the Yushchenko campaign as an event and concert organizer.

"At that point, we thought (the elections) will certainly be falsified," he said. "Everyone was convinced of this. But then came the thought: Will the people rise up or not?"

Even then, Mr. Nyshchuk had no idea that he would eventually be on stage at the very heart of Ukraine – Independence Square – and become the irreplaceable

emcee encouraging millions of Ukrainians to brave the bitter winter cold and persist in carrying out the historic Orange Revolution.

From its start on November 22, 2004, through December 27, 2004, the day the Supreme Court declared Mr. Yushchenko Ukraine's president, Mr. Nyshchuk virtually lived on the maidan's stage.

As the Revolution's main disc jockey, he introduced the politicians who delivered inspiring speeches, as well as musicians who energized the demonstrators.

In between the speeches and songs, he calmed a tense crowd that was often in fear for what their own government might do against them.

The Revolution convinced him that Ukraine had finally identified itself as an independent country, a notion he felt had not fully developed until then.

As an actor, however, he felt that the revolution was only a small step in changing what is a poorly supported and sparsely-financed arts scene in Kyiv, particularly with regard to film and theater.

The role Mr. Nyshchuk had played at the revolutionary stage brought him popularity among common people, but did little to help him as a film and theater actor.

At present Mr. Nyshchuk survives mostly due to hosting concerts and festivals throughout Ukraine.



Kyiv, population 2,567,000, is the capital of Ukraine. Kyiv is 82.8 percent ethnic Ukrainian; Viktor Yushchenko received 78.37 percent of the vote in the city of Kyiv in the 2004 presidential election.

Creative Agency

Art Veles became the single event management company that took on the task of organizing Mr. Yushchenko's campaign during the 2002 parliamentary

elections.

Art Veles alone was responsible for his 2004 presidential campaign, and it is now organizing the meetings and forums for

(Continued on page 10)

OSCE helps implement Dniester River basin project

ODESA – A meeting of national working groups in Odesa on December 1, 2005, marked the end of a project aimed at enhancing regional cooperation between Ukraine and Moldova on integrated water resources management in the Dniester/Dniester river basin.

Supported by the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the project, "Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management of the Dniester River," was implemented with the help of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Environmental officials of different levels, local authorities, representatives of the civil society and foreign donors that took part in the Odesa meeting, discussed the next steps in achieving sustainable development of the river basin.

"The project helped enhance regional cooperation between Ukraine and Moldova on integrated water resources management and discuss outstanding

transboundary issues in the Dniester river basin," said Raul Daussa of the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. "It also served as a forum for environmental agencies working in the field."

Under the project, a diagnostic study of the river basin was produced by national and international experts, which incorporated a number of recommendations for boosting environmental cooperation in the region.

The Dniester (as it is known in Ukrainian), one of the major rivers in Eastern Europe and an important source of drinking water, is facing serious environmental problems. The river is shared between Ukraine and Moldova, including the conflict-ridden Transdnestr region, which makes it difficult to achieve a coherent approach to solving the existing problems and improve river management, noted a press release from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

OSCE coordinator presents assesment of Ukrainian adoption mechanism

KYIV – Strengthening Ukraine's adoption system was the focus of a seminar held on December 12, 2005, in Kyiv by the Office of the OSCE Project Coordinator and the Ukrainian Family, Youth and Sports Ministry, at which the findings of an assessment were presented.

Senior Ukrainian state officials and experts reviewed the assessment and made policy recommendations on protecting families and orphans, and the adoption system itself. Allegations of trafficking and exploitation of Ukrainian children, through international adoption schemes, as well as issues surrounding the 1993 Hague Convention on child protection, were also discussed.

"This report assists Ukrainian authorities in identifying the issues that need to be addressed in child welfare and protection policy, in order for the national adoption system to comply with international children's rights and protection standards," said Cordula Wohlmuther, senior program officer for the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine. "It proposes legislative and other initiatives to that end."

The assessment, which was carried out by experts from the Geneva-based International Social Services, examined current Ukrainian legislation and practices for domestic and international adoption.

OSCE awards top Ukrainian journalism students

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

KYIV – An awards ceremony on November 14, 2005, marked the end of a pilot project by the OSCE project coordinator in Ukraine providing internships for outstanding journalism students from different regions of Ukraine.

Organized in cooperation with the national Institute of Mass Information, the project arranged monthlong internships at leading Ukrainian newspapers, radio and television stations for journalism students from across the country. Students from eastern regions were placed in western and central Ukraine, while students from western regions interned in the east.

By providing practical experience and opportunities to build networks, and allowing students to live and work in different regions of the country, the project aimed at allaying stereotypes and pro-

moting understanding between the people of eastern and western Ukraine.

"This has not just been a valuable work experience," wrote Olga Lytvyn in her competition essay, "this internship has given me many new friends and helped me to know a city I will love for the rest of my life." Ms Lytvyn, who comes from the eastern city of Luhansk, interned in the western town of Lviv, close to the Polish border. She was awarded the top prize during the OSCE ceremony.

Azad Safarov, a student from the eastern city of Donetsk, said, "These internships not only united people with different mentalities, something necessary after the 2004 election, but it also exposed us to the richness and diversity of our country."

In total, 28 students participated in the pilot internship project developed by the project coordinator of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Quotable notes

"... Many years ago the Russians accepted – at first reluctantly – the reality of Poland's complete independence. That was a hard process for them.

"I guess it's hard for them to accept the reality of Ukraine's complete independence. In a sense it's even harder than in Poland's case.

"A lot of Russians regard Ukrainians as their younger brothers. One day they learned that Ukrainians aren't their younger brothers and that they're getting up on their feet. They realized that Ukrainians have a political culture that's more advanced than the Russian one; you can figure out your problems in a democratic manner; you can preserve democracy while solving problems. ...

"I think that the Russians find it hard to reconcile themselves with the idea of Ukraine as a mature and independent European country, not a province.

"But changes will take place, just like they happened between Russia and Poland. I believe that Russia and Ukraine should have good relations. They are very close and interconnected, yet these relations must be based on respect and recognition of mutual independence. All this will happen. I'm convinced that Russia will also change. ..."

– Zbigniew Brzezinski, former U.S. national security advisor, adviser to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and professor of international relations at Johns Hopkins University, in an interview with Serhiy Solodky of the newspaper Den (The Day), December 13, 2005.

Hollywood Trident Foundation marks fifth year of activity

by Andrij J. Semotiuk

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. – The Hollywood Trident Foundation met on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, at the UCLA Faculty Center to celebrate its fifth anniversary. The meeting included the foundation's regular members and two UCLA professors, Roman Koropecy and Dr. Paul Micevych, who joined in the lively discussion.

The meeting opened with a brief film, both moving and touching, put together by Halja Kuchmij and Orest Sushko about the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus and the bandura. Mr. Sushko indicated that the film-makers were well into their project and described some of the circumstances involved in the filmed interviews. It is clear this film will have a major impact on the Ukrainian community and Ukraine. The foundation was pleased to see the progress being made on the film, particularly since the foundation supported the project from its inception.

The meeting then heard a report from Peter Borisow, the foundation's president, about his work in Ukraine with the Ukrainian government aimed at encouraging the Ukrainian film and television industry. Mr. Borisow reported that all television programs will soon be required to have proper Ukrainian dubbing (not Ukrainian subtitles) and that over the next few years, all new films coming into Ukraine will be required to be dubbed into Ukrainian for theatrical distribution. Mr. Borisow added that there are good people in the Ukrainian government to work with and that meaningful progress is being made.

Andrij Semotiuk, the foundation's executive director, then briefed the meeting on the activities of the foundation over the last five years. Apart from meetings mobilizing people of Ukrainian origin or interest in the entertainment industry in Hollywood, the foundation also: presented Oles Yanchuk's film, "The Undefeated" at UCLA's film theater; put on a Dovzhenko Film Festival in cooperation with the UCLA Film Archives and Film School, awarded a scholarship to a student for studies at the Los Angeles Film School; subtitled Oles Sanin's film, "Mamay" for submission as Ukraine's entry for the Academy Awards. Best Foreign Language Film Award; helped sister Ukrainian organizations on general community-related matters; organized a petition of people in the entertainment industry to support the Orange Revolution; and worked hard, mainly through its president's multiple visits to Ukraine, to help Ukraine get its film industry back on solid ground and focused on Hollywood partners instead of Russia. It was noted that five years went by very quickly.

The meeting then launched into a lively discussion of what the foundation has done in its first five years and what it should do in the future. Among needs identified were setting up a foundation website for members networking as well as for general informational purposes, setting up workshops in Los Angeles for people interested in film, promoting a Ukrainian Film Festival in Los Angeles, promoting Ukrainian interest networking in the entertainment industry, doing a film based on Eugenia Dallas' autobiographical book, "One Woman, Five Lives, Five Countries," holding periodic community-based screenings of Ukrainian films and continuing the foundation's work in Ukraine. All of the participants agreed there is much more for the foundation to do and that it is worthy of the Ukrainian community's support. The executive will now try to work with these ideas for future growth of the Hollywood Trident Foundation.

Hollywood Trident Foundation works to foster more films on Ukraine

The Hollywood Trident Foundation was formed to foster more films about the contribution of Ukrainians to modern civilization worldwide and also to bring together entertainment and media industry professionals in support of the following further objectives:

1. To support fellow members in their career pursuits in the entertainment and media industry in Hollywood and internationally; and
2. To facilitate contact among professionals working in the entertainment industry who are interested in Ukrainian affairs; and
3. To conduct seminars, workshops and other entertainment projects for members.

The Hollywood Trident Foundation includes members living in the Los Angeles area working in the media and entertainment industries. Affiliates in other cities work with the Foundation.

Persons who work in the entertainment or media industries may sign up as regular members. Persons who do not work in these industries but nonetheless support these goals may sign up as associate members. Anyone desiring membership should e-mail the foundation at semotiuk@aol.com for an application form.

OBITUARY: John Spencer, 58, actor on "The West Wing"

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – John Spencer, actor of stage, screen and television, who played the president's chief of staff and, in more recent episodes, a candidate for vice-president on the award-winning television drama "The West Wing," died on December 16, 2005, of a heart attack. He was 58.

Mr. Spencer, who was of Ukrainian ancestry on his mother's side, told The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondent Helen Smindak back in May 2001: "Yes, I'm half Ukrainian."

"My mother's maiden name was Bincarowski – I have no idea where the family came from in Ukraine – and my father's Irish. I think there may have been some Czech (ancestry) in my father's family – on his father's side – but I only found that out in the last six-seven years," he told Mrs. Smindak, who reported on the arts in her "Dateline New York" column for The Weekly.

Mr. Spencer was then appearing as the hard-talking, recovering junkie trumpet player Martin Glimmer in the Broadway play "Glimmer, Glimmer and Shine" – a performance for which he received dozens of complimentary reviews from critics.

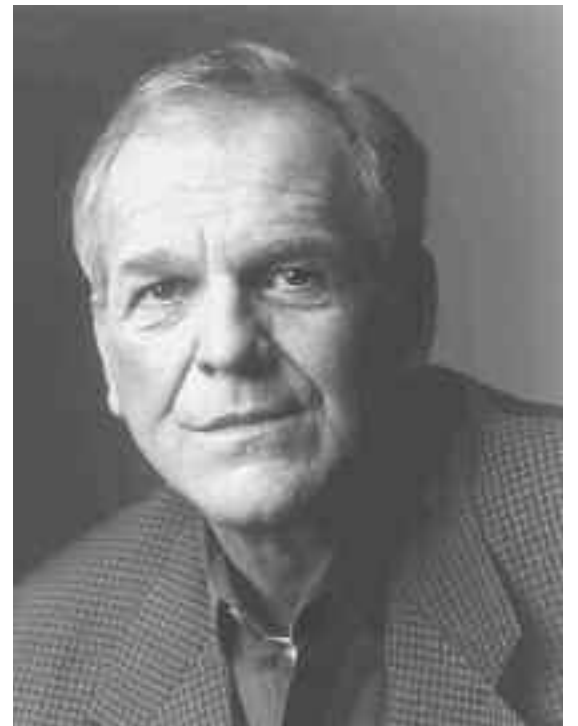
The New York Times theater critic Ben Brantley wrote that "Mr. Spencer had the most to work with ... and he brings beautiful pace and variety to the long retrospective monologues." The Daily News review said: "Spencer, his eyes often lit with a loony fire, his gravelly voice a surprisingly elegant instrument for his many caustic lines, makes us believe Martin is a man too strong for life to break."

Mr. Spencer had originated the part of Martin Glimmer at the premiere of "Glimmer" (then called "The Glimmer Brothers") at the Williamstown Theater Festival in 1999 and has also played it at workshops in upstate New York and New Haven, Conn. The show's Los Angeles run earned him effusive praise: one reviewer called it "never less than compelling," and another noted that "the actor has everything in his arsenal to create a memorable stage character."

Mrs. Smindak reported that Mr. Spencer had begun his career as an actor on "The Patty Duke Show"; appeared in the highly rated NBC movie "The Tangled Web"; and starred in Joseph Wambaugh's "A Jury of One." Numerous guest-starring appearances included NBC's "Law & Order" and "Miami Vice," as well as "Spenser: For Hire," "Early Edition" and "Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman."

He appeared in hit films with Kevin Spacey, Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, Sylvester Stallone, Robert De Niro, Nicholas Cage, Sean Connery and Ed Harris. His comedy credits included the films "Forget Paris" with Billy Crystal, "Green Card" with Gerard Depardieu and Andie McDowell, and "Albino Alligator" with Matt Dillon and Faye Dunaway.

In theater work Mr. Spencer won an Obie Award for his performance in "A Still Life," a New York Drama League honor for his portrayal of Dan White in the Broadway production of



John Spencer

"Execution of Justice" and a Drama Desk nomination for his role in "The Day Room."

Exposure in film work – especially playing Harrison Ford's sidekick in "Presumed Innocent" – led to his being cast as Tommy Mullaney on "L.A. Law" in 1990, making him a household name among viewers.

Mr. Spencer's work on "The West Wing" as Leo McGarry, a tough-talking politico, won him four Emmy nominations and, in 2002, the Emmy for best supporting actor in a drama series. As he received his Emmy, Mr. Spencer paid tribute to the show's writers and declared that "the prize for me is doing the thing I love."

