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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Yushchenko journeys to Iraq on eve of Ukrainian peacekeepers' pullout



Official Website of the President of Ukraine

At the airport in Baghdad (from left) are: Lt. Gen. Valerii Frolov, President Viktor Yushchenko, Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk and National Security and Defense Council Secretary Anatolii Kinakh.

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko traveled on a one-day working visit to Iraq on December 26, 2005, and visited the Delta base in Al-Kut, where he noted that Ukrainian peacekeepers had completely fulfilled their mission. The following day, the last of Ukraine's troops left Iraq.

"Two and a half years ago we predictably appeared in Iraq. Today, the Ukrainian troops are leaving the country, having adjusted their withdrawal with all partners," President Yushchenko said, according to the Ukrinform news service.

The last mechanized column of military vehicles of the Ukrainian peacekeeping contingent arrived in Kuwait on December 27, having left Iraq. The column consisted of eight vehicles and 44 servicemen.

Ukraine's military presence in Iraq is now limited to some 50 military personnel, councilors and instructors, who will train the Iraqi military. The group arrived at the Delta Camp on December 20, 2005.

President Yushchenko noted that the Ukrainian contingent "is leaving a friendly country" and underscored that "the big mission" of Ukraine in Iraq had attained its political purpose. "During the Ukrainian mission stationing in Iraq the two countries established economic, trade and political relations," he added.

The president praised the activities of the Ukrainian peacekeepers in Iraq, noting that they had assisted in staging the referendum on the adoption of the Iraqi Constitution and the December 15, 2005, parliamentary elections. These events, Mr. Yushchenko said, "have laid the

foundation of political government in Iraq."

President Yushchenko honored the memory of 18 Ukrainian soldiers, who died in Iraq since August 2003, and he

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Intricate deal ends gas crisis between Russia and Ukraine

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The Ukrainian government finally resolved its natural gas conflict with the Russian Federation, but not without throwing Europe into a brief New Year's crisis with countries such as France and Italy suffering cuts to their supplies.

The intricate deal struck between Europe's bickering eastern neighbors enabled both sides to declare they got the price they wanted.

Gazprom, the Russian state-owned monopoly, will sell natural gas to a trading company, RosUkrEnergo, for \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters, the price it insisted Ukraine pay.

RosUkrEnergo will then combine the Russian natural gas with cheaper gas mostly from Turkmenistan and then charge Ukraine \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters, the price Ukrainian officials had sought. Ukraine had been paying \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters.

"The Ukrainian economy is well enough prepared to operate in new market conditions," said President Viktor Yushchenko, adding that he was satisfied. "Ukraine is a reliable and stable partner both for the European Union and the Russian Federation."

Convincing Europe of Russia's stabili-

ty, on the other hand, will be a harder task at this point as European leaders clearly read President Vladimir Putin's political motive of destabilizing the Ukrainian government ahead of March elections, preferring to lay blame for the crisis with him.

Moscow is "using political brute force on countries that are moving outside its sphere of influence, and this risks creating instability," said Walt Patterson, an energy expert at the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London, as quoted by the International Herald Tribune.

As promised, Gazprom cut natural gas supplies on January 1 because Ukraine refused a fourfold increase in price. As a direct result, Italy lost 25 percent of its natural gas supply, France lost 30 percent of its supply that day and Poland lost one-third.

Europe was still coping with reduced supplies on January 2. The continent obtains a quarter of its natural gas supply from Russia, of which 90 percent crosses Ukraine by pipeline.

Russian leaders aimed to pin the blame on Ukraine as Gazprom Exports Director Alexander Medvedev accused Ukrainian authorities of siphoning off 100 million cubic meters of natural gas worth \$25 million from the pipeline in

(Continued on page 10)

Bishop Basil Losten retires, successor is named

STAMFORD, Conn. – Pope Benedict XVI has informed the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford that he has accepted the resignation of Bishop Basil H. Losten from office, as he has reached the mandatory age of retirement. In the same announcement, dated January 3, Bishop Paul Patrick Chomnycky, OSBM, currently the apostolic exarch of Great Britain, has been appointed as Bishop Losten's successor as the fourth Bishop of the Eparchy of Stamford.

In accordance with the provisions of canon law, all bishops must offer their resignation to the holy father upon reaching the age of 75. On May 11, 2005, Bishop Losten was compliant with the law and sent the Holy Father his letter of resignation, along with a copy to Cardinal Lubomyr Husar. He continued as bishop until the pope formally accepted his resignation and he now becomes bishop emeritus with a residence in the city of Stamford. He will continue to be the administrator of the Stamford Eparchy until the arrival of his successor.

Bishop Chomnycky, age 51, was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, on May 19, 1954. His father, Stephan, had immigrated to Canada in 1948 from the village of Wilchiwchyk, Husiatyn County,

Ternopil region of Ukraine, while his mother, Jessie Delawski, was born in Musidora, Alberta. The bishop has a twin sister, Patricia, who is an elementary school teacher in Maple Ridge, British

Columbia. Both of his parents passed away in 1996.

After graduating from the University

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Bishop Basil Losten



Bishop Paul Patrick Chomnycky, OSBM

ANALYSIS

A closer look at the disturbing solution to the Ukrainian-Russian gas conflict

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL

January 4

The solution to the ongoing gas conflict reached between Russia's Gazprom and Naftohaz Ukrayina, the Ukrainian state oil and gas company, announced on the morning of January 4 raises more questions than it answers.

According to Interfax, Aleksei Miller, the head of Gazprom, announced that an off-shore company, RosUkrEnergo, will be the middleman for gas sales from Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to Ukraine and sell a mixture of gas from these countries to Ukraine at a price of \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters. Earlier, RosUkrEnergo had acted as the intermediary for Turkmen gas sales to Ukraine.

RosUkrEnergo is the company that took over the role of another off-shore company formed in December 2001, Hungary-Eural Trans Gas (ETG).

In December 2001, ETG signed contracts with Gazprom and Naftohaz Ukrayina to be the intermediary for gas shipments from Turkmenistan to Ukraine and was paid by the Ukrainian side with 13 billion cubic meters of gas for its services. ETG then sold this gas in

Roman Kupchinsky is the former director of the Ukrainian service at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

Europe at substantially higher prices. ETG soon came under suspicion in the media of being involved with Russian organized crime figures and in July 2004 during the Ukrainian-Russian business forum in Yalta, Vladimir Putin and Leonid Kuchma announced that ETG would be replaced by a new company, RosUkrEnergo.

RosUkrEnergo was touted as a "totally transparent" successor to Eural and was registered in Zug, Switzerland, on July 22, 2004. It consisted on the Russian side of Arosgas Holdings AG, named in the founding documents as a company "affiliated with GazpromBank" and GazpromBank, a wholly owned Gazprom subsidiary.

On the Ukrainian side, RosUkrEnergo was represented by a company called Reiffeisen Investment AG, a member of the Reiffeisen Zentral Bank Group. Reiffeisen Investment CEO Wolfgang Putschek stated that his company is not a partner in RosUkrEnergo, but merely manages the portfolios of a "number of private Ukrainian investors" in RosUkrEnergo. Mr. Putschek refused to name these investors, citing Austrian confidentiality laws. However, none of these so-called "investors" had any relation to the Ukrainian government and were merely acting as private individuals.

When the new Ukrainian government

(Continued on page 21)

Will Yushchenko survive gas attack from Moscow?