Mr. Spencer, who attended the Professional Children's School in New York City, Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey and New York University, was the only child of Mildred and John Speshock of Totowa, N.J.

Mr. Spencer was a member of "The West Wing" cast since the show's inception. During the most recent, seventh, season of "The West Wing," his character became the running mate to the Democratic presidential candidate Matt Santos (played by Jimmy Smits).

With Mr. Spencer's sudden death, the NBC show is now faced with the dilemma of altering its plot lines. It was a case of life imitating art, as McGarry had suffered a heart attack on "The West Wing" and was forced to give up his job as chief of staff.

"John was an uncommonly good man, an exceptional role model and a brilliant actor," said Aaron Sorkin, who created the series, and Tommy Schlamme, one of its original producers, in a joint statement reported by the Associated Press.

Roselle Park adopts resolution on Famine

ROSELLE PARK, N.J. – The mayor and council of this New Jersey town on November 14, 2005, adopted a resolution (No. 131-05) solemnly remembering the victims of the Communist-engineered Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

The resolution noted that 2005 marked the 72nd anniversary of the Famine-Genocide, "which resulted in the deaths of at least 6 million Ukrainians and was covered up and officially denied by Russian Communist authorities." It also pointed out that "at the height of the Famine, Ukrainian villagers were dying at the rate of 25,000 per day" and referred to the trailblazing work of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, citing its conclusion that victims "starved to death in a man-made famine" and that "Joseph Stalin and the Russian Community leadership committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933."

The resolution was passed by the governing body of the Borough of Roselle Park in recognition of the fact that "Ukrainian Americans form an integral part of the ethnographic map of Roselle Park and contribute to its rich cultural diversity."

It directed that the Famine should be solemnly remembered by Roselle Park residents and urged that the United Nations and all governments of the world "should recognize the Famine-Genocide 'as an act of crimes against humanity.'"

The measure further resolved that a copy of the resolution be sent to Board of Education Member Alex Balaban, a Ukrainian American, and Ukraine's Mission to the United Nations.

The resolution was read on the local public access channel on cable television by Mayor Joseph DeIorio; and the reading was broadcast several times.

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

The UNA's Soyuzivka resort hosts annual teachers' seminar

by Halyna Pliaka

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Nineteen teachers from schools of Ukrainian studies in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Connecticut attended the annual teachers' seminar held at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka estate on July 24 through August 6, 2005.

Courses encompassed Ukrainian history, language, literature and culture; instructors during the seminar included Dr. Eugene Fedorenko, president of the Educational Council and organizer of its teachers' seminars – Mykola Francuzenko, George Gajecy and Ihor Mirchuk.

The teachers' seminar, already in its 21st year, provides both for the training of new teachers and the upgrading of teachers' qualifications.

One of the participants of the seminar, Halyna Pliaka of Parma, Ohio, noted that although the teachers spent the majority of their time attending lectures, "we were pleasantly surprised by Soyuzivka – the forests and the mountains, which reminded us of our Carpathians we felt very much at ease among all this nature."

The courses were held with the financial assistance of the Ukrainian National Association as well as Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union, Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union (Philadelphia), The Heritage Foundation (Chicago), Ukrainian Free University Foundation, SUMA (Yonkers) Federal Credit Union, Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union and Self Reliance (New Jersey) Federal Credit Union.

– translated by George Gajecy



Participants of the teachers' seminar held at Soyuzivka during the summer of 2005.

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To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ 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 of The Weekly edition in which 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.
- ✦ Unsolicited materials submitted for publication will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine's energy dilemma

Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former U.S. national security advisor, recently said that Russians have a hard time accepting the reality of Ukraine's complete independence.

In the past month, Russian President Vladimir Putin has once again proven Dr. Brzezinski's point. Under the guise of the state-owned gas monopoly Gazprom, Mr. Putin is again exerting pressure on Ukraine. But this time Ukraine is fighting back and a dispute has erupted over how much Ukraine should pay for Russian gas in 2006.

Ukraine gets 25 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Russia as a barter payment for transporting gas to Europe through its pipeline. Ukraine gets 31 percent of the 80 billion cubic meters of natural gas it uses annually from Russia, while the rest comes from domestic sources and Turkmenistan.

According to the new Russian policy, natural gas prices for Ukraine would increase from a rate of \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters to \$220-\$230 per 1,000 cubic meters – a more than fourfold increase. Gazprom has also demanded that the new payments be made in cash.

Though high-ranking Ukrainian officials – including Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov – have traveled to Moscow to negotiate a deal, a tense standoff has nonetheless developed.

Meanwhile, the European Union has reason to be concerned. About half the natural gas consumed there comes from Gazprom, and most of that is shipped in pipelines through Ukraine. Russia has threatened to cut off the gas supply to Ukraine if a deal is not reached by January 1.

The move by Gazprom appears to be another attempt by Mr. Putin to influence countries that have long since left Russia's sphere of influence. Some analysts have suggested that it is punishment for Ukraine's electing a reform-minded, pro-western president and that Russia is trying to influence the outcome of the March 2006 parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

However, what is clear is that Gazprom wants to charge Ukraine much more than it did in the previous year, while charging neighboring Belarus – whose president has always stood firmly beside Mr. Putin – a pittance.

On December 29, 2005, Belarus ceded control to Gazprom of a transit pipeline that crosses Belarus into Europe. Two days earlier, Gazprom reached an agreement to sell gas to Belarus for \$46.68 per 1,000 cubic meters – just 20 percent of what it wants to charge Ukraine.

In its discussions with Russia, Ukraine has rightly agreed to pay market rates, but in phased increases over a period of time, rather than all at once.

Russia expressed interest in a Russian-Ukrainian natural gas consortium that would give it co-ownership of Ukraine's transit pipelines. However, Prime Minister Yekhanurov rightly rejected the offer during negotiations in Moscow.

Mr. Putin's policies have been so heavy-handed that some Russian insiders have begun to chafe. On December 27, 2005, Andrei Illarionov, a senior economic adviser to President Putin, resigned, saying Russia had used its energy reserves not merely as an instrument of foreign policy, but as "a weapon."

Russia, it appears, hopes that by raising prices and tightening the gas supply during the winter it can bring a pro-Kremlin coalition to power in the coming Verkhovna Rada elections.

"I think that the Russians find it hard to reconcile themselves with the idea of Ukraine as a mature and independent European country, not a province," Dr. Brzezinski said. "But changes will take place, just like they happened between Russia and Poland. I believe that Russia and Ukraine should have good relations. They are very close and interconnected, yet these relations must be based on respect and recognition of mutual independence."

As Ukrainian and Russian officials continue to negotiate the terms of an agreement, Mr. Putin must take these words to heart. If Ukraine and Russia are to live as neighbors, they must respect and recognize each other's mutual independence.

Jan.
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2005

Turning the pages back...

The United States – both the Bush administration and members of Congress – hailed the December 26, 2004, presidential election in Ukraine as a historic event, congratulated the Ukrainian people for their accomplishment and acknowledged America's responsibility to help them achieve their goals, reported Yaro Bihun in our issued dated January 2, 2005.

Speaking a day after the election, Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed the U.S. government assessment of the importance of what happened in Ukraine: "This is an historic moment for democracy in Ukraine," he said. Even though the election results were not yet official, he added "it appears that the Ukrainian people finally had an opportunity to choose freely their next president."

He said the election observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe had already noted that while there were some shortcomings, overall the elections were very close to meeting international democratic standards. "The Ukrainian people can truly be proud of this achievement," Secretary Powell added.

"We have said that we are prepared to work closely with the winner of Sunday's election as long as the election was won in a free and fair contest," Secretary Powell said. "We are prepared to move forward on many issues of importance to Ukraine."

"Ukrainians own Ukraine. And what we're going to do is work with the Ukrainians to help them achieve their dreams and aspirations, help them improve their economy, and to help them improve their relations with us and with the rest of the world," he said.

Our Washington correspondent also reported that some members of Congress had spent their holiday recess in Ukraine as election observers, among them Jim Kolbe (R) of Arizona,

(Continued on page 19)

CHRISTMAS PASTORALS

Let us thank God and glorify him

Pastoral letter of the Permanent Conference of the Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine on the blessed feast of the Nativity.

"Let us glorify and thank God the Father for He, in His great mercy, sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Galatians 4:4-5)

Dearly Beloved Clergy and Faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church beyond the borders of Ukraine, and Brothers and Sisters of the Faith in Ukraine:

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

The world today, just as it was at the time of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is in so many ways enveloped in sorrow and gloom. This is because of the ravages of evil, the culture of death in our society, man's inhuman treatment of fellow man and the consequences of natural disasters. Just as our Lord came as the innocent child over 2,000 years ago, however, He comes to us again in modern times bringing us salvation. God takes on our humanity so that we can be elevated to the divine, so that we can have life, peace and hope. Had He not come, we would have no cause for celebration at any time.

Because He came, we can now comprehend the compassion, the concern, the love of God for all mankind and His desire to bring about our salvation. The Only-Begotten Son is the center and cornerstone of all human and divine history and we celebrate His Incarnation not only on December 25/January 7, but in all seasons, at all times and in all occasions. We celebrate it in the ways we share the love. We celebrate the Incarnation in the ways we are willing to empty ourselves of pride and vanity enabling us to abandon our judgment and condemnation of our neighbor. We celebrate the Incarnation when we become Christ in the lives of others – expressing our concern and compassion for them regardless of their life circumstances. We celebrate the Incarnation when we cease resisting the gift of His Grace.

No one has ever exceeded the evangelist John (the Beloved One) in his powerful description of the Incarnation/Nativity – the miracle of "God Eternal" (Boh Predvichnyi) who comes to us and reveals Himself to us in the Person of a tiny, vulnerable human Child. "In Him was life and the life was the Light of men" (John 1:4). John is telling us that in and through our Lord Jesus, God has made it possible for us to experience His power and love in the depths of our existence so that we may have fullness of life and the ability to share that fulness.

We should notice, however, the unexpected turn John makes in the middle of his description! Turning from this description of Grace and Light and Life, John suddenly says, "To His own He came, yet His own did not accept Him" (John 1:11). Then just as suddenly, he returns once again to the scheme of Grace, saying, "And we have seen His glory. The glory of

an only Son coming from the Father, filled with enduring love" (John 1:14). John is emphasizing the miracle of the persistence of God's Grace. In spite of the rejection, in spite of the resistance, He keeps coming, He keeps returning, He keeps trying to break through to offer us His love.

And, as the Evangelist says, those who finally say "Yes," – those who receive Him – "He empowers to become the children of God" (John 1:12). No more beautiful or important Christmas story has ever been written. Nor more powerful example can be provided for our own lives.

Let us no longer resist the Grace, the Light and the Life. Let us boldly share it with an increasingly secularized society. Let us persist in our efforts to end war, in our efforts to proclaim the sanctity of all life – especially that of the innocent unborn, in our efforts to live in Christ's love. "For God so loved the world that He gave His Only-Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17) Believe it!

As a result of the events that unfolded in Ukraine one year ago, this season of miracles will forever be associated with the miracle of peace and love that unfolded before the eyes of the world in the sub-freezing streets of Kyiv during the Orange Revolution. May the faithful of the Church in Ukraine – our brothers and sisters in Faith and by blood for the majority of our faithful in the diaspora – along with their leaders, political and spiritual, open themselves to the Grace that unites all and heals all. They and you are in our continued prayers.

We greet you all during this Holy, Holy Season and pray that all the love, peace and joy of the Christ-Child will fill your homes and lives throughout the coming new year.

† **Constantine**
Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox
Church of the U.S.A. and Diaspora

† **John**
Metropolitan-Elect, Ukrainian
Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Antony**
Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox
Church of the U.S.A.

† **Vsevolod**
Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox
Church of the U.S.A.

† **Ioan**
Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox
Church in the Diaspora

† **Yuriy**
Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox
Church of Canada

† **Jeremiah**
Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy
of South America (UOC of the U.S.A.)



"The Three Magi Bearing Gifts," by Petro Chlodny Jr.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Diplomats issue cordial wishes

Christmas and New Year greetings from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky, to the Ukrainian diaspora.

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, and from me personally, please accept our most cordial wishes of a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2006.

During this beautiful and blessed time of the year, I want to wish good health, happiness, prosperity and well-being to every Ukrainian household in the United States.

Saying good-bye to 2005, each of us will obviously try to keep only the best memories of the passing year, while at the same time pinning hopes and aspirations on the year to come.

On behalf of Ukraine's diplomats in

the United Nations, I wholeheartedly wish to you, Dear Friends, that the New Year may multiply your personal joyous feelings as well as see the realization of your good intentions and long-cherished dreams.

I sincerely thank you for the valuable assistance you have always rendered to us. For us, this is an important expression of your trust and support for the intensive efforts that Ukraine, newly reborn in the wake of the Orange Revolution, is now applying on the international scene.

I am confident that our traditionally close and fruitful cooperation will further facilitate the success of our common Ukrainian cause.

In accordance with our ancient tradition, we wish you all the best, all that is good and joy for many years to come.

Christ is born!
Glorify Him!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The real meaning of nationalism

Dear Editor:

A letter to the editor in the December 11, 2005, issue of The Weekly suggests that the editors avoid using the term "nationalists" because it "has largely a pejorative connotation in the West and is often employed in scapegoating Ukrainians."

The pejorative connotation is employed only by those who do not know (or do not want to know) the real meaning of nationalism.

Webster's Dictionary defines nationalism as "loyalty and devotion to a nation."

Leo Iwaskiw
Philadelphia

Un-Christian behavior on display

Dear Editor:

Michael Kozak in his letter, "Moscow still uses the Church as a Tool" (October 23), aptly described how Moscow Patriarchate followers attacked Cardinal Lubomyr Husar and his faithful during the historic August 21 divine liturgy celebrating the transfer of the headquarters of the Ukrainian Catholic Church from Lviv to Kyiv.

This un-Christian behavior extends not only to the Ukrainian Catholic Church, but also the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. Both of these Churches celebrate the beautiful liturgy in Ukrainian and also uphold Ukrainian customs and traditions. All this is anathema to Moscow, which can hardly become the Third Rome if this continues and it loses the hold on Ukrainian property that was strengthened under the Communist regime.

There have been reports in southern Ukraine and in Crimea of Ukrainian Orthodox priests of the Kyiv Patriarchate being beaten up by followers of the Moscow Patriarchate for trying to establish Kyiv Patriarchate churches in those areas. In the northeastern oblast of Sumy, Kyiv Patriarchate priests have had their windows broken and are even spat upon by toothless old ladies professing to be followers of the Moscow Patriarchate.

Truly, the Moscow Patriarchate is doing a marvelous job of misinformation, more fitting of the Communist KGB than Christianity.

Recently, the Kyiv Patriarchate Bishop Mefodii Sribniak in Sumy printed a small prayer book in Ukrainian. The prayers are prefaced with a justification that prayer in one's native tongue is acceptable to God and not only to be used at bazaars and for lowly daily needs. In these highly Russified areas, the Moscow Church has brainwashed people that even prayer should be in Russian.

Unfortunately, even in North America, many Orthodox Ukrainians don't seem to be aware of what is at stake. Under the guise of canonicity, some feel that the Moscow Church is more acceptable than the Kyiv Church as Patriarch Bartholomew in Constantinople has not accepted the canonicity of the Kyiv Church, although it preceded that of Moscow.

It is time for Ukrainians in Canada and the United States to actively support our Christian brothers and sisters, both Catholic and Orthodox, in Ukraine. Both Churches were violently oppressed and persecuted, and produced many martyrs under the Communist regime. Their biggest transgression was to be Ukrainian and today the Moscow Patriarchate still holds them accountable and, therefore, showers their Churches with abuse, hatred and persecution.

Halyna Wawryshyn
Toronto

We welcome your opinion

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

Letters should be typed and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at staff@ukrweekly.com. The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



New Year's reflections

2005 was a good year for Ukraine. Predictably, President Viktor Yushchenko dominated, collecting many awards in the process: Time Magazine named him one of the most significant people of 2004; in April, he received the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award; in September, the Philadelphia Liberty Award; in October, Britain's Queen Elizabeth presented him with the first Chatham House Prize; in November, the European Union (EU) recognized him as European Citizen of the Year; he was a finalist for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Confirming that ours is an era where distance has been annihilated, I saw Mr. Yushchenko several times in 2005. I was at St. Pokrova in Parma, Ohio, in January when he took the oath as president of Ukraine, his voice resounding at the Rada in Kyiv and then a nano-second later, it boomed from speakers mounted on either side of a big-screen television on the ballroom wall. With my wife, children, friends and nearly a thousand others, I saw eight heads of state in attendance, as well as Secretary of State Colin Powell, NATO chief Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, First Lady Kateryna Chumachenko-Yushchenko, etc. Every now and then, the camera peeked discretely at outgoing President Leonid Kuchma, sitting silently, his face pale, eyes sad as death.

In April, I was in Washington and saw Mr. Yushchenko address a Joint Session of Congress. In 216 years, only 93 foreigners have done so, including the Marquis de LaFayette, Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, Lech Walesa, Yitzak Rabin.

America's leading political professionals rose to their feet to welcome Ukraine's president. Understandably: they know how hard it is to build a crowd and as politicians who worry about their re-election every moment of the day, they're aware of how rare political courage really is. They were honoring a fellow practitioner who had survived assassination and then, desperately ill, organized a crowd of a million people, maintaining tens of thousands of them at Independence Square for the better part of a month in the dead of winter, while negotiating a rerun of the election that had been stolen from him. His astonishing triumph, achieved under the constant glare of television cameras, gave him a rock star's aura and the mystique of historic inevitability.

Two days later, back home in Cleveland, watching the broadcast of Pope John Paul II's funeral in Rome, I again saw Mr. Yushchenko, the TV cameras still zooming in on him.

Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko also had a significant international impact. Even though she's no longer in power, Forbes Magazine's listing of the World's 100 most powerful women ranks her third. Glamorous, and politically savvy, Ms. Tymoshenko also appeared in Elle Magazine, Playboy (fully clothed, to be sure) and plenty of news publications. For her part, First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko appeared in Harper's Bazaar, television news shows like 60 Minutes, at university forums in the U.S., etc.

Still, it's not about personality; it's where the country stands. After all, Mr. Yushchenko promised to lead Ukraine away from Moscow, toward Europe; away from corruption and political manipulation to democracy and market economics. Those are the goals against

which he will be measured, not the personal honors he and others have won.

A year into a five-year term, there can be no definitive judgment, but so far the Yushchenko administration is making good progress. Reversing last year's rigged "privatization" that delivered Kryvorizhstal to President Kuchma's son-in-law for a mere \$800 million, President Yushchenko conducted a televised auction that brought in \$4.8 billion from Mittal, the world's largest steel company. Now plans are under way to privatize Ukrtelekom, the country's largest telecom company. Mr. Yushchenko also eliminated more than 4,000 regulations that restricted business registration, clamped down on tax evasion, increased tax revenues, balanced the budget and paid off Ukraine's deficit. Freedom House reports that Mr. Yushchenko's government made significant progress in press freedoms, civil society, and judicial reform. Visa requirements for visitors from the EU and North America were eliminated. Working to reclaim Ukraine's history, he honored the veterans of UPA and the Red Army, publicly mourned the victims of the Holodomor while condemning the communist rule which implemented the Famine-Genocide. At the commemoration of Auschwitz's liberation, he lit a candle for the victims and noted that many Ukrainians had been inmates there, including his own father.

Europe took note of all this. In October, NATO conducted four-day maneuvers in Western Ukraine. Soon after, the secretary general declared that Ukraine's transition to NATO's Membership Action Plan was a likely prospect. At a conference in Kyiv, Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that the EU recognizes Ukraine as a Market Economy and supports her entry into the World Trade Organization.

There were also grave problems in 2005. In a government crisis, Mr. Yushchenko dismissed the popular Yulia Tymoshenko. He had to address embarrassing questions about his son's shady business deals. Most ominously, an increasingly dictatorial Russia continues to meddle in Ukraine's internal affairs, seeking to sabotage her nascent democracy. These Kremlin policies are an affront and challenge to the whole world and it's why Ukraine will continue to be in the news – every step toward democracy or away, anywhere, is measured against the Orange Revolution.

Today, energy issues dominate in Ukraine. In March, there will be parliamentary elections. In June, Ukraine meets Spain in the World Cup soccer tournament. The world is sure to focus on those. Throughout 2006, Mr. Yushchenko will remain at the center of things, which is good. He's a courageous, decisive leader who thinks on his feet and grows with every challenge. He's a player.

I was in Kyiv in August on Ukraine's Independence Day when I encountered Mr. Yushchenko yet again, this time at the Maidan. I remember his speech, above all for this memorable line: the new Ukraine, he said, is being shaped by millions of hands. Well said. Everyone who cares for Ukraine, who appreciates the critical role her independence plays in a dangerous world, should rally to President Yushchenko's call and lend a hand, whether at a summer camp, a chorus, church hall, museum, Saturday school or building a bridge to Ukraine. 2005 was a good year; no less challenging than last. 2006 is already a work in progress.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is: fedynsky@stratos.net.

Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago opens exhibit on Orange Revolution

by Laryssa Chreptowsky Reifel

CHICAGO – Have the egg cartons and mattresses arrived yet? Stranger questions about modern art have been posed. On December 1-2, 2005, the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago opened an exhibit titled “Artists Respond: Ukrainian Art and the Orange Revolution.”

The exhibit presented the selected works of a group of 15 young artists who participated in the demonstrations on Kyiv’s Independence Square during the Orange Revolution. The Center for Contemporary Art (CCA) in Kyiv is located directly on the square where the first demonstrations began. The Center opened its doors to students and artists, transforming its gallery space into a collective studio for the production of new art. This union of artists, ideas and physical site became known as the Revolutionary

Experimental Space, or in Ukrainian, “Revolutsiyni Experimentalnyi Prostrir.”

Each artist’s work either interprets the events of the revolution, or induces one to contemplate serious questions about the revolution itself, the political process in Ukraine, and Ukraine’s evolution as a democratic entity. For example, one piece titled “Victory” by Artur Belorozov, is a compilation of egg cartons that hang on the wall.

Though egg cartons might not seem particularly consequential to the casual observer, they were critical to the revolution. The demonstrators stood on egg cartons to keep their feet off the cold ground during their vigil. This increased their endurance to remain outside during the revolution. The different types of egg cartons used in the piece symbolize the synthesis of a diverse group of people united in the cause for democracy.

Other works in the exhibition are not

as obviously tied to the “street,” as it were. There are pieces that offer both realism and abstraction, historical references and ironic commentary.

The installation of the exhibit by co-curators Nicholas Sawicki of UIMA and Yulia Vaganova, acting director of the CCA, (who came from Kyiv to attend

of the revolution – Yushenko’s challenges, the pervasiveness of Yanukovych’s continued presence and the legacy of Soviet politics. From there the viewer is taken directly to the street as rolled up, used mattresses bound by silver duct tape “Crowd” together to communicate the spirit and emotion of



President of Heritage Foundation Julian Kulas, Cook County Commissioner Tony Peraika, UIMA Vice-Chairman Laryssa Chreptowsky Reifel and State Senator Walter Dudycz at the exhibit.



Nicholas Sawicki and Yulia Vaganova – co-curators of the exhibit “Artists Respond: Ukrainian Art and the Orange Revolution.”

the installation and opening of the exhibit), is particularly compelling as it takes the viewer through a riveting emotional experience. Following a brief explanation of the Revolutionary Experimental Space, the viewer is instantly brought into the spirit of the exhibit as he begins with a particularly colorful piece called “Dobryi Den,” where a man is falling in a sea of color.

The exhibit then continues with many pieces that explore the political questions

the revolution.

The UIMA hosted a special opening for members of the press and dignitaries. There were over 100 individuals in attendance that included members of the media, elected and appointed government officials, gallery and museum representatives, representatives from the Chicago Mayor’s Office and members of the UIMA board of directors and execu-

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“Still the River Flows” gives ancient winter solstice rituals meaning in the present day

by Olena Jennings

NEW YORK – At The Ukrainian Museum on Sunday, December 11, 2005, Yara Arts Group presented the art installation “Still the River Flows” along with a short performance for the opening. “Still the River Flows” provides a window into the significance that ancient winter solstice and Christmas rituals have in the modern day.

The title has a dual meaning. “Still” has both the sense of the frozen river and “still to this day.” The installation by Watoku Ueno showcases the beauty and mystery of the rituals, using the photographs of Alexander Khantatev and video by Andrea Odezynska.

Work on the installation began when Mr. Khantatev accompanied Yara director Virlana Tkacz to the Carpathian Village of Kryvorivnia to photograph koliada, or Ukrainian Winter rituals, in January 2003. They did not expect to encounter such an ancient, colorful and extensive performance of traditions. The winter ritual that began on January 6, with the dinner of 12 dishes captivated them.

In the performance piece that preceded the opening of the installation, Olga Shuhan played a lonely housewife in an excerpt from Yara’s “Koliada: Twelve Dishes.” The excerpt not only entertained, but served to introduce the dinner traditions. The housewife invited the spirits to dinner and recited a poetic list of traditional dishes.

The koliada rituals continue with “Twelve Days of Song” during which the “koliadnyky,” or carolers go from house to house. Ms. Tkacz explained that the

koliadnyky sing a separate long song to each member of the household. The songs are chosen specifically for that person by the lead singer. In a display of traditional songs that was part of the performance, Vera Slywotzky and Allison Hiroto emphasized the enchanting quality of the music with the song in which they repeated “Dai Bozhe,” Oh Lord, May it be so!

The next performance was by acclaimed Ukrainian singer Mariana Sadovksa. Sadovksa involved the audience in a soulful performance of two traditional koliada songs from Central Ukraine.

When Mr. Ueno began to design the art installation, his first step was the exploration of the koliada rituals. He set out to discover why they were performed, but found no complete authoritative explanation. The river appeared to be central to the rituals that concluded with the blessing of the water. Mr. Ueno, therefore, made the river image central to the exhibition.

Mr. Khantatev’s photographs, which follow the chronology of the ritual, are pasted against a flowing background of white paper supported by birch branches. The image of the river is also important in Ms. Odezynska’s videos, serving as a foundation and connective tissue in the story of the koliadnyky in Kryvorivnia. The video footage of the performing koliadnyky played in opposite parts of the room creates the impression, through the use of echoes, that the viewer is experiencing the rituals firsthand.

The words to a winter song about that village of Kryvorivnia wind around the



Alexander Khantatev

Koliadnyky, or carolers, in Kryvorivnia featured in Yara Arts Group’s installation “Still the River Flows: A Glimpse into Winter Solstice and Christmas Rituals in a Carpathian Village” at The Ukrainian Museum in New York.

room. They anchor the installation in the place where the winter solstice and Christmas rituals remain central to the lives of the people. The Yara Arts Group effectively combined visual media and text to re-create the feeling and emotion associated with these rituals.

The exhibit “Still the River Flows” continues Wednesday to Sundays 11:30

a.m. to 5 p.m. through January 29, as part of the exhibition “The Tree of Life, the Sun, the Goddess: Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art” developed by Lubow Wolynetz, curator of the museum’s folk art collection. To find out more about The Ukrainian Museum in New York City, log on to www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Hnizdovsky reburied in Ukraine, commemorative art exhibit held in Lviv

by Ika Casanova

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The urn with the ashes of painter and graphic artist Jacques Hnizdovsky (1915-1985) – one of the foremost woodcut artists in America – was transferred from New York to Ukraine for reburial, in accordance with the last wishes of the artist whose creative legacy forms a valuable part of the permanent collections of leading American museums and institutions, and, since 1990, the museums of Ukraine.

The urn was transferred from the columbarium of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City to Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv, where reburial took place on November 5, 2005. Both New York's renowned Gothic cathedral and Lviv's historic cemetery have a unique place in the architectural, social and cultural history of their respective cities.

The site of the Hnizdovsky reburial is the main section of Lviv's landmark cemetery – the final resting place of prominent Ukrainian civic and cultural figures – diagonally across from the burial place of Ukraine's renowned writer Ivan Franko (1856-1916).

A black granite gravestone at the site carries the inscription – "Yakiv Hnizdovsky, graphic artist – painter, 1915-1985." Above the inscription is an oval bas-relief, depicting the artist at work on a woodcut, which is based on the 1981 work titled "Self-Portrait."

Officiating at the reburial ceremony was Bishop Ihor Vozniak, then acting administrator of the archeparchy of Lviv, and currently the newly appointed archbishop of the Lviv Archeparchy.