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report
December 29, 2005

For Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, Russia's announced intention to increase more than fourfold the price for gas supplies in 2006 represents the most serious challenge since his inauguration nearly a year ago. If such a price hike was implemented, the pro-Yushchenko camp would most likely suffer a severe defeat in the parliamentary elections in March, while the decelerating Ukrainian economy could grind to a halt.

Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Minister Ivan Plachkov met on the evening of December 28, 2005, with his Russian counterpart, Viktor Khristenko, in Moscow. However, their talks to resolve the ongoing dispute over the price of gas exports to Ukraine in 2006 ended inconclusively and were due to continue on December 29.

On December 28, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov once again rejected Moscow's demand to sign an agreement on buying Russian gas in 2006 for \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters, up from the current level of \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters.

"The Ukrainian side considers this to be an unacceptable price ... and direct economic pressure on the country," Mr. Yekhanurov said, adding that Kyiv has sent its own proposal to Moscow to settle the gas-price row. "Should the Russian

side refuse [to accept our proposal], we have grounds to appeal to the Stockholm court [Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce]."

Mr. Yekhanurov did not provide any further details, but the proposal he mentioned is apparently close to what Mr. Plachkov made public on December 27, 2005. Mr. Plachkov told journalists in Kyiv that Ukraine wants Russia to charge \$80 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas in the first three to six months of 2006, with a gradual switch to a "market price" in 2009. Mr. Plachkov did not say what price Kyiv could accept in 2009.

The spiraling war of words between Moscow and Kyiv over the lack of an agreement on Russian gas supplies culminated on December 27, 2005. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov responded to Kyiv's suggestion that it might change the terms for Russia's lease of a naval base in Sevastopol to compensate for the expected gas price hike.

"The agreement on the division of the Soviet Union's Black Sea Fleet is an inseparable part of a larger Russian-Ukrainian treaty, the second part of which contains recognition of each other's borders. Therefore, in my opinion, attempts to revise that treaty would be fatal," Mr. Ivanov said.

Mr. Ivanov's pronouncements should not be taken at face value, and one should not expect that Moscow could venture to revise its borders with Ukraine, let alone launch a military intervention in that country. But Mr. Ivanov's comments well illustrate the intensity of the Russian Ukrainian gas dispute and indicate that Moscow is firmly set on

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NEWSBRIEFS

Yavlinskii: Putin manipulates tensions...

MOSCOW – Prominent Russian politician Grigori Yavlinskii told RFE/RL's Russian Service on January 3 that President Vladimir Putin has "created antagonism between Russia and Ukraine" in order to "unite the people around the government." The leader of the liberal Yabloko Party stressed that "the principal mistake of ... Putin's current policy is [to forget] that Russia's [prospects] in the 21st century are good only if it becomes integrated into European structures and generally redirects itself towards Europe." Mr. Yavlinskii added that he is "not talking about Brussels, but about European civilization in its entirety. Right now, instead of helping Ukraine move along and moving along with it, Russia is uselessly trying to not let her do so, and is itself trying to pursue some sort of 'third way' [in political development]. In reality, there is no 'third way'; there is only the Third World" as an alternative. Mr. Yavlinskii noted that the pro-Putin Unified Russia Party distributed leaflets in the recent Moscow election with the slogan that "the citizens are the government's best helpers." He stressed that "everything done ... by the Russian propaganda machine during the past month has been an attempt to persuade its citizens to regard a people with whom they are very close, with whom they have lived for centuries, as their enemy, in order to consolidate them around the powers-that-be." (RFE/RL Newsline)

...diverts focus from Gazprom's problems

MOSCOW – Yabloko Party Chairman Grigori Yavlinskii told RFE/RL's Russian Service on January 3 that the government "campaign" against Ukraine is aimed at diverting attention from important issues involving the state-run gas monopoly Gazprom itself. He argued "the campaign is not over, but I think part of it [involves displaying] irritation with Ukraine and talk of Ukrainians stealing gas, instead of [addressing] corruption in Russia and [the issue of] where Gazprom's money is really going. Indeed, it is a means of diverting attention, which will have a significant impact for at

least some time. In any case, [the authorities] have succeeded so far because they have all possible instruments of propaganda at their disposal." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Questions arise about G-8 leadership

MOSCOW – On January 1 Russia assumed the rotating presidency of the Group of Eight (G-8) leading industrial countries, to which it was admitted in an effort to promote free market reforms in the 1990s and help ensure the safety of the former Soviet Union's biological, chemical, and nuclear stockpiles, mosnews.com reported. President Putin reportedly intends to use the upcoming G-8 summit in St. Petersburg to focus attention on energy security in an effort to parlay its oil and gas reserves into political power and influence. International media noted on January 3 that Russia's behavior in the dispute with Ukraine over gas prices has prompted some countries like Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary to take steps to reduce their dependency on Russian energy supplies. The newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung stressed that Moscow's use of gas as a political weapon serves as a warning to Germany against relying too much on Russian energy suppliers, noting that the old argument that Russian deliveries have always been reliable no longer stands. The German daily also questioned the wisdom of the North European Gas Pipeline (NEGP) project in light of Moscow's apparent willingness to manipulate energy deliveries for political purposes. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russia, Ukraine reach gas deal ...

MOSCOW – Gazprom and Ukraine announced on January 4 that they have reached a compromise deal on natural gas prices, Russian and international news agencies reported the same day. Under a complicated arrangement, Gazprom will sell gas to an intermediary, RosUkrEnergo, for \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters. RosUkrEnergo, which is a joint venture between Gazprom and Austria's Raiffeisen Investment, will in turn sell

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As Russia is downgraded to “not free,” is it fit to head the G-8?

by Taras Kuzio

Eurasia Daily Monitor

It is perhaps fitting that the Ukraine-Russia gas conflict has rekindled debates whether Russia truly belongs in the prestigious G-8 group of advanced liberal democratic market economies. The Wall Street Journal Europe (January 3) editorialized that, “All of this makes Russia’s assumption of the G-8 presidency this month not just ironic but almost as

absurd as when Sudan chaired the U.N. Human Rights Commission. Moscow’s inclusion in the club was never (and still isn’t) justified on economic grounds.”

The conservative Daily Telegraph (January 3) wrote more bluntly still: “The West has to tell Russia that, plainly and simply, its conduct is unacceptable if it wishes to remain part of the club of civilized nations.”

The New York-based human rights tank Freedom House’s 2006 world human rights report shows the degree to which there is a total mismatch in Russia’s presidency of the Group of Eight and its downgrading from “partly free” to the status of “not free” (freedomhouse.org). This has taken place in the same year as Freedom House upgraded Ukraine from “partly free” to “free.”

The Russian-Ukrainian gas dispute, therefore, no longer a conflict between two former Soviet republics but a conflict between an autocratic, non-democratic regime headed by “Putin’s Mafia Politics” (Wall Street Journal Europe, January 3) and a democratizing regime headed by Viktor Yushchenko. As The Daily Telegraph (January 3) pointed out, “The methods of gangsterism and blackmail now being used by Gazprom are reminiscent of the Soviet era.”

Russia’s downgrading to not free places it on a par with other autocratic, non-democratic regimes in the CIS such as its client state Belarus, Azerbaijan, and all five Central Asia states except Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan is the exception because its Tulip Revolution led Freedom House to upgrade it from partly free to not free. Kyrgyzstan joins Georgia, Armenia and Moldova as the CIS four partly free states. In being downgraded Russia has joined seven not free CIS states.

One reason Russia’s status was downgraded to that of not free is that the authorities hostility to NGOs and civil society has steadily grown. In late December 2005 both houses of the Russian Parliament approved a new law requiring NGOs to re-register and making it more difficult for those re-registered to obtain foreign funding.