Present at the reburial were Stephanie Hnizdovsky, the artist's widow, and daughter Mira Hnizdovsky, some 30 members of the late artist's extended family in Ukraine, as well as Ukrainian National Deputies and representatives of Ukrainian culture.

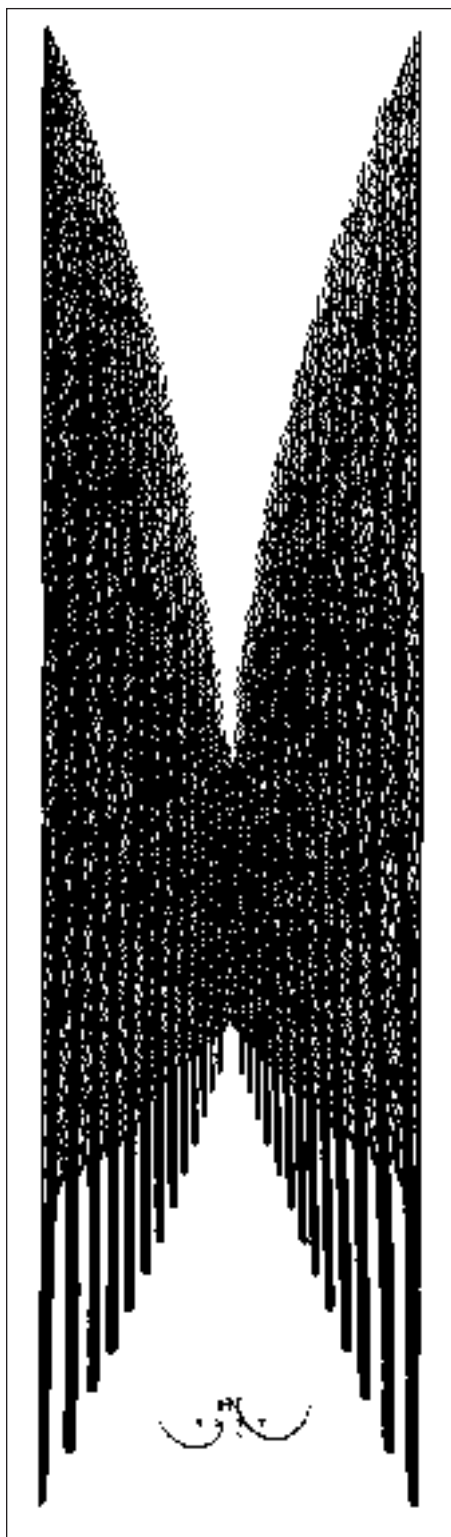
The process of reburial began three years ago at the request of Mrs. Hnizdovsky and her daughter. Helping in the effort to transfer the artist's remains to Ukraine, a process that involved lengthy bureaucratic procedures and diplomatic negotiations, were U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John E. Herbst, Roman Ferencevych of Alexandria, Va., long-time editor at Voice of America and a close personal friend of the artist; and Viktoriya Hubska, director of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), Kyiv Bureau.

The solemn occasion of the reburial was followed later on in the day with the opening of a commemorative art exhibition of Jacques Hnizdovsky's work at the National Museum of Lviv (now known as the Andrey Sheptytsky National Museum of Lviv).

The exhibition, which opened



"Self-Portrait," woodcut, 1981. The work is reproduced as a bas-relief on the artist's gravestone in the historic Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv.



Row of Poplar Trees, woodcut, 1977.

November 5, and was slated to run through November 27, 2005, was extended until the end of December, to accommodate the very high viewership.

A total of 50 works were on exhibit, comprising works from the collection of the National Museum of Lviv as well as works on loan from the National Fine Arts Museum of Ukraine in Kyiv and the Ternopil Regional Museum.

An exhibition catalogue titled "Jacques Hnizdovsky" and subtitled, "Commemorative exhibition held on the occasion of the reburial of the artist in his ancestral homeland and on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the day of his birth," came out as a publication of the National Museum of Lviv, the United States Embassy in Ukraine and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The publishing of the 60-page, bilingual English-Ukrainian, catalogue was made possible with the financial support of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine.

In his forward to the exhibition catalogue Ambassador John E. Herbst wrote the following:

"Jacques Hnizdovsky returns to his homeland leaving behind him in the United States a rich cultural legacy. His works are treasured parts of the collections of our finest museums, including the National Museum of American Art, the Museum of Fine Art in Boston and the White House Collection. Now citizens of his beloved Ukraine will have an opportunity to appreciate his direct and

sometimes amusing images, which often draw upon the life of his native land.

"Hnizdovsky follows in the tradition of so many immigrants to America who have fused the artistic traditions of their homelands with the energy of the New World to weave a tapestry that enriches all our lives and brings our countries together. To his family and those who work to carry on his legacy, I offer my best wishes and congratulations."

Copies of the exhibition catalogue were sent out to over 100 museums throughout Ukraine, courtesy of the UCCA Kyiv Bureau, in an effort to further acquaint Ukrainians with the artistic legacy of Hnizdovsky. Also, over 100 posters were printed in conjunction with the exhibition.

The 50 works that were on exhibit at the National Museum of Lviv as part of the commemorative exhibition had been donated to the permanent collections of the aforementioned three museums by Mrs. Hnizdovsky and Mira Hnizdovsky in 1990. Also donated to the National Museum of Lviv was a bust of the late artist, the work of Ukrainian Canadian sculptor Leo Mol (Leonid Molodozhanyan) which was done in 1970.

The reburial ceremony and the exhibition opening received extensive coverage in the Ukrainian media, including press, radio and television. Articles and interviews appeared in the Lviv newspapers *Lvivska Hazeta*, *Vysoky Zamok* and *Expres* as well as in the Kyiv-based Ukrainian daily *Den* and in its English-language weekly digest *The Day*. Channel 5 of Kyiv supplied live television coverage of both events throughout Ukraine.

A native of Ukraine, Jacques Hnizdovsky was born on January 27, 1915, in the village of Pylypche, Ternopil oblast, and studied art in the academies in Warsaw and Zagreb. He immigrated to the United States as a post-World War II refugee in 1949, settling in Saint Paul, Minn., where he worked as a graphic designer. In 1950, he moved to New York with the aim of establishing himself as an independent artist.

Although best known as a woodcut artist, Hnizdovsky worked in oil painting, bookplate design, book illustration and other media.

Hnizdovsky, whose reputation as an artist grew steadily, had attained an international reputation by the end of the 1960s. His work was exhibited in major exhibitions abroad, including the Soviet Union (1963), Japan (1967), Italy (1972), Canada (1983, 1985) and Ukraine (1990).

Hnizdovsky's work has been widely cel-



Jacques Hnizdovsky (1915-1985).

ebrated through prizes, fellowships, exhibitions, publications and museum acquisitions.

The artist's various awards from prestigious institutions include the Associated American Artists (eleven awards from 1959-1983), Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (1961), Boston Printmakers (1962) and the National Academy of Design (1963), among others.

In 1976 a fully illustrated catalogue raisonné titled "Jacques Hnizdovsky: Woodcuts and Etchings" was produced by Abe M. Tahir Jr., owner of the Tahir Galleries in New Orleans and Beverly Hills, with a foreword by Peter A. Wick, longtime curator of the department of printing and graphic arts of Houghton Library at Harvard University. A revised edition, titled "Jacques Hnizdovsky: Woodcuts and Etchings," appeared in 1987.

By the end of his lifetime in 1985, Hnizdovsky was represented in major public, institution and private collections, among them: Butler Institute of American Art; Chrysler Museum; Duke University Museum of Art; Library of Congress; New Orleans Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C.; New York Public Library; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Davison Art Center, Wesleyan University; Yale University; Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago; and, The Ukrainian Museum, New York.

Hnizdovsky was reintroduced to Ukraine in 1990, in exhibitions in museums in Kyiv, Lviv and Ternopil and again in 2005, on the occasion of the commemorative exhibition which opened November 5, 2005, at the National Museum of Lviv.

A museum dedicated to Jacques Hnizdovsky and his work exists in the artist's ancestral village of Pylypche, Borshchiv region, western Ukraine.

(For additional information on the artist, visit the website: www.hnizdovsky.com).

Speakers at the Hnizdovsky reburial

Among family members and friends, official representatives and guests speaking at the reburial ceremony of the late Jacques Hnizdovsky held November 5, 2005, at Lviv's Lychakiv Cemetery as well as at the opening of the Jacques Hnizdovsky commemorative art exhibition held at the National Museum of Lviv, were the following:

Official representatives at the reburial ceremony at Lychakiv Cemetery from the sphere of Ukrainian culture included National Deputy Mykola Zhulynsky, vice-chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Culture and National Deputy Mykhailo Kosiv, both of whom addressed the gathering and extended commemorative greetings from the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine. The poet Ihor Kalynets, a member of the 1960s generation of Ukrainian poets, spoke of

the significance of the work of Jacques Hnizdovsky for Ukrainian culture. Iryna Romaniv addressed the gathering in her capacity as deputy head of the Lviv City Council. The speakers were introduced by Ihor Havryshkevych, director of Lychakiv Cemetery.

As part of the reburial ceremony, Yakiv Hnizdovsky, a nephew of the late artist, who hails from Chernihiv and is an artist himself, sprinkled soil from the gravesite of the artist's parents, who are buried in the family's ancestral village of Pylypche, onto the urn and reburial site. He also extended words of gratitude to all assembled on behalf of Mrs. Hnizdovsky and Mira Hnizdovsky.

Among speakers at the opening of the commemorative art exhibition of Hnizdovsky's work at the National Museum of Lviv was Ihor Kozhan, direc-

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Residents of Kyiv...

(Continued from page 3)

Our Ukraine People's Union in the run up to the 2006 parliamentary elections.

From its very start 10 years ago, the event management and public relations firm was a pro-Ukrainian project that helped launch arts festivals and concerts that were non-commercial.

The agency's small team of about 10 professionals, which Mr. Nyshchuk has worked with for many years, became the moving force that has tried to draw attention to Ukrainian culture.

Art Veles director Taras Hrymalyuk, who coordinated the Orange Revolution's one-year anniversary events, believes that Ukrainian culture today simply lacks boldness, professional management and strong financing.

The agency began with a few musical festivals, among them, the annual festival "Kyivska Rus'," which traces the evolution of Ukrainian music evolved through the epochs of history.

The last festival, celebrating Ukraine's various folk traditions, took place on December 15, 2005, at the Taras Shevchenko National Opera Theater of Ukraine in Kyiv.

"Nationally conscious people have joined up here [at Art Veles] to be passionate about what's happening in Ukraine and in Ukrainian culture," said Serhii Kharynovych, who began working with Art Veles as a concert host; he also oversees advertisements and public relations issues.

Unlike Mr. Nyshchuk, Mr. Kharynovych has a skeptical view of the team that won the presidential elections. He asserts that if someone else had campaigned instead of Mr. Yushchenko, but with the same election agenda, Ukrainians would have supported that candidate all the same.

"Yushchenko is not a rock star for whom everyone went to the edge for," Mr. Kharynovych said. "The people who came out on the maidan demonstrated their attitude to the nation and just how many Ukrainians wanted to see Ukraine as Ukraine, as opposed to how many wanted to see it as an appendage of Russia."

Ukrainians should not be blamed for their attitude to their native country because during many decades they were taught to believe that Ukraine could not exist without Russia, Mr. Kharynovych said.

It is the nation itself that is supposed to teach its citizens to love their own country, but such a program does not exist today, he said.

"There are people who are responsible for culture, radio and television," Mr. Kharynovych said. "But the question is just what are they doing? I don't see any changes."

When an order was issued early in the government of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko requiring everyone to speak Ukrainian on the radio, quite a number of Mr. Kharynovych's disc jockey colleagues quickly began learning Ukrainian because they did not want to lose their jobs.

None of them complained or went out on the streets to protest, Mr. Kharynovych said.

However, the sudden rush of patriotism soon began to evaporate.

Initiatives aimed at supporting the



Yevhen Nyshchuk, the irreplaceable emcee of the Orange Revolution addresses people on Independence Square.

Ukrainian language in the nation's media eventually became reduced to mere recommendations after the Tymoshenko Cabinet was fired. Among those who were fired was Mykola Tomenko, the vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs who authored the radio initiative.

Following the revolution, radio stations began playing more Ukrainian music and television networks showed more Ukrainian programs. But that also began to lose momentum.

"In Ukraine, no one supports the Ukrainian language on the government level," Mr. Kharynovych said. "Tartak has done more for Ukrainian propaganda than several ministers put together."

Ukrainian ghetto in Ukraine

Quite a number of musicians campaigned for this or another candidate in the 2004 parliamentary elections.

Tayisa Povalii, Natalka Mohylevska and even several Russian singers campaigned for Mr. Yanukovych.

It was the Ukrainian-language artists who supported Mr. Yushchenko, most of whom are rock musicians.

"If representatives of another culture arrived to support the [opposing candidate], then others who supported Viktor Yushchenko tried to ensure live music that is rock, [Ukrainian] folk and authentic," Mr. Nyshchuk said. "It was part of the election campaign, and it was heard on the maidan. People began to love Ukrainian performers and Ukrainian music."

Singers such as Sviatoslav Vakarchuk are able to make Ukraine fashionable, Mr. Kharynovych said.

"[Young people] see that he sings in Ukrainian, speaks Ukrainian and they see that it's cool," Mr. Kharynovych said.

"Ukrainians in Ukraine are like a national minority," he said. "There's even a specific group of people that attend our festivals. To me, it looks almost like a Ukrainian ghetto. Of course it's strange – a Ukrainian ghetto in Ukraine."

Ukraine currently has no pro-Ukrainian forces, Mr. Kharynovych said. However he is convinced that had the Kuchma regime remained in power, life would have been much worse.

The new government has not taken advantage of the opportunity to solidify the idea of a Ukrainian identity, Mr. Nyshchuk said.

There are not enough laws to defend

Ukrainian singers on the airwaves and the concert scene, he said. Russian performers continue to perform in Ukraine and earn impressive money, he said.

"Singers like Taras Petrynenko and



Serhiy Kharynovych, the public relations manager of Art Veles, an event management company, works at the company's Kyiv office.

Maria Burmaka can't even dream to perform a solo concert in Kyiv's Ukraina Palace," Mr. Nyshchuk said.

The rental fee for Ukraina Palace is between \$10,000-\$11,000 per day.

Its administrators do not recall a single solo concert by a Ukrainian singer in Ukraine's most prestigious concert hall. Instead, Russian singers such as Filip Kirkorov perform there at least once a year.

The situation with Ukrainian cinematography is even worse. Mostly second-rate television series are filmed at Kyiv's Dovzhenko film studio. The studio is among the leading studios in the former Soviet Union.

Only during his first- and second-year at the Karpenko Karyi Institute of Theater in Kyiv was Mr. Nyshchuk able to act in two films – Volodymyr Savelyev's "Izhoi" and Mykhailo Illyenko's "Fuchzhou."

These were the last years before the collapse of Ukrainian cinematography.

Two film projects that invited Mr. Nyshchuk to act this year were not even launched because of a lack of financing.

Sometimes Ukrainian actors get invi-

tations to star in a Russian production, but these, at best, are merely secondary roles.

"All the main heroes are Russian," Mr. Nyshchuk said. "But the back-up roles – policemen, guards – for these they turn to our actors. And some, unfortunately, agree because they have to feed their families. This is a sad state of affairs."

Mr. Nyshchuk is sure that the rebirth of national cinematography could become a means of influence on Ukrainian society and could help form its values.

"Ideological films should exist," Mr. Nyshchuk said. "For example, about a Ukrainian doctor, who suddenly doesn't take any bribes. At one point, ideological films were an entire science."

A Jobless Actor

Fifteen years ago, Mr. Nyshchuk passed the first round of exams at the Shchepkinskyi School of Theater in Moscow, which for many decades has enjoyed a prestigious reputation as one of the former Soviet Union's best drama schools.

Faced with the decision to pursue a second round of exams, Mr. Nyshchuk instead decided to remain in Ukraine and study at the Karpenko Karyi Institute of Theater in Kyiv.

His parents preferred that he study in Ukraine instead of testing his fate in what was suddenly a foreign country.

After completing the Karpenko Karyi Institute in 1995, several theaters throughout Ukraine wanted Mr. Nyshchuk to join them.

Despite offers of not only a job but also an apartment – a rather lucrative proposition in the mid-1990s – he turned them down so that he could stay in Kyiv.

"I had already felt that there was a huge barrier between Kyiv and other cities in Ukraine," Mr. Nyshchuk said. "Those five years were difficult times. Nobody had any use for the theater."

Actors in those days received very small salaries. Some simply were not paid, similarly to teachers, miners and doctors.

Prospective film projects and theatrical plays, and the opportunities they presented, became the exception rather than the norm for Mr. Nyshchuk.

The first Ukrainian television network was established in the mid-1990s. The network bought foreign films and dubbed them in Ukrainian for rebroadcasting.

Ads began to appear that read,

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Philately note

Due to the Christmas materials published in this issue, "Focus on Philately" will not be published in the first issue of the month, as is the norm. The column will appear in next week's issue.

Residents of Kyiv...

(Continued from page 10)

"Television network seeking people who are proficient in Ukrainian."

"From a certain point of view, this is fine," Mr. Nyshchuk said. "But imagine a country, for example, France, where



Larissa Troyanovska (Isadora Duncan) and Yevhen Nyshchuk (Serhii Yesenin) in a play "Mne tesno v imeni svoym" at Suziria theater.

companies are seeking people who speak French well."

Dubbing films not only required a perfect command of Ukrainian, but also the skill of reading texts without preparation.

For Mr. Nyshchuk, who was born and raised in Ivano-Frankivsk, this work brought him only satisfaction.

"Many say that this is side work," Mr. Nyshchuk said. "I don't agree. If a person approaches everything as if it were side work, then you won't be asked to return. I don't look at things this way. Maybe that's the reason I'm always offered this work."

Ironically, Mr. Nyshchuk has less work at the moment given his reputation as the emcee of the Orange Revolution. He often refers to himself as a jobless actor.

"I've practically turned down all commercials, though there were quite a lot of offers," he said. "On the other hand, there are festivals, concerts, Independence Day events and important

state holidays which I'm entrusted with. That's pleasant and it also gives me some financial reward."

At present Mr. Nyshchuk provides for his family – his wife Oksana Batko and their 11-year-old son Oleksa – by emceeing concerts.

"In the theater, it's impossible to sur-

vive on any given salary," Mr. Nyshchuk said. "If there was a cinema industry in Ukraine, I could provide for my family by acting in films."

As a film actor, he could afford a prestigious school for his son with a monthly salary between \$150-\$500. However, he chose a state financed secondary school that is free for students.

Children at private schools have wealthy parents and they usually come to school by car and wear expensive clothing. Their interests differ from those of children who do not attend such schools.

"They live in a very specific world, have other values and needs and have to meet the requirements of their teenager's circle," Mr. Nyshchuk said. "And what if something happens and parents cannot afford this expensive school? How will this child adapt to another life?"

Mr. Nyshchuk is trying to bring Oleksa up in a very democratic way and he says his son, just like thousands of other little Ukrainians, prefers to go to the cinema or McDonalds, and is quite happy with that.

Theater Life

Other than dubbing films and emceeing concerts and festivals, Mr. Nyshchuk plays the Russian poet Sergey Yesenin in "Mne tesno v imeni svoym," a twice-monthly play performed at Kyiv's Suzirya Theater.

He receives \$14 for one performance, whereas hosting a concert will earn him about \$300, while dubbing a film brings in \$50.

Despite the low pay, it is the theater that inspires Mr. Nyshchuk and gives him strength for new creative projects.

"Our life is hard and our culture has a pale glimmer," he said. "On the other hand, when everything is fine in society, this is bad for culture, because artists and writers can't create. But now there is precedent for creative work – there are many strong emotions like dreaminess, hope and hatred. And these emotions will help us to fulfill our dreams in reality."

Mr. Nyshchuk wants to play Ivan in a theatrical production of "Tini zabutykh predkiv" ("Shadows of Forgotten

Ancestors"), based on the novel written by Mykhailo Kotziubynskyi. He will submit an application to the Ivan Franko Theater in Kyiv.

"We have so many creative people, but our literature, cinema and the theater are still in ruins," Mr. Nyshchuk said. "Our people miss Ukrainian-style pictures. Ukrainian plays like Natalka Poltavka are always sold out."

Larissa Troyanovska, who plays opposite Mr. Nyshchuk as Sergey Yesenin's love Isadora Duncan, has worked for 15 years in the Theater on the Podil and believes that Kyiv's theaters are in terrible shape.

Actors and actresses earn meager salaries despite the January pay increase from the government, she said.

Like Mr. Nyshchuk, Ms. Troyanovska often dubs films and hosts children's festivals. She enjoys her work, but if she had a choice she would rather play a role in a new play.

"We don't have money, but we put on performances anyway; we do it for our audiences and to keep the doors to the theater open," Ms. Troyanovska said.

She said there is no legislation supporting patronage of the arts.

"The theater always was a prerogative for the government and theater patrons," Ms. Troyanovska said. "Today the government simply can't conceive that people can give their lives for culture."

Tetyana Ivashchenko, the author of the play "Mne tesno v imeni svoym," concurs.

The Kyiv government does not want to open new theaters because of a lack of funding in the city budget, she said. Additionally, Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko said recently that there are enough theaters already.

Ms. Ivashchenko, who spent eight years writing plays for Ukrainian theaters, said she knows many people who can provide support for new performances, and even entire theaters.

"But what do they gain from that?" Ms. Ivashchenko asked. Patronage of the arts is not tax exempt. "It's not beneficial. Money is needed for the theater, and patrons are needed. Without that, the theater won't survive."

For many of Ms. Ivashchenko's acquaintances, a \$6 ticket for a performance in "Suziria" is too expensive, even if it is a reasonable price for Kyiv.

Sometimes Ms. Ivashchenko buys tickets with her own money and gives them out to acquaintances so that they can come and watch performances.

"They say that they want to come to

the theater and see something awesome, something that inspires, and then it's possible to go on living," she said. "It's very important for me that people have the opportunity to go to the theater."

Russian poet-rebel on the Orange Revolution's stage

As a result of Mr. Nyshchuk being on the maidan for the duration of the Orange Revolution, two performances of Suzirya were canceled. The theatre's administrators understood.

"We told the audience that our Yesenin is on the maidan at the moment," Ms. Ivashchenko said. "The audience didn't complain, and no one returned a ticket."

She noticed that that year, as never before, people have begun to treat each other with respect and tolerance.

"Everyone felt so close, even dear," Ms. Ivashchenko said. "We all hoped for a better life, not in a material sense, but simply to do good to one another."

With sadness, she said all her peers are disappointed with the behavior of politicians. They hoped their unity would bring great results.

"We are such nice people," she said. "But when we get together and start to argue, we divide the bulava [hetman's mace] and wrangle over who is hetman."

The people's uprising last year has not changed the face of politics, she said, but people have changed, particularly the youth.

Young people are starting to speak Ukrainian more, and those who speak Russian say, "We're Ukrainian."

"That was not the case earlier in Ukraine," Ms. Ivashchenko said. "It was not prestigious to speak or consider oneself Ukrainian."

She believes that last year's events influenced the nation's spirituality. Even if people have no trust in politicians, they at least want Ukraine to become a truly independent nation.

"No one wants to hear about joining Russia," Ms. Ivashchenko said. "Earlier, people would say we needed to submit to Russia. What's there in that kind of Ukraine? No order, no culture. But now they say, 'No, we're going to build our own country.'"

What is really important is the feeling of freedom and one's own identity, a readiness to defend one's own position and the absence of fear for one's own life, Mr. Nyshchuk said.

The Orange Revolution's main achievement was that Ukraine finally appeared on the map of Europe, he said.



Tetyana Ivashchenko, the Ukrainian playwright. Eleven of her plays are currently running in Kyiv and a few regional towns.



Taras Hrymaluyk, the director of Art Veles and coordinator of the Orange Revolution's one-year anniversary events.

U.S.-Ukraine Policy Dialogue Conference held in the Ukrainian capital

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation

From November 13-17, 2005, the U.S.-Ukraine Policy Dialogue hosted U.S. and Ukrainian former and current government officials, business and media leaders and representatives of nongovernmental organizations at a working session in Kyiv. Policy Dialogue seeks to facilitate democratic reform in Ukraine and the restoration of a meaningful strategic partnership between the two countries by bringing together policy makers and practitioners in practical dialogue.

The project is managed by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and American and Ukrainian institutional partners and individual experts, including the Razumkov Center for Ukrainian Economic and Political Studies, the International Center for Policy Studies, the Europe XXI Foundation, the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University, the Atlantic Council of the United States, SigmaBleyzer, and the Kennan Institute. The two-year project is funded by the U.S. State Department under the authority of the Freedom Support Act.

Participants sat on one of four task forces: foreign policy and national security, politics and governance, economics and

business, and media and information. Task forces discussed issues in U.S.-Ukraine relations and Ukraine's democratic reform and considered examples from the U.S. and European experience. U.S. Ambassador John Herbst hosted an opening reception at his residence and, in his keynote address, provided an overview of the latest political and economic situation in Ukraine. Deputy Foreign Minister Oleh Shamshur (who is the new Ukrainian ambassador to the United States) addressed participants, press, and invited guests at the concluding session of the Policy Dialogue.

Throughout the week, task forces also had the opportunity to meet with other high-level Ukrainian policy makers, including Volodymyr Lytvyn, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; Oleh Rybachuk, chair of the presidential secretariat; Anatoliy Kinakh, secretary National Security and Defense Council; and many others.

From discussions with each other and among government officials, each task force produced an action plan of policy recommendations for distribution to U.S. and Ukrainian government officials. The dialogue also afforded the unique opportunity for participants to identify practical technical assistance needed to support the policy

recommendations. All task force action plans are available on the foundation's website at www.usukraine.org/dialogue.shtml.

The Politics and Governance Task Force, co-chaired by former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller, and Vyacheslav Koval, deputy chairman of the Committee on Agenda, Ethics and Proceedings of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, focused on the primary challenges facing the new government in Ukraine. Included in their discussions were talks on political corruption, the lack of transparency in governmental processes and politics, the lack of political accountability to the public, the misallocation of administrative resources, and the need for civil service reform. Particular attention was given to the implications of the upcoming parliamentary and local government elections in Ukraine.

The task force concluded that the process and outcome of the upcoming elections will determine whether there will be a genuine democratic restructuring of society. The Politics and Government Task Force called upon the leaders of political parties to sign the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Election Campaign and to commit themselves to transparent elections, transparent financing of the election campaigns, and full access for Ukrainian and international observers to monitor the activities of political parties at all stages of the election process.

Task force members also encouraged nongovernmental organizations to participate in election monitoring activities. Finally, the Politics and Governance Task Force stressed the need for better coordination in the public administrative system and process. They proposed the creation of a single coordinating center at the level of the Cabinet of Ministers to facilitate this reform.

The Foreign Policy and National Security Task Force, co-chaired by former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer and former Ambassador to the U.S. Yuri Shcherbak, addressed U.S.-Ukraine relations, NATO membership and EU integration, and Ukraine's role in the region. Recognizing the Ukrainian government's uncoordinated decision-making process as a significant obstacle to achieving its foreign policy objectives, the task force recommended that the National Security and Defense Council establish permanent structures to facilitate inter-agency coordination and to prepare policy options.

To further explain how Ukraine might improve policy coordination, Mr. Pifer and Stephen Larrabee of the Rand Corporation hosted a workshop on the U.S. government's interagency process and the function and role of the U.S. National Security Council in foreign policy decision-making. The dialogue participants also welcomed the beginning of the U.S.-Ukraine energy dialogue and outlined the short-term and long-term priorities for Ukraine, including achieving market economy status and the passage of intellectual property rights and media leg-

islation. In addition, the task force urged the U.S. government to actively work with Congress to lift the Jackson-Vanik amendment on Ukraine. The task force noted that as a result of the June session's policy recommendations, a Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition has been formed with over 75 member organizations.

Echoing the findings of the Politics and Governance and Foreign Policy task forces, the Economics and Business Task Force found that the weakened institutional capacity of the government of Ukraine was a major stumbling block to the introduction of essential radical, systemic and sustainable market economic reforms. The task force emphasized that the Verkhovna Rada needs to pass legislation to enhance property rights protections, strengthen the rule of law, reduce the tax burden, increase integration into the global economy, and complete WTO accession. The dialogue participants also noted that Ukraine needs to continue to improve its legislation to achieve market economy status and for Ukraine's graduation from the Jackson-Vanik amendment.