Such restrictions on civil society inside Russia are only the latest in salami tactics used by President Vladimir Putin against the media, regional governors, oligarchs and democratic political parties. Russia’s attitudes toward civil society place it squarely in the same camp as the last dictatorship in Europe – Belarus

– which is propped up by Russian gas subsidies.

Both Russia’s and Belarus views on civil society as only being able to exist because of foreign funding are inherited from the former USSR when dissidents were routinely accused of being CIA or Zionist agents. These Soviet views are added to by equally Soviet-era conspiracy theories that blame the colored revolutions on the U.S.

Freedom House downgraded Russia to not free because of the marginalization of the political opposition, state control of the media, decline in independent judiciary, growth of “anti-democratic tendencies,” and pressure on civil society. These are all areas where Freedom House noted improvements in Ukraine.

Freedom House also rightly condemned (before the gas conflict erupted) Russia’s attempts at undermining democratic progress in the CIS. A final factor in downgrading Russia was Moscow’s support for anti-democratic regimes in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In contrast, Ukraine is the first CIS state to join the free group of countries in the world. This places it in the lead among the four post-Communist states that have experienced colored revolutions (Serbia [2000], Georgia [2003], Kyrgyzstan [2005]). Freedom House upgraded Ukraine to just inside the free group of states.

In being upgraded, Ukraine has joined the 12 East-Central European states out of 27 post-Communist states also designated as free. Three East-Central

(Continued on page 24)

Immigration judge orders deportation of Demjanjuk

CLEVELAND – Chief Immigration Judge Michael J. Creppy ordered on December 28, 2005, that John Demjanjuk, who the U.S. Justice Department claims was a guard at Nazi concentration camps in Sobibor, Majdanek and Flossenberg, be deported from the United States to his native Ukraine.

Judge Creppy also said that the former Cleveland autoworker could be deported to Germany or Poland if Ukraine refused to accept him.

However, the embattled Mr. Demjanjuk’s legal battle is not yet over as he has the right within 30 days to appeal the ruling to the Board of Immigration Appeals. The Associated Press reported that his attorney, John Broadley, argued in November 2005 that sending Mr. Demjanjuk back to Ukraine would be like throwing him “into a shark tank.”

Earlier in the year, on June 20, 2005, Judge Creppy had ruled that Mr. Demjanjuk, could be deported from the United States. At the same time, Judge Creppy said Mr. Demjanjuk had the right to fight any deportation order.

In his latest ruling, Judge Creppy found no evidence to substantiate Mr. Demjanjuk’s argument that he would be tortured if deported to Ukraine.

Mr. Demjanjuk, 86, was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 2002 because he allegedly lied on his application to enter the United States after World War II.

Mr. Demjanjuk denies that he ever served the Nazis, but admits giving

false statements when entering the United States in order to escape repatriation to the Soviet Union. He says he served in the Soviet army and was a prisoner of war captured by the Germans. Mr. Demjanjuk has claimed to be a victim of mistaken identity.

The Demjanjuk case dates back to 1977, when the Justice Department first accused him of being “Ivan the Terrible,” a notorious guard at the Treblinka death camp.

A naturalized U.S. citizen, he lost that status in 1981, when a court stripped him of his citizenship. He was ordered deported and in 1986 was extradited to Israel, where a war crimes trial began a year later.

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

In 1999 the Justice Department filed suit once again to seek revocation of Mr. Demjanjuk’s U.S. citizenship on the

(Continued on page 25)

FOR THE RECORD

U.S. State Department on Russia’s cutoff of gas

Following is the text of a January 1 statement on the suspension of gas shipments from Russia, which was issued by the U.S. Department of State and delivered by spokesman Sean McCormack.

The United States regrets the Russian decision to cut off gas from Russia to Ukraine, with potential effects on gas supplies elsewhere in Europe. Such an abrupt step creates insecurity in the energy sector in the region and raises serious questions about the use of energy to exert

political pressure. As we have told both Russia and Ukraine, we support a move toward market pricing for energy but believe that such a change should be introduced over time rather than suddenly and unilaterally. Russia and Ukraine have a shared interest in maintaining good reputations as gas supplier and transit countries. The U.S. has encouraged a compromise solution, and we remain hopeful that a resolution will be reached between the two sides that provides energy security and predictability for all concerned.

Cardinal Husar’s year-end press conference focuses on Church’s presence in Kyiv

by Yana Sedova

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – About two-thirds of the construction for the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church’s cathedral on the left bank of the Dnipro River is complete, said Cardinal Lubomyr Husar at a press conference on December 19, 2005.

In two years, the Patriarchal Cathedral of Christ’s Resurrection and a separate patriarch’s residence should be complete, Cardinal Husar said.

The transfer of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church’s headquarters to Kyiv in August 2005 and the cathedral’s construction are symbolic steps towards uniting Ukraine’s Churches, a goal Cardinal Husar said he’d like to see realized some day.

“We are here so as to show our people, those in Greek-Catholic Church, a visible symbol of unity (of faiths),” Cardinal

Husar said.

Construction of the cathedral started in October 2002, when builders estimated the project’s cost at \$10 million. However, costs have exceeded that estimate because of the rising price of building materials in Kyiv, Cardinal Husar explained.

About \$4.5 million has been spent on the project so far, he said. Five domes and a central gold-plated cross have already been erected. The ground floor of the patriarch’s residence also is complete.

The Church has received offerings from Ukrainian Catholics from its eparchies worldwide, but hasn’t accepted any donations from political parties or government institutions, Cardinal Husar said.

“We do not want funds that could bind the Church’s hand and foot in the future,” Cardinal Husar said. “It is better when the Church is absolutely free and when temples are built on donations of its

believers.”

Church spokesman Father Ihor Yatsiv couldn’t confirm how many Ukrainian Catholic eparchies exist worldwide, but the Church’s website indicates at least 22 exist.

North American eparchies have contributed more to the cathedral’s construction than Ukrainian eparchies, Father Ihor said, again declining to offer any specific figures.

“To give less, but from your heart, is more important,” Father Ihor said. “However, we are very happy that those who left Ukraine many years ago still feel their ties.”

While diaspora Ukrainians may have maintained ties, the ties between different confessions in Ukraine haven’t improved, which was the other major issue Cardinal Husar addressed.

He lamented the ongoing split between Ukraine’s Orthodox and Catholics, while

simultaneously acknowledging the significant canonical and dogmatic positions that inhibit unity.

“I wish there were one united Church, as it was at the very beginning, in the times of Volodymyr, when there was one patriarch and one center, such as St. Sophia Cathedral,” Cardinal Husar said.

Since moving to Kyiv in August, Cardinal Husar has resided in a private apartment on Mykilsko-Slobidska Street in Kyiv, a two-minute walk from the future cathedral.

Police have yet to identify who set fire on November 19, 2005, to the cathedral’s chapel, where divine liturgies were celebrated, the cardinal said. Since the arson, the Church has held its divine liturgies from a wagon.

“We haven’t decided yet whether we should rebuild [the chapel] or not,” Cardinal Husar said.

Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition gears up for action when House returns

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation

WASHINGTON – Given the Senate's passage by unanimous consent of legislation to graduate Ukraine from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment in November 2005, the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition on November 30 launched an effort to urge the U.S. House of Representatives to take parallel action.

This effort resulted in numerous messages to Congress as the membership in the coalition grew to more than 250 businesses and Ukrainian American, Jewish American and non-governmental organizations.