The Information and Media Task Force identified five crucial issues for discussion, including: insufficient media independence, especially in the regions; the absence of political will to implement a public broadcasting system; the current difficulties faced by journalists due to an ambiguous legal system and a search for legitimacy with the public; the difficulty press secretaries have had with working as a bridge between their principal and their public; and the lack of coordination of technical assistance coming from the international community.

The three primary recommendations of the task force included the following: first, there is a need to assist the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine (NTRBCU) in developing policies on digital broadcasting and the licensing of cable operators, but also in building capacity to adequately conduct their regulatory mandate. Second, by using press centers and institutes of journalism, programs could target more closely civil servants by teaching them to better work with the media, as well as with journalists, to help increase standards of professionalism. Although public broadcasting will remain at the center of the debate, it will probably not be adequately addressed by the legislature until after the elections. For this reason, the task force decided that in the short run, public broadcasting must be treated as a mechanism to attain a more transparent and responsible media, rather than a goal in itself. The task force met with Rector Volodymyr Rizun of the Kyiv Institute of Journalism, as well as Vitalii Shevchenko of NTRBCU. It was established that this dialogue must continue with the Parliamentary Committee on Media Freedom and Information in order to achieve a consensus.

For questions or more information about Policy Dialogue call (202) 347-4264. All participant lists are available on the foundation's website at www.usukraine.org/dialogue.shtml.

Chmyr receives prestigious National Presidential Award

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukrainian baritone Oleh Chmyr received the "National Presidential Award and Medal for Art and Culture" and was accorded the title of "Distinguished Artist of Ukraine" via a decree signed by President Viktor Yushchenko on November 30, 2005. The honor was in recognition of his "significant contribution to international art and culture." An awards ceremony is slated to be held at the Mariinskyi Palace in Kyiv.

An opera and chamber singer as well as educator, Mr. Chmyr, a native of Lviv, received his professional training at the Lviv and Moscow conservatories. He has appeared as principal soloist with the Lviv, Ekaterinburg, Wroclaw and Kiel Opera Houses, and his opera and concert tours have taken him on extensive tours abroad. His repertoire includes over 20 leading baritone roles. Many of Mr. Chmyr's former students are first prize winners at international competitions.

Mr. Chmyr, who immigrated to the United States in 1994, is currently a leading soloist with the New Jersey State Opera and teaches voice at County College of Morris in New Jersey.

In 2000 his CD titled "European Vocal Miniatures," featuring art songs by Western European as well as Ukrainian, Polish and Russian composers, was released on the occasion of his solo, eponymously titled, concert debut at



Baritone Oleh Chmyr

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Mr. Chmyr returns to Ukraine frequently with concert appearances. He has performed regularly at the Ukrainian Independence Day concerts in Kyiv between 2003 and 2005 and he is also a frequent guest on Ukrainian radio and television in performances as well as interviews.

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Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 1)

Incidentally, the votes of two deputies from the One Ukraine faction helped eke the budget through. One Ukraine (Yedyna Ukrayina) is a pro-Tymoshenko parliamentary faction.

Deputies Viacheslav Dubytzkyi and Orest Klympush, both One Ukraine deputies, broke with party lines.

In the March 2006 parliamentary elections, seats will be awarded to a party or bloc proportionate to how many votes it earns. The party or bloc will then assign seats based on their already-announced electoral lists.

If not for Messrs. Dubytzkyi and Klympush, the budget could have derailed, a failure that would have played right into the hands of Russian President Putin.

Opposition parties, such as the Party of Regions and the Communist Party, want to destabilize the government, Mr. Taran said.

"It's very sad that the passing of a budget becomes part of the parliamentary campaign," he said. "And it's very sad that opposition forces are ready to sacrifice a nation's future for their own position during elections."

Under the Yushchenko government, fiscal policy has improved, Mr. Taran said.

While Mr. Kuchma's goal with the budget was to maintain his autocratic power, Mr. Yushchenko's economists have been forming the budget in reaction to everyday problems in the Ukrainian economy, he said.

However, a budgetary or economic strategy for Ukraine is still lacking, Mr. Taran said.

"The situation presents a paradox: despite the fact that the Orange Revolution's leaders managed to destroy Kuchma's regime, they had absolutely nothing to offer the nation afterwards," he said.

"That is why the budget isn't sound. It's more reflexive, since theirs is no vision of economic development for the future year," Mr. Taran said.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Susan Davis (D) of California, Donald Payne (D) of New Jersey and Charles Taylor (R) of North Carolina, who shared their views at a press conference before returning home on December 27, 2004.

Rep. Kolbe, who chaired the House Subcommittee on Appropriations, expressed his admiration and congratulations to the Ukrainian people, as well as the Ukrainian and international press for their role in the process.

"The message that we will take back to our colleagues in Washington is that we have witnessed a tremendous demonstration by the Ukrainian people in support of freedom and of democracy," Mr. Kolbe said. "We will look forward to working with and supporting the new government of Ukraine, whoever the president that is sworn in might be."

On the other side of Capitol Hill, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton wrote a commentary on the developments in Ukraine, published in the December 27, 2004, issue of the Financial Times (London). In her piece, she drew some lessons about democracy from what was going on in Ukraine.

"Democracy does not end with a constitution or the right to vote," she wrote. "The Ukrainian people have experienced both victories and struggles since they voted for independence 13 years ago. But, as we learned in our own country for more than 200 years, maintaining democracy is a never-ending struggle that we must face up to every day."

Source: "U.S. congratulates people of Ukraine," by Yaro Bihun, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, January 2, 2005, Vol. LXXIII, No. 1.

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With deep sorrow we inform family and friends that on Sunday, December 25, 2005, passed away, at the age of 56, son, father and grandfather

Peter Pendzola

Family in mourning in Ukraine:

Father – Michael

Daughter – Christina Pendzola-Vitovych with husband Oleh

Granddaughter – Xenia Vitovych

and extended family in Ukraine

Eternal Memory!



With deep sorrow we wish to announce that our beloved mother, grandmother, sister and aunt

Maria Nesterczuk née Mycak



passed into Eternity on December 24, 2005, in Baltimore, Md. She was born on May 30, 1916, in Busowysko, Ukraine.

Panakhya was held on December 28, 2005, in the Thomas Quinn Funeral Home in Astoria, N.Y. Funeral mass was held at Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria, N.Y. on December 29, 2005, followed by interment at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.

In deep sorrow:

son - Igor with wife Anne and daughter Alexandra

son - George with wife Oksana and children Alexander and Andrew

grandson - Christopher with wife Claudine and son Maddox

sister - Ivanna Soluk

nephew - George Soluk and family

nephew - John Soluk and family

niece - Olena Hubickij-Cabot and family

niece - Lida Hoshowsky

nephew - Roman Hoshowsky

and extended family in England, France and Ukraine

Eternal Memory!



In deep sorrow we publish this delayed announcement that our dearly beloved family member

Roman M. Wirschuk, D.D.S.

born June 10, 1934, passed into Eternity on August 4, 2005, in his home after a long and difficult illness. He was attended by his wife of almost 30 years, Mary (née Ward), children Anne and Anthony (Kristin) and 6 grandchildren.

Family, friends and relatives gathered for visitation on Sunday, August 7, 2005, and prayers at the funeral home on Monday, August 8, 2005, followed by Mass at St. John the Baptist Church and Interment at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, Ill.

40th day and ongoing memorials are observed by family in Illinois and relatives in New Jersey and in his hometown of Striy, Ukraine.

Memorials may be directed to Loyola Hospice, 2160 S. First Ave., Maywood, Ill. 60153 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, Tenn. 38105. Information and online guestbook at hultgrenfh.com or call 630-668-0027.

Eternal Memory!

Will Russian-Ukrainian...

(Continued from page 2)

marily regulated by annual intergovernmental protocols that establish volumes and prices of Russian gas delivery and transit on an annual basis.

According to Gazprom, the 2002 commercial contract on gas delivery and transit with Naftohaz Ukrayiny for 2003-2013 is of secondary importance. In other words, Gazprom explained, if Moscow and Kyiv fail to sign a relevant gas protocol for 2006, the 2004 addendum to the existing gas contract will automatically become null and void.

However, Ukrainian lawyers are of a different opinion. Three of them argued in the December 17-23, 2005, issue of the Kyiv-based weekly "Zerkalo Nedeli" that the 2001 intergovernmental agreement does not provide for rescinding the 2002 commercial contract if an annual protocol has not been signed.

These lawyers also dismissed Gazprom's claim that annual gas protocols can be treated as basic documents for determining gas-supply volumes and prices for Ukraine. None of the previously signed gas protocols, they said in "Zerkalo Nedeli," has taken legal effect because none of them has ever been ratified by the Ukrainian parliament. Despite this fact, the lawyers emphasized, Gazprom did not interrupt gas supplies to Ukraine in the past even for a day.

Therefore, they conclude, if Moscow and Kyiv fail to sign such a gas protocol

for 2006, the conditions and prices of gas delivery and transit will legally remain the same as this year, as provided for by the 2002 commercial contract.

The 2002 contract and the 2004 addendum to it stipulate that if Gazprom and Naftohaz Ukrayiny cannot agree on the interpretation of some provisions in these documents during at least 45 days, they may appeal to the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce for an authoritative resolution. If both companies agree to file such an appeal, the ensuing ruling of the Stockholm Institute would be binding for both sides.

Russian politicians and Gazprom executives have so far not responded to Mr. Yekhanurov's suggestion that they might resort to Swedish arbitration in the ongoing gas dispute with Ukraine. Why?

One possible answer is that Moscow may not be sure whether its arguments are sufficiently strong to convince the Swedish arbitrators.

But it seems more likely that decision makers in Moscow see the current gas row with Ukraine not as a commercial dispute, which can be objectively assessed by international arbiters, but primarily as a form of political pressure on Ukraine's Orange Revolution government on the eve of the crucial 2006 parliamentary elections. If so, then the dispute will need primarily political decisions in Moscow and Kyiv in order to end in a mutually acceptable compromise.

Kyiv brings...

(Continued from page 2)

could mean Kyiv shooting itself in the foot.

"If Ukraine stops selling to Russia its heavy-industry products, and also military equipment, without any doubt it will create problems for the Russian economy and for the Russian military complex. However, it will also create big problems for the Ukrainian economy too, as it has no other place to sell these products other than Russia," Mr. Petrov said.

Kyiv is largely dependent on Russian gas. A radical increase in prices could lead to unpredictable economic and social consequences.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said recently that Ukraine's consumption of gas at below-market prices had cost Russia \$4.6 billion.

Russian gas monopoly Gazprom wants Ukraine to pay up to \$250 for 1,000 cubic meters of gas compared to \$50 under an existing deal. Recent talks in Moscow between the two prime ministers failed to hatch out an agreement.

Ukrainian Institute...

(Continued from page 8)

tive committee.

Greetings on the occasion of the opening of this significant exhibit were sent to the UIMA from First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, as well as Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley.

The co-curator of the exhibit, Mr. Sawicki, along with Prof. Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern of Northwestern University, were interviewed at length on Chicago Public Radio's program "World View" about the exhibit, as well as the current political situation in Ukraine.

The response to this exhibit has been tremendous. The exhibit received press coverage on the day of the official opening on the front page of the Metro section in the Chicago Tribune. The article quoted Mr. Sawicki as stating that he chose works that would hold up over time and distance.

"Propaganda doesn't hold up," Mr. Sawicki said. "You can't make an exhibition today of Yushchenko posters and have it speak beyond that particular moment. But once an artist begins to engage in the process of thinking about events, thinking about his or her medium or technique, things happen that really make a work stand up."

Due to heavy marketing of the show and the press coverage, the public opening was attended by approximately 300 visitors. Visitors continue to attend the

exhibit daily.

Other publications covered the event as well, including the Chicago Sun Times, which featured a full-page article written by prominent art critic Kevin Nance with large pictures of the art work. Mr. Nance showcased the exhibition and recommended it to the general public. In recommending the exhibit, Mr. Nance wrote: "...the show's standouts are those which convey the rawness of revolutionary fervor with a raised fist followed by a wink – a wink that, while important, doesn't negate the fist."

The exhibit was also covered by the Chicago Reader, and many other outlets of electronic communication, including the front page of the revolutionary website www.eng.maidan.ua.

One year ago, the exhibit "Artists Respond: Ukrainian Art and the Orange Revolution" was a vision of UIMA's board of directors. After nine months of negotiations and planning, and with the generous support of the Heritage Foundation of First Security Federal Savings Bank in Chicago, the volunteer operations team at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in conjunction with the Center for Contemporary Art in Kyiv delivered a stunning art exhibit that will be enjoyed by the public until the end of February 2006.

So yes, the egg cartons and mattresses have arrived – they are even more generously received than expected.

Orthodox Church...

(Continued from page 1)
Orthodox Church in America.

Following the service, Archimandrite Andriy spoke to the hierarchs, clergy and faithful present expressing his deep spiritual gratitude to them and to the Lord with the words: "In the life of every individual there occur moments when the Providence of God most clearly reveals to them that 'the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way' (Psalm 36:23). Standing before you today, I should speak about the fear and nervousness, which fill my soul when I contemplate my future episcopal service for which I am unworthy. I ask for your profound prayers for me in that unworthiness."

On December 13, 2005, the Chicago cathedral was crowded with clergy and faithful, who gathered to participate in the divine liturgy and the consecration of the new bishop. The service was presided over by Metropolitan Constantine, concelebrating with: Archbishops Antony and Vsevolod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., Archbishop Yuriy of the UOC of Canada, Metropolitan Nicholas of the Carpatho-Rusyn Church, Archbishop of the Romanian Orthodox Church (Bucharest Patriarchate), Archbishop Job of the Orthodox Church of America and clergy of various Orthodox jurisdictions.

Also present in the cathedral were clergy from the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of Chicago, Iakovos, as well as Archbishop Peter of the Russian Orthodox Church in Exile, who arrived later in the service.

In particular, among the clergy partici-



Bishop Andriy

pating in the Liturgy were the Very Rev. Bohdan Matwijczuk, administrator of the Church in Great Britain of England and the Rev. Vitalij Derewianka of Belgium, both representing the Western Europe Eparchy.

Prior to presenting the newly consecrated bishop with his episcopal staff, Metropolitan Constantine stated: "The flock entrusted to you in Great Britain and Western Europe, a flock which is composed of sons and daughters of post-World War II and post-Soviet waves of immigration, awaits you and is hopeful that in all things you will be a living icon of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ the Son of God, Who invites us to personal holiness. Be, for these people, a good

shepherd, a living icon of Christ, a channel of Grace and Truth."

In thanking Metropolitan Constantine for his guiding words and after presenting him with an icon of the Pochaiv Mother of God, Bishop Andriy delivered his first address to the clergy and faithful. He said: "Today, when the Holy Church gloriously honors the memory of Saint Andrew the First Called Apostle – the apostle of our Ukraine – a new page in my life has opened. My great joy lies in the fact that my episcopal consecration has occurred within the walls of this magnificent cathedral, a cathedral dear to my heart, in Chicago, which has become home and has taken place among those who are dear to my heart."

At the banquet in cathedral's parish hall, on behalf of St. Volodymyr Cathedral parish board of administration,

parishioners and quests, the newly consecrated bishop was greeted by Volodymyr Pawelchak, an editor of the Chas i Podii weekly newspaper.

Bishop Andriy was further greeted by parishioners of local parish communities from the Chicago area; the consul general of Ukraine in Chicago, Oleh Shevchenko; the president of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, Bohdan Watral; and the president of the cathedral choir Boian, Yaroslav Vorozhbyt.

The banquet concluded with a performance by vocal duo of Oksana Savchuk and Ivan Kavaciuk, who carry the title, "Folk Artists of Ukraine." Following the concert, all in attendance sang for Bishop Andriy a traditional Ukrainian "Mnohaya Lita" – God grant you many years.

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Kateryna Yushchenko...

(Continued from page 1)

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For the future, the two organizations have initiated a four-year charity project with an annual budget of about \$800,000 to treat children with cerebral palsy.

The program envisages free medical treatment for children with cerebral palsy from underprivileged families, according to fund officials.

"This is only a start to our future long-term partnership," said Oleksander Horodetsky, president of TNK-BP Ukraine. "We express our hopes that other companies will follow our example."

The fund will seek to work with European and American hospitals, medical organizations and corporations to improve the efficiency of Ukrainian hospitals and the overall health care system in Ukraine.

Hospitals face difficulties in treatment because government funding is insufficient and treatment is expensive, Mr. Klymnyuk said.

About 70 percent of all children with

cancer-related diseases can be cured, but in Ukraine the amount does not surpass 50 percent because of limited financial resources, Mr. Klymnyuk said.

Sponsors contribute at times to the annual budget of Oncology Institute, but this financial assistance does not amount to more than 10 percent of the money it needs, hospital officials said.

The fund plans to take steps to improve the laws and taxation of charity organizations since "there are lots of problems there," said Andrii Miroshnychenko, Mrs. Yushchenko's advisor.

He also said that all charity investments are taxed, with 50 percent of any donation going to the government budget.

Mrs. Yushchenko's Ukraine 3000 International Charity Fund, a non-governmental charity organization created in 2001, set as its priority helping children with serious illnesses, those with special needs and those without homes as well as orphans.

The fund's policy is to be "as transparent as possible," Mr. Miroshnychenko said. Therefore, it donates equipment instead of money.

Speakers at...

(Continued from page 9)

tor of the museum, who underscored the significance of Hnizdovsky's work as an internationally recognized artist. In his remarks, Mr. Kozhan also acknowledged the generous financial support for the exhibition provided by the United States Embassy in Kyiv.

Lisa K. Heller, cultural attaché at the U.S. Embassy, addressing the gathering in Ukrainian, spoke of the defining characteristics of Hnizdovsky's work and his contribution to the field of graphic art. Ms. Heller also read the text of a statement by Ambassador John E. Herbst to mark the solemn and significant occasion.

Mr. Ferencevych, a personal friend of the artist, shared an interesting insight provided by the artist himself into his work, by reading the text of Hnizdovsky's address, delivered at an exhibition of his work in 1984 in Washington, in which the artist responds to a query as to why, in his work as a whole, the human figure is almost non-existent and the dominant images are those of plants and animals.

The official part of the exhibition opening ended with Mr. Kozhan reading the text of telegrams sent by Les Taniuk, head of the Parliamentary Committee for Culture and Spirituality; and Natalka Mytsay, director of the Hryhoriy Skovoroda Museum in the village of Skovorodynivka, Zolochiv region, Kharkiv oblast.



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UMANA Illinois Branch members explore the science of forensic genetics

SKOKIE, Ill. – The Illinois Branch of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) met Sunday, October 23, 2005, to conduct regular chapter business and hear a presentation by Andrew R. Melnyk, M.D., on “Forensic Genetics – the Science of Human Identification and Genetic Profiling by DNA Analysis.”

George Kuritza, M.D., chapter president, welcomed over 40 members to Maggiano’s Little Italy Restaurant in Skokie, Ill., holding a brief business meeting before the luncheon presentation. Dr. Kuritza reviewed the activities of the prior year and encouraged all members to actively participate in UMANA branch functions.

He expressed special gratitude to branch member Dr. Peter Blendonohy, a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist at Resurrection Hospital, for his generous and compassionate care of Aleksandr Bakhtiarov. Mr. Bakhtiarov is a Ukrainian soldier severely injured earlier this year in Iraq, who required extensive and aggressive rehabilitative care. UMANA approached Dr. Blendonohy, who graciously volunteered his services and facilitated his stay at Resurrection Hospital on humanitarian grounds. During the several months of his care, Mr. Bakhtiarov progressed well, to the point of being discharged home to Ukraine in the prior week. “Dr. Blendonohy’s dedication is exemplary,” said Dr. Kuritza.

Dr. Kuritza then introduced Dr. Andrew Melnyk, director of the Section of Cytogenetics and assistant director of the Section of Molecular Genetics, Department of Pathology at Resurrection Medical Health Center, in

Chicago. Dr. Melnyk reviewed the biochemical and molecular basis of DNA function, explaining the current methods used to extract DNA information, and displayed typical examples of DNA electrophoresis. He then switched emphasis to “the interesting stuff: paternity suites, criminal cases and human identification.”

Dr. Melnyk informed the listeners that the bulk of cases using DNA analysis involve determinations of paternity, either confirming or excluding a man in disputes questioning whose children are whose. These cases tend to be rather straightforward, since adequate samples of DNA are obtainable from the interested parties, and usually not much time has transpired since the events leading to the inquiries.

DNA samples at crime scenes, however, may exist in minute quantities, or may be many years old. Furthermore, the simple presence of DNA is useful only if there are suspects. At that point, DNA evidence can either match or exclude suspects in criminal acts. Dr. Melnyk summarized the case of O.J. Simpson, where, despite what appeared to be strong DNA evidence matching the suspect, the court proceedings came to quite a different conclusion, underscoring the ambivalent nature of this science.

Concluding, Dr. Melnyk presented the cases of the Romanov royal family and Heorhii Gongadze. In each case, DNA evidence was obtained from both the deceased as well as his closest available living relatives, to confirm the identity of the remains. Dr. Melnyk stressed that the confirming nature of these investigations can bring solace and closure to recent as

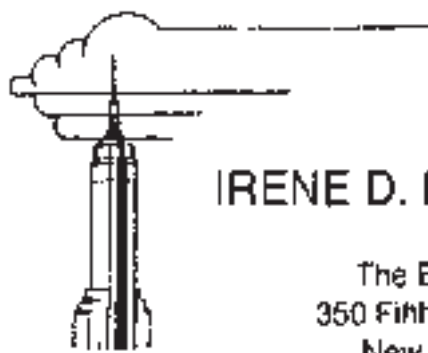


Dr. Andrew Melnyk speaks to UMANA members on forensic genetics.

well as historical events, relieving uncertainty and dispelling doubt.


The attendees ended the meeting with

a question and answer session; many remained, engaging in collegial discussion.



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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Cathedral Honors Choir Director

PARMA, Ohio – On Sunday, November 20, 2005, St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio, honored Markian Komichak on the occasion of his 15th anniversary as director of the 40-voice parish choir.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Mr. Komichak moved to Cleveland in 1980 to organize the Kashtan Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, which he still teaches. The ensemble is well known for its outstanding performances that represent the Ukrainian community in Greater Cleveland. The ensemble has performed at the White House, in numerous cities across the United States and has been on tour in Ukraine.

In 1990 Mr. Komichak assumed the

position of director of the Ukrainian choir at St. Vladimir's and, in 1995, also began directing its English choir. His love of liturgical music is evident to all and was a driving force when he received his master's of music degree from Cleveland State University in 1996.

Besides the choice and his work with Kashtan for 25 years, Mr. Komichak also teaches three groups of 60 children in the parish's School of Ukrainian Dance. More recently, he became involved on the diocesan level of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. by compiling various liturgical books for the entire diocese.

In recognition of his dedicated work, a certification of appreciation was presented on behalf of Metropolitan Constantine to Mr. Komichak by the parish clergy, along with a gift from the parish. The presentation was made at the conclusion of the liturgy on November 20.



Choir Director Markian Komichak, holding the certificate of appreciation from Metropolitan Constantine, with his daughters, Julianna, Bohdanna and Andrea, and wife, Lucy.

Roxanne Decyk wins alumni award

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, ILL. – Roxanne Decyk, daughter of Walter and Tillie Decyk, has been awarded the 2005 University of Illinois Alumni Achievement Award.

One of the few female executives to have reached the upper echelons of the corporate world, Ms. Decyk is director international for the Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies, in which she oversees regional support, global security and global real estate.

In the near future, she is slated to become director of corporate affairs and oversee such functions as global external affairs and international government relations.

Prior to joining Shell in 1999 Ms. Decyk had practiced law, pursued a doctorate in corporate governance at Oxford and was instrumental in the successful restructuring of International Harvester into Navistar.

She was a 1973 Bronze Tablet and summa cum laude graduate from the University of Illinois College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and was a 2002 recipient of the college's alumni achievement award.

Ms. Decyk was honored by her alma



Roxanne Decyk holds the 2005 University of Illinois Alumni Achievement Award.

mother for her dynamic leadership in navigating the complexities of large corporations and for her impressive rise to the corporate elite.

Notes on People is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person's UNA branch number. Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt, when space permits.

Ruslan Tracz's photos displayed

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – More than two dozen images of the Orange Revolution hung on display recently in a Winnipeg gallery. Taken by Ruslan Tracz, 23, the collection included color photographs, video and leaflets from both of the candidates contesting the 2004 presidential election in Ukraine.

Mr. Tracz left Canada to cover the election and began working for the Kyiv Post in Kyiv, according to a December 15 article in the Winnipeg Free Press.

"Many eyes in Winnipeg were focused on Kyiv as well, partly because of our city's large Ukrainian Canadian population, and also because a then-22-year-old

University of Manitoba and St. Boniface Diocesan grad named Ruslan Tracz happened to be there, working for the Kyiv Post, the city's largest English-language newspaper," the Winnipeg Free Press wrote. "Tracz's presence in Kyiv provided Free Press readers with news reports and photographs straight from the front lines of these historic events."

The exhibit, titled "Voices of a Nation: Inside the Orange Revolution," was being shown at the Outworks Gallery in Winnipeg through December 20, 2005.

According to the Winnipeg newspaper, Mr. Tracz's images are also notable because they show "the counter-demonstrations by supporters of Viktor Yanukovych, who was Yushchenko's political opponent." Mr. Tracz began working in Ukraine prior to the election on October 30, 2004.

Poet Bohdan Rubchak honored with gathering

CHICAGO – On September 17, 2005 friends and supporters of poet Bohdan Rubchak held a farewell gathering at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) in Chicago to wish him well in his new home in New Jersey. A recently retired professor of Slavic and comparative literature at the University of Illinois in Chicago, Prof. Rubchak has had a close relationship with the UIMA since

the mid-1970s. Not only did he promote a series of literary evenings devoted to Ukrainian writers and poets, but he often introduced and analyzed the works of the visiting writers. A collage of the literary programs in which Prof. Rubchak took part was created by Lialia Kuchma, curator of the art exhibits at the UIMA. A sculpture by Alexandra Kochman was presented to Prof. Rubchak from his friends at the institute. Seen below (from left) are: Vira Bodnaruk, Mariana Rubchak, Prof. Rubchak, Ms. Kochman, George Kolomayets, Luba Markewycz, Konstantin Milonadis and Oleh Kowerko.