However, the House of Representatives adjourned on December 16 without taking action on Jackson-Vanik graduation. The House is scheduled to return for its next session on January 31.

Soundings on Capitol Hill indicate growing awareness of this issue, including of the importance of moving on graduation prior to the March Parliamentary elections in Ukraine. This greater awareness is due in large measure to the letters that have begun to flow to elected representatives, particularly those on the House Ways and Means Committee and those who are members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (CUC).

Furthermore, there is no indication of opposition per se to graduating Ukraine and there is general agreement that Ukraine has met the freedom-of-emigration requirements of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

There appears to be reluctance, however, in the House Ways and Means Committee (the committee with primary jurisdiction for Jackson-Vanik, which Congress considers as a trade bill) to take up graduation legislation until it has the opportunity to review the U.S.-Ukraine bilateral protocol on Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). U.S.-Ukraine negotiations on the bilateral WTO protocol, while having made progress in recent weeks, have not yet been concluded.

In preparation for the return of the House of Representatives on January 31, the coalition in urging those who are interested in seeing Ukraine graduated from Jackson-Vanik to continue to fax letters supporting Ukraine's graduation to their members in the U.S. House of Representatives, to the members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (CUC) and to members on the House Ways and Means Committee.

The coalition again recommends that messages also urge members to co-sponsor H.R. 1053, introduced by Rep. Gerlach of Pennsylvania. We have been repeatedly told that, of the three House bills pending on Jackson-Vanik graduation for Ukraine, the Gerlach bill has the greatest receptivity in the Ways and Means Committee. As of December 14, the Gerlach bill had 33 co-sponsors. The greater the number of co-sponsors, of course, the greater the pressure for early action.

Looking ahead to the next session of Congress, the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition will be considering the best tactics for securing action in the U.S. House of Representatives and for engaging the Bush administration to make a more forceful push for Ukraine's graduation.

Due to increased security measures in Congress, correspondence through the postal service can be delayed for up to two weeks. Therefore, it is recommended that readers call or send letters via fax. You can find a sample letter of support, and a list of Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition members may be found under the heading "Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition" at www.usukraine.org.

For a complete list, and contact information for Congressional Ukrainian Caucus members, and U.S. House Ways and Means Committee members please visit "Whom to Contact in Congress."

To join the coalition and support Ukraine's graduation from Jackson-Vanik, readers may e-mail JVGC@usukraine.org or call (202) 347-4264.

Dopomoha Ukraini Foundation gives \$500,000 to care center

ETOBICOKE, Ontario – The Dopomoha Ukraini Foundation is donating \$500,000 to the Ukrainian Canadian Care Center to aid with the expansion of the long-term care home and to establish a secure unit for residents suffering from dementia-related disorders.

Borys Wrzesnewskyj, member of Parliament for Etobicoke Center, presented a check on behalf of his family's charitable foundation to Ian Ihnatowycz, (president and CEO, Acuity Investments Management Inc.) and James Temerty, (chairman, Northland Power), co-chairs of the care center's Home With A Heart Campaign during the fourth annual Joy of Lights Celebration on December 8, 2005.

In recognition of the generous gift, the care center will name its second floor in honor and memory of Mr. Wrzesnewskyj's aunt and uncle, Mychailo and Jaroslawa Szafraniuk.

"As a family we are thankful that the care center provided such a warm atmosphere and attentive care to our beloved grand aunt Mrs. Jaroslawa Szafraniuk in the last phase of her life. There is an unwritten understanding, one could say contract, that parents take care of their children when they are young and when they grow old the children take care of their parents. And so it is in society; we owe a debt of gratitude to our seniors for having built our communities and our country Canada; and in their twilight years we have an obligation to make sure their lives are enveloped in comfort and loving care," Mr. Wrzesnewskyj said.

Mr. Wrzesnewskyj's grandparents immigrated to Canada, and three generations of the family have worked to establish prosperous and innovative businesses such as Future Bakery and

M-C Dairy. The Dopomoha Ukraini Foundation, the family's foundation, was created to provide assistance to the many community, humanitarian and Ukrainian heritage organizations in Canada and in Ukraine for the past 14 years.

Mr. Temerty stated: "Through the strength and commitment of the Wrzesnewskyj family and the Dopomoha Ukraini Foundation, the care center will continue to provide the best facilities and programming which honor our traditions of caring for those in our community while preserving our heritage. The Wrzesnewskyj family has always been a leader in the Ukrainian Canadian community. This generous gift further demonstrates this leadership and is a testament to the contribution the Wrzesnewskyj family has made to life in Canada."

"This gift is a wonderful Christmas present for the community and a great start to our Home With A Heart Campaign," said Sandy Lomaszewycz, executive director of the care center.

The Ukrainian Canadian Care Center is a 120-bed ethnic, long-term care home. Its interdisciplinary health care team focuses on the needs of residents and improves quality of life in a culturally sensitive caring environment. The values of independence, self-sufficiency, the importance of family, maintaining active lives and caring for one another, underpin its philosophy of care.

Admission to the care center is coordinated through the Etobicoke-York Community Care Access Center. The on-site Melnyk Family Memorial Chapel hosts Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox pastoral services.

Ukrainian Australian leader named Australia Day ambassador for 2006

MELBOURNE, Australia – The chairman of the Australian Federation of Ukraine Organizations (AFUO), Stefan Romaniw, has again been appointed an Australia Day Ambassador for 2006.

Australia Day Ambassadors have the role of promoting Australia Day in ceremonies around the state.

At a presentation ceremony in early December 2005, the premier of Victoria, Steve Bricks, presented all ambassadors with commemorative plaques and con-

gratulated them on their appointment.

The premier in his address highlighted the importance of Australia Day in bringing the nation together. He said that 2006 will see many important events, such as the Commonwealth Games, that will make Victorians and Australians very proud. During Australia Day ceremonies these events should be promoted as they build a nation.

The Australia Day Committee in Victoria program encourages communities



Victoria Premier Steve Bricks (left) with Stefan Romaniw.

to celebrate and unite. "It is a privilege to serve in this capacity" Mr. Romaniw said.

"To serve in the capacity as the chairman of AFUO is also recognition for Australia's Ukrainian community, which has always committed strongly to Australia and worked hard to benefit

Australia," Mr. Romaniw added.

"Australian Ukrainians have used their Ukrainian background as a wonderful asset in bringing linguistic, cultural, economic and social capital to enhance Australia and Australia Ukraine relations," he noted.

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.
- ✦ All materials must be typed and double-spaced.
- ✦ 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 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.

Cuban Americans, inspired by Orange Revolution, offer aid

KYIV – A delegation representing the Cuban-American community traveled to Ukraine on December 1-2, 2005, to meet with government officials and medical experts to offer their support for children stricken with cancer and other illnesses linked to the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. The delegation was headed by U.S. Undersecretary of State Dr. Paula Dobriansky and Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Belart (R-Fla.), a prominent leader in the Cuban-American community whose family left Cuba when he was 3 years old following the Marxist revolution led by Fidel Castro.

Other leaders included Miami businesswoman and human rights activist Sylvia Iriondo, Steven E. Lipshultz, M.D., the chairman of pediatrics at the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami, and Dianne M. Kube, the chief administrative officer of the Community Oncology Alliance in Washington.

The delegation met with President Viktor Yushchenko and First Lady Kateryna Chumachenko Yushchenko at the offices of Mrs. Yushchenko's foundation, Ukraine 3000. They also attended

an official briefing by Ambassador John E. Herbst and his staff at the United States Embassy in Kyiv.

Following the briefing, the delegates visited Kyiv's primary children's medical center, the so-called "Okhmatdyt," which is the leading hospital for the treatment of children's leukemia. There they met with the general director, Dr. Yuri Hladush, and the chairman of the pediatric hematology department, Dr. Svitlana Donska. Dr. Lipshultz and Dr. Kube discussed a variety of strategies for helping the hospital improve its recovery and remission rates for childhood leukemia, including the development of an effective bone marrow transplant program.

Some 300 Ukrainian children currently require bone marrow transplants each year, and very few are able to find appropriate donors or to travel outside the country for treatment. Dr. Donska expressed her hope that in the near future the Ukrainian government and private donors would be able to provide adequate funding to meet this need within Ukraine.

Dr. Lipshultz expressed admiration for



Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Belart and human rights activist Sylvia Iriondo distribute gifts to children in the leukemia ward of the Kyiv children's hospital "Okhmatdyt."

Dr. Donska and her staff who have been able to improve their patients' survival rates and to develop effective treatment protocols despite shortages of medication and medical technology. In addition to the obvious need for more diagnostic equipment, he urged the Okhmatdyt and other Ukrainian cancer centers join with international cancer specialists in "cooperative working groups" that can share the latest advances and provide insights into particularly difficult challenges facing their patients. "Ukraine cannot remain isolated from the worldwide community of knowledge," he said.

Mrs. Yushchenko strongly endorsed Dr. Lipshultz's proposals and secured his commitment to provide training for Ukrainian doctors through his medical school.

During his visit to the oncology ward, Rep. Diaz-Belart distributed gifts of toys to the children in the ward and promised to bring the children to Disney World in Orlando, Fla., in the near future. He also pledged his support for the Hospital-to-Hospital Partnership program launched by Ukraine 3000 and praised the U.S.-based Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF) that has shipped over \$53 million worth of medical technology and humanitarian aid to Ukrainian hospitals and orphanages.

Dr. Dobriansky also thanked the co-founders of CCRDF, Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky for their pioneering role in bringing aid to Ukraine and for their advance work to facilitate the Cuban American delegation's trip to Kyiv. The U.S. State Department invited CCRDF to serve as a special consultant on the delegation's three-day tour of the Ukrainian capital.

Members of the delegation also visited the Amosov Cardiac Surgery Institute, the National Oncology Institute and the National Chornobyl Museum in the Podil District of Kyiv, where they heard extensive presentations on the continuing aftermath of the nuclear disaster.

In recent weeks, President Yushchenko has pledged a national commitment to combat AIDS, cancer and heart disease and to dramatically reduce infant mortality. "We are on the threshold of an epidemic and we must address our health crisis now," he told the U.S. delegation. The first lady and Ukraine 3000 have selected 24 children's hospitals that will be the first recipients of private funds and foundation grants to create model programs and overhaul health care management with the help of leading Western medical institutions.

(Continued on page 25)



Dr. Svitlana Donska (right) of the pediatric oncology department at "Okhmatdyt" outlines the challenges her doctors face in combating leukemia to a delegation of U.S. visitors (from left): Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Belart; CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, Dianne Kube of the Community Oncology Alliance; and Dr. Paula Dobriansky, undersecretary of state; as well as Dr. Yuri Hladush, the hospital's general director.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 98

Please be advised that Branch 98 has merged with Branch 78 as of December 30, 2005. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Mary Petruncio.

Mrs. Mary Petruncio
306 Arlene St.
Minersville, PA 17954
(570) 544-3522

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 481

Please be advised that Branch 481 has merged with Branch 264 as of December 30, 2005. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Bohdan Hryshchshyn.

Mr. Bohdan Hryshchshyn
701 Tralee Dr.
Bethel Park, PA 15102-1333
(412) 833-2551

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCHES 48, 288

Please be advised that Branches 48 and 288 have merged with Branch 147 as of December 30, 2005. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Janice Milinichik.

Mrs. Janice Milinichik
1220 Pennsylvania St.
Whitehall, PA 18052-6018
(610) 434-0824

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 333

Please be advised that Branch 333 has merged with Branch 164 as of December 30, 2005. All inquires and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Bonnie L. Scholtis.

Mrs. Bonnie L. Scholtis
9 West Maple Lane
Berwick, PA 18603
(570) 759-7156

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Shadowy gas deal

A gas row between Ukraine and Russia, which threatened much of Western Europe's energy supply, was ironed out this past week. Ukraine, it appears, stood firm on its position that its energy-craved heavy industry cannot tolerate a four-fold increase in the price of natural gas and said that any increase in the price it pays for Russian gas will have to be phased in over a period of years.

While this initial news was certainly good to hear, the terms of the deal left many questions.

In the details of this deal was Russian President Vladimir Putin and RosUkrEnergo, a shady Swiss-based joint venture owned half by Russia's state-controlled gas monopoly Gazprom and half by Austria's Raiffeisen Zentralbank.

RosUkrEnergo was created by former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and, according to the Associated Press, "within months of appearing from nowhere it had taken control of Ukraine's gas imports from Turkmenistan by the start of 2005."

Under the terms of the agreement, Russia will sell gas to RosUkrEnergo for \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters, the price it originally wanted to charge Ukraine. RosUkrEnergo, which also buys much cheaper gas from Turkmenistan, will mix up its expensive Russian gas with other cheaper fuel and sell the finished product to Ukraine for roughly \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters. Exactly how RosUkrEnergo stands to make a profit from this deal is anyone's guess.

In the broader picture, the international sale of gas and oil has always been a murky and complex world of tangled pipelines and secret motivations, to be sure. But the deal between Ukraine and Russia is no less tenuous largely because its key players remain shrouded in secrecy.

"We represent a group of international investors knowledgeable in the gas business who don't want to reveal their identity," said Wolfgang Putschek, CEO of Raiffeisen Investment, the investment arm of the bank that owns half of RosUkrEnergo.

RosUkrEnergo was under investigation recently by the Security Service of Ukraine for, among other things, its alleged link to reputed crime boss Semion Mogilevich, a Ukrainian-born Russian citizen who is wanted in the United States by the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

"Not a single dollar has anything to do with illegal activity," Mr. Putschek told the AP. Mr. Mogilevich "definitely has nothing to do with RosUkrEnergo, and never has." Mr. Putschek said that any claims of wrongdoing by the company were politically driven by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who has in the past also found her name tied to shady energy deals.

For his part, Mr. Putin said that relations between Russia and Ukraine "are assuming a new quality and becoming a truly transparent market partnership." Just how transparent that partnership is depends on the viewpoint. If, like Mr. Putin, the viewpoint was from within the negotiations, then a view of the deal's details would surely seem transparent. But, if the viewpoint was from outside of the negotiations, then transparent is the last thing we can call this deal. And the devil, as the old saying goes, is in the details.

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Turning the pages back...

In a special feature published in The Weekly one year ago, Marta Kolomayets reported that more than 12,500 international observers had converged upon Ukraine for the December 26, 2004, repeat run-off of the presidential election. According to

Ms. Kolomayets, they set "world records for the size of an official foreign observer mission, whose monitors represented close to 50 countries from the global community."

"This has never happened in history before – ever," Jack McDonald, a former congressman from Michigan, who traveled to Ukraine's eastern oblasts with the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation to ensure that the election was free and fair in that contested region, told our correspondent.

Ms. Kolomayets also reported that what made this mission unique was that some 2,000 observers were the sons and daughters of Ukraine, members of the diaspora community which, through scores of years, fate had scattered throughout the world. First-, second-, third- and even fourth-generation Ukrainians from the United States, Canada, Australia, Belgium, England, France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Romania (among other countries), ranging in age from 18 to 80, came to witness history being made in their ancestral homeland, to serve as guardians of democracy at this critical time.