Lialia Kuchma

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

commander of the Russian navy, criticized Ukraine on December 26, 2005, over suggestions from some politicians that Kyiv could make unscheduled inspections of Russian Black Sea Fleet bases on Ukrainian territory, RIA-Novosti reported the same day. "The tone of such statements is unacceptable," Mr. Masorin said, according to a statement quoted by RIA-Novosti. "It seems that they are aimed at questioning the ratified agreements on the Black Sea Fleet and avoiding implementing them," Mr. Masorin added. "It is worrying that the current statements of some Ukrainian politicians about inventory checks are politically motivated and are often made without any knowledge of the subject in question. Such an interpretation of the issue is clearly destructive." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko stays calm over gas dispute

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko expressed his certainty on December 21, 2005, that Kyiv and Moscow will break a deadlock in talks over gas prices for 2006 and find a mutually acceptable compromise, Interfax-Ukraine reported. "If we filter out politics, speak about rational relations, and remember that we are eternal neighbors, we must avoid steps that discredit or cause unease to one side or the other," Mr. Yushchenko told journalists during a visit to Kherson Oblast. "I'm convinced that we will find an answer to how, on the one hand, to set a [new transit] tariff, which is two or even 2 1/2 times lower than the regular tariff on this market, and on the other, to set a higher price than the one we have been paying for Russian gas until now. All this can be resolved so that nobody will suffer." Gazprom is demanding a price of \$220-\$230 for 1,000 cubic meters of gas from Ukraine in 2006, up from \$50 for 1,000 cubic meters this year. Kyiv is proposing to phase in a gas price hike over four to five years. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine says no offer from Moscow on gas

MOSCOW – The acting charge d'affaires at the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow, Leonid Osavolyuk, said on December 22, 2005, that Kyiv has not yet received any official proposals from Gazprom on natural-gas prices for 2006, RIA-Novosti reported. "We are expecting official proposals on natural-gas transit tariffs and prices," Mr. Osavolyuk said. Gazprom this week accused Ukraine of delaying the completion of an agreement (see "RFE/RL Newsline," December 20, 2005). Gazprom has been supplying natural gas to Ukraine under a barter agreement for \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters. Gazprom is seeking to raise the price to \$220-\$230 per 1,000 cubic meters, which is roughly the market price in Europe. Ukraine, for its part, is seeking to increase transit fees for Russian natural gas transported via its territory to \$3.50 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers, up from the current \$1.09 (see "RFE/RL Newsline," December 7, 8, and 13, 2005). (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tymoshenko activists claim "dictatorship"

LVIV – Six managers of the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc's regional headquarters in Lviv Oblast have left the party ranks, quoting their disagreement with the bloc's list of candidates for the 2006 parliamentary elections and the way the party is run by its leadership, UNIAN reported. "We have become angry after we saw the bloc's list of parliamentary candidates. There are practically no representatives of Lviv Oblast," said Mykhaylo Muzhylyvskyy from the bloc's Lviv headquarters. "There is a dictatorship in the party. They need only a voiceless herd," his colleague, Ihor Komarnytskyy, added. ITAR-TASS reported that more than 100 rank-and-file Tymoshenko Bloc members in the Lviv region followed the example of their regional managers and left the party. A poll conducted by the Socis Center for Social and Political Studies from December 14-19, 2005, among 2,000 Ukrainians found that if parliamen-

tary elections were held "next Sunday," the Party of Regions would be supported by 22.3 percent of voters, the Our Ukraine bloc by 16.1 percent, and the Tymoshenko Bloc by 11 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko meets with CIA director

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko met with Director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Porter Goss on December 20, 2005, to discuss cooperation among the CIA, the Security Service of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Intelligence Agency, President Yushchenko told a press conference the same day. As the Ukrainian president stressed, cooperation between the two agencies is "an obvious cooperation, which Ukraine runs with its all strategic partners, including with the Russian ones." The cooperation is first of all based on the need for information about "such dangerous manifestations as terrorism, smuggling and other international crimes," Mr. Yushchenko said. The meeting also dealt with security-related matters, particularly, the Transnistrian settlement. (Ukrinform)

Rivne metropolitan passes away

RIVNE, Ukraine – Metropolitan Danyil (Chokaliuk) of northwestern Ukrainian Rivne and Ostroh of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate (UOC-KP) died at the age of 47 on December 10, 2005. The late metropolitan was a faithful supporter of Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), head of the UOC-KP, and worked hard to strengthen the UOC-KP from the beginning, reports the press service of the UOC-KP. Patriarch Filaret and clergy of the cathedral conducted a panakhyda (memorial service) for the repose of the metropolitan's soul. The burial service for Metropolitan Danyil took place at the Cathedral of the Holy Protection in Rivne on December 15, 2005. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Jewish Property Restitution Fund

KYIV – A meeting of the leaders of the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) was recently held in Jerusalem, where they discussed the return of property to the Jewish community in Ukraine. They decided to create a fund to solve restitution issues. jn.com.ua posted the news on November 25, 2005. After the participants of the meeting discussed the situation in Ukraine, they decided to conduct their next meeting in Kyiv in mid-January 2006 and to create a joint fund for the Jewish community in Ukraine, the task of which will be to solve restitution issues there. The administrators of this fund will be representatives of international Jewish organizations representing the WJRO and representatives of the Jewish community in Ukraine equal to their presence in the country. Unlike in Poland, in Ukraine the WJRO is not planning to transfer a part of the returned property to Ukrainian immigrants living in Israel and another part to the Jewish diaspora. All returned property will be used only by the Jewish community in Ukraine. According to reports posted on the same site, a meeting of the leaders of Jewish organizations in Ukraine, at which they discussed how to counteract anti-Semitism and xenophobia, took place on November 23, 2005. As a result, the newly-created initiative group made a decision to form a social committee against anti-Semitism and xenophobia. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

U.N. honors Ukrainian peacekeepers

KYIV – According to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service, 130 Ukrainian peacekeepers who are part of the United Nations' mission to Lebanon were decorated for service to peace on

the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the establishment of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Congratulating the military personnel, UNIFIL Commander Maj. Gen. Alan Pellegrini noted Ukraine's weighty contribution to the regulation of the Middle East conflict. He also underscored the important role the Ukrainian Engineers Battalion has been playing in UNIFIL. The Ukrainians, Maj. Gen. Pellegrini noted, have displayed bravery and high skills in discharging operational and humanitarian duties of the U.N. mission. Distinctions for participation in peacekeeping missions under the U.N. aegis are awarded once a year to every contingent, but not earlier than after three months after their missions' onset. Every six months peacekeepers are given special insignia that show their terms of service as members of U.N. missions. Ukraine began its peacekeeping mission to Lebanon in July 2000. (Ukrinform)

Envoy to Russia to be replaced

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has relieved Ukrainian Ambassador to Russia Mykola Biloblotskyi. Mr. Biloblotskyi has held the post for six years. This year is supposed to see the rotation of dozens of Ukrainian ambassadors, who have held their posts for longer than the usual terms. The president has appointed 16 ambassadors so far. Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko recently disclosed that 14 more ambassadors are soon to be appointed. Mr. Ohryzko noted that this will not be the last wave of diplomatic appointments as there remain nine countries to which ambassadors are to be appointed by the end of 2005. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovych's party outlines platform

KYIV – Former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych outlined the parliamentary election program of his Party of the Regions of Ukraine during a convention in Kyiv on December 2, 2005, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Mr. Yanukovych said the short-term goals of his party are to reduce unemployment, create well-paid jobs and provide people with decent salaries. Mr. Yanukovych stressed that his party favors a transition to a federal system that could help balance the level of socioeconomic development of various regions. Speaking about foreign political priorities, the former presidential candidate said the Party of the Regions is "against haste in joining international organizations." Mr. Yanukovych also said his party is for granting the Russian language official status. The convention endorsed the party's list of candidates for the March 26, parliamentary elections. According to recent polls, the Party of the Regions is the most popular party in Ukraine and can count on some 18 percent of the vote. (RFE/RL Newsline)

SDPU wants votes on NATO, SES


KYIV – The Central Election Commission has agreed to register initiative groups seeking a referendum on Ukraine's accession to NATO and the Single Economic Space (SES) – a declared community comprising Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, Interfax-Ukraine reported on November 30, 2005, quoting Olha Buyanovska, a spokeswoman for Social Democratic Party – United (SDPU) lawmaker Nestor Shufrych. According to Ms. Buyanovska, the commission also decided that signatures in support of the referendum should be collected by March 1. In order to hold a referendum in Ukraine, an initiator needs to collect no fewer than 3 million signatures in at least two-thirds of the

(Continued on page 27)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCHES 22, 176

Please be advised that Branch 176 has merged with Branch 22 as of December 18, 2005, with Branch 22 remaining as the active Branch. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Stefko Kuropas.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 26)

country's regions within three months. The SDPU filed a motion to seek a referendum on Ukraine's NATO and SES membership to the Central Election Commission last week. (RFE/RL Newsline)

EU begins monitoring border

KYIV – The European Union on November 30, 2005, officially initiated its operation to monitor the Ukrainian-Moldovan border, Ukrainian and international media reported. The operation has been set up to combat smuggling, which is believed to be rife, especially along Ukraine's 400-kilometer-long border with Moldova's separatist Transdnister region. The operation's inauguration ceremony in Odesa was attended by EU High Representative for the Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, European Commissioner for External Affairs and Neighborhood Policy Bettina Ferrero-Waldner, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk and Moldovan Foreign Minister Andrei Stratan. The operation consists of some 70 border policemen and customs officers from 16 EU countries and 50 local staffers. It has a budget of 8 million euros (\$9.4 million U.S.) and a two-year mandate, which can be extended. The monitors are authorized to make unannounced inspections at any location on the Ukrainian-Moldovan frontier. However, they will not operate on Transdnisterian territory. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lytvyn: no waste sites near Chornobyl

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn said at a December 19, 2005, press conference while on a

working trip to the Zhytomyr region, that no depots will be constructed in the Chornobyl exclusion zone for storing fissile fuel wastes. Mr. Lytvyn said the state must reassure the people who suffered from the Chornobyl nuclear accident about this. Regrettably enough, he added, the president's utterances about such a storage facility were misconstrued. Those who support such an idea should better use their own backyards for this purpose, Mr. Lytvyn remarked. On December 5, 2005, President Viktor Yushchenko, speaking at a press conference in Crimea, said that proposals about the construction of storage facilities in the Chornobyl zone for other nations' radioactive wastes should be first discussed at a referendum. Such proposals may be accepted with the people's consent if these prove economically profitable and environmentally safe. Nevertheless, the president's utterances were interpreted by some publications as definitively assertive. On December 15, 2005, the president reaffirmed that no fissile fuel wastes from other nations will be buried in the Chornobyl zone. According to the president, Ukraine's pressing problem is construction of a storage for keeping Ukrainian nukes' fissile wastes, which must be solved by 2010. This is necessary because Ukraine has no complete cycle of manufacture, use of fissile fuels and disposal of fissile fuel wastes, Mr. Yushchenko explained. That is why, the president said, it would be logical to consider this facility for storing not only the Chornobyl nuclear power plant's wastes, but also those from Ukraine's other nuclear power plants. (Ukrinform)

CEC updates its website

KYIV – The Central Election Commission on December 20, 2005, launched a new chapter devoted to the 2006 parliamentary elections on its offi-

cial website (<http://www.cvk.gov.ua>). The chapter includes, among other data, election lists of the Communist Party and the Party of Regions as well as an election campaign schedule. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Border police foil trafficking attempt

KYIV – According to information released on December 19, 2005, by the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service, Ukrainian border guards have foiled yet another attempt to illegally transport Ukrainian children abroad. The incident occurred at the Chervona Mohyla checkpoint near the Ukrainian-Russian frontier in the Luhansk region. A 7-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl on board the Kharkiv-Baku train were accompanied by a Russian woman, who claimed to be their mother. In the process of questioning by the border guards, the children confused each other's names and had difficulty giving their "mother's" name. The border guards also found that the girl's birth certificate contained the parents' names, with the mother's name quite different from the Russian woman's. With a view toward clarifying the situation, the border guards detained the woman together with the children and turned them over to railroad police at the Chervona Mohyla railroad terminal. (Ukrinform)

OSCE trains discharged military

KHMELNYTSKYI – Sixty Ukrainian military officers graduated on December 15, 2005, in the city of Khmelnytskyi after completing courses of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which are designed to help them develop new professional skills. "As part of the ongoing reform of the country's armed forces, some 40,000 persons have been discharged this year alone," said Ambassador James Schumaker, the OSCE project coordinator

in Ukraine. "Those officers who take our courses are eligible for employment assistance, both during their 500 hours of classroom time and after graduation." The retraining of discharged or soon-to-be-discharged military officers is being provided at the request of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, and is part of a joint project between the OSCE Project Coordinator's Office and the Defense Ministry titled "Assisting in Social Adaptation of Discharged Military Personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine." Mr. Schumaker noted that "more than 400 officers have undergone retraining this year, and about 80 percent of the graduates were able to find employment within three months." The retraining takes place in regions containing high numbers of disbanded military garrisons, such as Chernihiv, Chernivtsi, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Khmelnytskyi, Odesa, Sevastopol, Uzhhorod, Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr and Kyiv. In 2006 such retraining is to be extended to other regions of Ukraine. (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)

Kuchma tax evasion case sent to STA

KYIV – Police have sent the criminal case alleging tax evasion by the Ukraina fund headed by former President Leonid Kuchma to the State Tax Administration (STA), the tax administration administration's chairman, Oleksander Kireyev, said in an interview with Channel 5 TV on December 15, 2005. He said it is still too early to talk about the outcome of the investigation of the case because it has only just started. The fund was launched on April 4, 2004, to support talented children. However, police suspect that the source of the revenues into the fund is illegal. Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko told journalists that he suspects the money came from the accounts of offshore companies. (Ukrinform)



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Soyuzivka's Datebook

January 1, 2006

New Year's Day Brunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., \$14 per person

January 6, 2006

Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve Supper, 6 p.m., \$25 per person, overnight packages available

January 27, 2006

Pre-Malanka Pub Night featuring music by Zukie & Friend, 9 pm

January 27-29, 2006

Church of Annunciation Family Weekend, Flushing, N.Y.

January 28, 2006

2006 Ukrainian Engineers' Malanka

February 10-12, 2006

Valentine's Day Weekend

February 11, 2006

Five-Course Dinner featuring music by Askold Buc

February 17-20, 2006

Family Winter Weekend

February 18, 2006

Pub Night with music featuring Zukie & Friend

February 25, 2006

Wedding

March 3-5, 2006

Plast Kurin "Khmelnynchenky" Annual Winter Rada

April 16, 2006

Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 am

April 22, 2006

Alpha Kappa Sorority Formal Dinner Banquet

April 23, 2006

Traditional Blessed Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 am

April 28, 2006

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 7

NEW YORK: Rockefeller Center Christmas Caroling. To all nationalities that celebrate the Julian calendar Christmas: join us at the Rockefeller Center Tree on January 7, at 7 p.m. for candlelight caroling. Please bring your own candles.

PARMA, Ohio: On Saturday, January 7, St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 5913 State Road in Parma, on the occasion of Christmas according to the ancient Julian Calendar, will sponsor its 18th annual Christmas radio program for their sick and shut-in parishoners. The entire divine liturgy will be broadcast live from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. over WERE 1300 AM radio. The liturgy will be celebrated by the cathedral clergy. Responses will be sung by the Ukrainian and English choirs of the cathedral. Also, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 6 – Christmas Eve – Great Complines and Matins will be celebrated.

Saturday, January 14

PHILADELPHIA: The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) sincerely invites everyone to attend a fun-filled Malanka featuring the popular zabava band Hrim (from New England) in the

Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center at 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa. Starting time is 9 p.m. Admission is \$35 for adults in advance; \$40 at the door; \$25 for students and seniors. Admission includes a delicious hot catered buffet; champagne will be provided at midnight. For more information and advance tickets, please call Walter at (215) 379-2676, John at (215) 638-4103, or Leo at (215) 969-4101.

Saturday, January 21

CARTERET, N.J.: 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 of Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike. There is also a Holiday Inn off of 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 at (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) 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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