"The delegation from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America was the largest delegation registered by the Central Election Commission, numbering 2,408 monitors," noted Tamara Gallo-Olexy, the executive director of the UCCA office in New York. "And about 40 percent of those we had registered had been observers before, so they understood the process and came to Ukraine to make their contribution to democracy in this country," she added.

Viktoria Hubska, the director of the UCCA's office in Kyiv, commented: "They are some of the unsung heroes of this Orange Revolution, joining their Ukrainian brothers and sisters on the maidan [Independence Square] after the December 26 vote."

"It was, honestly, the first time in my life that I felt I could make a difference," said Orest Temnycky, a foreign exchange salesperson and consultant from Clifton, N.J.

Mark Iwaszykiw, 43, an IT specialist in New York City, said: "My experience here simply confirms the fact that no matter how badly we have been beaten into the ground, we have now risen from the ashes. And I feel that this will be an amazing shift in the world."

Source: "Diaspora participation makes election monitoring mission unique," by Marta Kolomayets, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, January 9, 2005, Vol. LXXII, No. 2.



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

A cherished gift from Sviatyi Mykolai

She was the first Christmas gift I remember: Bonnie Braids, the baby doll with two short yellow braids sticking straight out at either side of the top of her head. I was about 6, and St. Nicholas, the good bishop, brought her to me during the night of his feast day (according to the Julian calendar).

On the morning of December 19, 1951, I awoke and moved my head from side to side, hoping to hear the rustle of paper. St. Nicholas (Sviatyi Mykolai) always leaves your gift under or near your pillow. Well, if it was a bicycle or something else really big, it would be near your bed.

My doll did not come in the original box, but in a cradle basket, lying on and covered with pink and blue satin brocade, one color per side. There was a ruffled pillow, a thin quilt for a sheet, and then a puffy duvet-like cover. She was wearing a hand-embroidered flowered nightgown, and had pink ribbons in her braids. The baby doll was beautiful, and I carried her everywhere, even to school and church.

Although I was not aware of it at the time, Bonnie Braids was the daughter of comics heroes Dick Tracy and Tess Trueheart. In the early 1950s, this was as complicated as spins-off got. At the time, I did not read the comics and would not have understood them anyway. Even though I could read at the age of 4, it was Ukrainian, not English, that I knew. My parents had been forced laborers in Germany during World War II. That is where they met, and where I was born after the war. An older sister I never knew, Lesia, was born to them during the war, but died of pneumonia at 14 months. She is buried somewhere in southern Germany. After the war, we lived in the displaced persons (DP) camp in Berchtesgaden, waiting for some country to take us. Because my parents had been involved in the Ukrainian underground in both Ukraine and Germany, and were fiercely anti-Russian-Communist, there was no way they would return home to the now Soviet Ukraine under Stalin. After four years in the camp, we arrived as refugees in New York in September 1949, and settled in Jersey City, N.J.

Even though my parents knew a number of European languages, English was not one of them. It took young adults quite a while to figure out this strange language with no declensions nor obvious gender. I, on the other hand, was speaking English within two weeks. Playing with other kids will do that, and soon I was helping my parents when they shopped.

Our lives were the same as those of

the rest of the refugees – no matter what professions or education the people had back home, in America they worked at the most basic jobs until they could pick up the language.

My father worked in a mattress factory, a bus factory and a place that made brass horse clocks. I was fascinated with the one he brought home – a lovely horse on a stand, with a big round clock in his middle. He would come home with his hands full of cuts from the coils and metal.

My mother cleaned offices across the Hudson River in Manhattan. He worked during the day, she at night – that was daycare back in the early 1950s. They greeted each other on the doorstep.

They were also the janitors for the apartment building in which we lived. Later, Mama worked as a seamstress in sewing factories and bridal shops. Despite all their hard work, we still had time for church and Ukrainian school and cultural organizations.

Growing up, I was unaware that we were not exactly wealthy. We had arrived with a trunk filled mostly with books, a down-filled peryna (duvet) from Ukraine, and my grandmother's big, precious coral necklace. There was love, warmth, culture, songs and stories surrounding me. For those first few years, I do not think anything we had was newly bought. I was probably about 10 or so before we acquired a brand-new major piece of furniture. Now that I think back, that original old furniture would fetch a good price on the "Antiques Road Show."

One of the first things my parents bought in America was a sewing machine, second-hand. Mama had learned to sew at home, but involuntarily perfected her sewing during the war, sewing German army uniforms. Afterwards, in the DP camp, she remade clothing for us from donations received through UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Association). I had some interesting dresses out of men's suiting, and a beautiful ruffled dyed-pink dress of parachute silk.

As I was growing up, rarely if ever did I have a store-bought outfit. Mine were all one-of-a-kind, designed and custom-made by Mama. So it was no wonder that the outfit that Bonnie Braids originally came in was just not good enough.

It would be nice to hold Bonnie Braids again. She is available on eBay, but I do not need her. I have the memory of her, and the enveloping memory of loving, devoted, very hard-working parents who sacrificed everything so that we could have a new life in a free land.

Want to see
your name in print?

Then why not become a correspondent of
The Ukrainian Weekly in your community?

We welcome submissions from all our Ukrainian communities, no matter where they are located. Let the rest of us know what you're up to in your corner of the Ukrainian diaspora!

Any questions? Call The Weekly, 973-292-9800, ext. 3049.

COMMENTARY

There is a silver lining in Ukraine-Russia gas wars

by Walter Prochorenko

Regardless of the outcome of Ukraine's gas crisis, which was recently precipitated by Russia's exorbitant and blatantly manipulative demands, the results may eventually have some positive effects on Ukraine's economy.

Reminiscent of the high-handedness of Tsarist times, Russia recently increased the price that Ukraine should pay for Russian gas from the initially proposed \$160 per 1,000 cubic meters to \$230, which is actually a 460 percent increase over the \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters that Ukraine is paying now.

At present, the war of words and initial actions continues and Ukraine has asked for intervention from several courts and governing bodies. Nonetheless, the crisis is bound to have some positive developments for Ukraine from several different perspectives.

First of all, the crisis should solidify President Viktor Yushchenko's political position and may actually assist him, and his political parties and allies, in the upcoming March elections. We in the United States have seen many times how a crisis can actually unite people in a common cause when faced with outside threats. Ukraine has already shown that it can unite under a collective struggle when provoked. The magnitude of Russia's obvious manipulations cannot be dismissed as simple business tactics. Russia wants Ukraine to give up its sovereignty the way Belarus did, and for that Russia is willing to dole out welfare crumbs until the next Ukrainian attempt at independent thinking.

The second and even more beneficial effect of the crisis will be the long-postponed introduction and development of conservation measures by Ukraine's industries.

A continuing study last updated in January 2005 by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) of the U.S. Department of Energy indicated that "Ukraine has one of the highest levels of energy intensity in the world." As far back as 1995, studies by other agencies, this time from the European Union, have shown that Ukraine uses approximately

four times more energy than France for the same amount of output. Also, a 2002 study by the EIA showed that Ukraine had almost a seven times higher energy intensity factor of 1,000 of BTUs per dollar than the United States.

During its 14 years of independence and cheap Russian gas and oil, Ukraine has not had much incentive to introduce conservation measures. Now it will be forced to do so.

Another positive factor may be the anti-Russian sentiment that could develop if and when Ukrainians start feeling the real effects of the gas shortages. It's unlikely they will complain against Mr. Yushchenko, Yuriy Yekhanurov or Yulia Tymoshenko when their apartments grow cold. Instead, their common enemy will now become the country that created the gas shortage in the first place.

Long-term positive factors will be the development and proliferation of alternative energy sources such as nuclear, solar and wind power. True, the Chernobyl nuclear disaster will continue to be on the minds of all Ukrainians, but with assistance from the United States or the EU, safer and more efficient nuclear plants should help ease these concerns. Alternative energy is a major issue around the world and very much so in the U.S., which has started developing such resources.

Already there have been a number of inquiries from Ukraine into alternative energy utilization methods such as corn-burning furnaces and stoves, which are not only efficient but, considering that Ukraine has huge agricultural sources, could prove to be a blessing. Other alternative energy sources about which inquiries were made were wind turbines, solar panels and bio gas.

The EU will also have to come to terms with the Ukrainian issue. It will have to decide whether to support Ukraine as a potential future member and speed up its assimilation process, or to abandon Ukraine to the Russian wolves. Given the slow process and indecisiveness that the EU has shown toward Ukraine in the past year, this is the least important of the positive effects, but it remains one that should be pursued continuously by Ukraine's politicians. It is the squeaky wheel that gets the oil (pardon the unintentional pun).

Last, but certainly not least, it would also be a positive development if the U.S. would finally recognize Ukraine as a real friend, partner and buffer against the Russians. One can never fully trust the United States' foreign policy, which has been misguided at best and often destructive at other times – but, perhaps, with the guidance of our Ukrainian diaspora activists, this can provide a positive impetus for the Ukraine's future.

Dr. Walter Prochorenko is currently director of publications at the Ukrainian National Association. His previous experience consists of over 30 years as a multinational entrepreneur, wealth management advisor and business consultant in international business. Part of his business experience consisted of establishing and running several successful development businesses in Ukraine for a period of over eight and a half years. Dr. Prochorenko obtained his Ph.D. in international business and wrote his dissertation on the economic and political situation of Ukraine since independence.

Quotable notes

"A year ago, on December 26, with the world closely watching and many Canadians taking part as neutral observers, the citizens of Ukraine cast votes to choose the country's president.

"Orange, the color of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko's campaign, became the defining symbol of resistance after the people refused to accept the results of an earlier, rigged election. Defenders of democracy around the world responded to the growing Orange Revolution, exerting the pressure needed to ensure new, free and fair elections were held.

"Democracy gives citizens a voice and an opportunity to help chart their future. It is often something we take for granted here in Canada. ... we'd like to wish the best to all Ukrainians as they celebrate the one-year anniversary of this defining event."

– statement by Conservative leader Stephen Harper of Canada on the first anniversary of Ukraine's Orange Revolution.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Just say "no"!

Ukrainian officials should just say "no" to U.S. demands that John Demjanjuk be deported to Ukraine.

Let's review the history of this sordid, 29-year debacle. John Demjanjuk entered the U.S. in 1952 and settled in the Cleveland area. In 1977 he was accused by the U.S. Office of Special Investigations (OSI) of being "Ivan the Terrible," mass murderer of thousands of Jews at the Nazi death camp at Treblinka, Poland. His name was part of a list of "Ukrainian war criminals" supplied to the OSI by John Hanusiak, a Stalinist, a member of the Communist Party of the U.S.A. and one-time editor of a Soviet-financed gazette in New York City.

Accused of lying about his "Nazi past" prior to his entering the U.S., Mr. Demjanjuk went to trial in 1981. Based on the testimony of aging Treblinka survivors – one of whom claimed earlier that he witnessed Ivan's death – and a fraudulent Trawniki training camp identity card supplied by the Soviets, Mr. Demjanjuk was found guilty, stripped of his citizenship, and ordered deported to Ukraine.

Israel, meanwhile, decided to intervene. Persuaded by the OSI that Demjanjuk's guilt was indisputable, Israel demanded extradition. He arrived in Israel in 1986 and, following a raucous show-trial conducted in an auditorium, was found guilty in 1988. He was sentenced to death amid cries of "death to all Ukrainians" in the courtroom. Mr. Demjanjuk's Israeli attorney appealed the sentence.

The appeal was still pending in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed. Mr. Demjanjuk's lawyers gained access to Soviet files and produced testimony from 37 Treblinka guards and forced laborers that Mr. Demjanjuk was not Ivan the Terrible. In 1993 the Israeli Supreme Court overturned the guilty verdict, despite arguments by the prosecution that Mr. Demjanjuk was actually at Sobibor and Flossenberg, two other Nazi death camps, an allegation that was dismissed as face-saving and "fanciful" by experts familiar with the case. Mr. Demjanjuk returned to the U.S. and his citizenship was restored in 1998.

During the 22-year period between 1977 and 1998, a number of Ukrainian organizations and individuals in North America came to Mr. Demjanjuk's assistance. These included Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine, whose president, Bozhena Olshaniwsky, initiated a Demjanjuk Defense Fund, the Ukrainian American Justice Committee, the UNA Heritage Defense Committee, The Ukrainian Weekly, the Ukrainian American Bar Association, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian Canadian Committee, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The late Ukrainian Canadian businessman Petro Jacyk donated thousands of dollars to the Demjanjuk defense. Ukrainian attorneys in the United States – Andrew Fylypovych and Jaroslaw Dobrowolskyj come immediately to mind – provided legal assistance, and Walter Anastas traveled to Israel as an observer. Ukrainian Canadian attorney Peter Chumak served as part of the Demjanjuk defense team in Israel. It is estimated that some \$1 million dollars was raised by Ukrainians in North America for the defense.

It was also during this period that former OSI Director Allan A. Ryan Jr., who worked closely with the Soviets in obtaining "evidence" on Ukrainian "war criminals,"

penned his notorious book "Quiet Neighbors: Prosecuting Nazi War Criminals in America." Adopting the Soviet perspective regarding post-war Ukrainians who emigrated to the United States under the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, he wrote: "Had Congress tried to design a law that would extend the Statue of Liberty's hand to the followers and practitioners of Nazism, it could not have done much better than this without coming right out and saying so." Mr. Ryan estimated that "nearly 10,000 Nazi war criminals came to America."

Mr. Ryan was succeeded at OSI by Neal Sher. It later came to light that during the tenure of these two men the OSI had purposely withheld from the Demjanjuk defense team, and later attempted to destroy, exculpatory documents. Learning of this mendacity, Gilbert Merritt, chief justice of the Sixth District Court, ruled that the OSI had engaged in "prosecutorial misconduct that constituted fraud upon the court."

Mr. Ryan eventually received a sinecure at Harvard University, where he continues to write and lecture about "Nazi war criminals." Mr. Sher later held various positions with Jewish organizations – including a stint in Canada searching for "Nazis" in the Ukrainian community – and eventually went to work for the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims. He was forced to resign in 2002 for misappropriation of commission funds for personal use.

The best published exposé of the entire Demjanjuk debacle was written by Israeli defense attorney Yoram Sheftel. Titled "The Demjanjuk Affair: The Rise and Fall of a Show-Trial," (published in London in 1994), his book is an account of what the author believes was a conspiracy by Israel, the OSI and the USSR to convict an innocent man for purely political reasons. Israel needed another show-trial to remind its citizens and the world of the evils of Nazism. The OSI desperately needed to justify its existence. The Soviets needed to demonize Ukrainian anti-Soviets in the free world.

Mr. Sheftel was especially critical of Israeli prosecutors, describing them as a "cynical and malicious team" that was "not ashamed to file an indictment and plan a show-trial on the basis of such unconvincing and disgraceful evidence..."

There you have it, a thumbnail sketch of the behavior of the OSI, a federal agency with unlimited funds, accountable to no one, supported by your tax dollars. "Fanciful allegations" have now become the basis for the OSI's continuing, contemptible campaign against John Demjanjuk. This time, there are no witnesses or documentation for the unsubstantiated charge that Mr. Demjanjuk was at Sobibor and at Flossenberg. The cowardly and indolent American press won't question allegations presented by the OSI whose director, Eli Rosenbaum, is known to The Ukrainian Weekly readers for his virulent diatribes against those with whom he disagrees.

Thus far, the Ukrainian government doesn't appear overly anxious to accept Mr. Demjanjuk's extradition. According to Vasyl Filipchuk, spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Ukrainian law requires that "the U.S. court decision must be examined by competent Ukrainian officials such as the prosecutor general ... This could take years."

Ukraine can save itself the trouble by simply saying "no." Now!

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is kuropas@comcast.net.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Azerbaijan through Western eyes

by Larissa Momryk

The parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan on November 6, 2005, and subsequent demonstrations by opposition supporters have inspired in some observers the hope that this country will follow Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan and become the next former Soviet republic to undergo a democratic revolution.

Azerbaijan is a country of approximately 8.5 million, located on the western shore of the Caspian Sea and strategically placed between Russia and Iran. It obtained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Since then its history has been marked by three events.

In 1992 a war broke out between Azerbaijan and neighboring Armenia over control of the predominantly Armenian Azeri region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Although a ceasefire was signed in 1994, about one-seventh of Azerbaijan's territory remains occupied, and some 800,000 refugees and internally displaced persons are scattered throughout the country.

The ceasefire was masterminded by Azeri President Heydar Aliyev, who dramatically came to power in 1993 when his predecessor fled the capital city of Baku. Mr. Aliyev died in 2003, just two months after his son Ilham won the presidential election, which was roundly criticized by observers for not meeting international standards. But even two years after his death, Mr. Aliyev's presence is still deeply felt throughout the country, in the form of pictures and quotes plastered on billboards along every highway and in every town and village.

Heydar Aliyev was also responsible for signing, in 1994, an oil contract worth \$7.4 billion with a Western consortium led by British Petroleum (BP). BP and its partners have been building a pipeline to carry oil from Baku through Tbilisi, Georgia, to the Turkish port of Ceyhan. The first oil began to pump along the "BTC pipeline" in May 2005.

This is the country where I lived from September 2004 to March 2005. Sent to Baku as part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Canadian International Development Agency's Young Professionals International pro-

Larissa Momryk graduated from McGill University in the spring of 2004 with an honors degree in political science and international development studies. She currently lives and works in Toronto.



The opening ceremony of the health clinic in Topal Hasanli.

gram, I was to be an intern at the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) but ended up splitting my time between International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and International Medical Corps (IMC).

When I began my internship at IFES we were just weeks away from a round of municipal elections and I was promptly sent out to visit some of the organization's voter education projects. The projects were targeted at vulnerable populations – internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, youth, women, the elderly and disabled.

In Sumgayit, a city just 45 minutes outside of Baku, I sat in a chilly and bare room in an IDP settlement. A group of about 20 IDP youth listened intently as their trainers, young volunteers from the community itself, explained the voting procedure and voting rules for the municipal elections. The youths were enthusiastic participants in the voter education project – most were seen voting in the municipal elections and two of the project participants even volunteered to be election observers.

This contrasts sharply against another voter education project I observed, which aimed to reach women voters by holding training sessions in Baku-area schools (where the vast majority of teachers are women). These training sessions had much lower turnouts than the ones targeted at youth, and were often cut short by impatient school directors. The women themselves seemed deeply

cynical about the elections, first about the relevance of the municipal authorities, and second about the chances of an authentic outcome to the election.

Azerbaijan is divided into over 2,000 municipalities. That's more municipali-

ties than Brazil. It's even more than

India. The municipalities have been categorized by the national authorities as non-governmental bodies, and their powers are severely limited – they can only make recommendations to the regional administrations, which are staffed by ruling party members and directly responsible to the presidential office.

My internship at IFES also gave me the opportunity to act as an observer on the day of the municipal elections in December. My partner in this endeavor was Steve, an American who was an observer in the Ukrainian presidential elections and, between rounds of voting in that election, had come to Baku to visit a friend. He ended up volunteering

to observe the election there as well. Our first stop was a school in the south end of Baku. It remains the nicest school I ever saw in Azerbaijan, with fresh plaster on the walls and new floors. It was also the nicest polling station I would see – the floors covered in carpets and the interior decorated with large, dramatic flower arrangements. The mystery behind this was soon explained, when our interpreter piped up, "this is the school that our president attended and it is where he always comes to vote." We managed to squeeze out of the chairwoman of the voting precinct that he was expected before noon. One shared glance was all it took for Steve and me to decide to stick around to try and see the president of Azerbaijan in person.

We were not to be disappointed. He came, accompanied by his wife and one of their daughters. Their arrival was heralded by a fleet of unmarked black SUVs bearing the security service, and a mob of television and radio reporters with their cameras and tape recorders. The media clustered around the ballot box to capture the moment when the president dropped his ballot inside. Then an even larger scrum surrounded him outside the school, and he stood answering their questions for well over 20 minutes. There is no free media in Azerbaijan, so the president casting his ballot, and his comments afterwards, were the top story on every channel that evening.

Our first polling station experience was very different from the rest of our day observing the election. We visited many other schools, in towns along the Caspian shore south of Baku. All had that dirty look that is inevitable when a building is old and run down. In these polling stations, lacking carpets and flowers, and in one case heated only by the burning pilot of a gas stove, the voters cast their ballots under the watchful

(Continued on page 22)



An IFES voter education session in Baku targeting teachers.



Larissa Momryk in Azerbaijan.

Thoreau in Ukraine, or a visit to the National University of Ostroh Academy

by Dianne Piper-Rybak

"Who knows what beautiful and winged life, whose egg has been buried for ages under many concentric layers of woodenness in the dead dry life of society ... may unexpectedly come forth amidst society's most trivial and handselled furniture, to enjoy its perfect summer life at last!"

So ends the penultimate paragraph of the final chapter in "Walden" as Henry D. Thoreau recounts the story of a "strong and beautiful bug" that for several weeks had been heard gnawing its way out of an old table in a

"Ostroh Bible" rests on a shelf in the rector's office. Even so, history somehow ceases to be history when one realizes that today's classroom, just down the hall from a room that houses an ancient indoor well, was once the living quarters of Carmelite monks whose remains, discovered in the 1994 renovation, lie just below in the old monastery's crypt.

In 2000, coinciding with the 900th anniversary of the town, Ostroh Academy was designated a "national university" in recognition of its significant role in Ukraine's national rebirth. Since then, the university has

To my surprise, not one of my 85 students, most of whom aspired to be interpreters or business managers, knew of Henry David Thoreau. Or "Walden." Or Ralph Waldo Emerson. "Transcendentalism" was not in their admirably extensive vocabulary. Who had they read? Walt Whitman, Edgar Allen Poe, Mark Twain, George Orwell and J. D. Salinger. Nonetheless, I explained, I had chosen Thoreau because he is an American icon. Every American student is required to read him at least once, beginning at about the age of 15, then again in college and yet again in graduate school.

Ask any American who Thoreau is, I said, and they will tell you, at the very least, two things: (1) Thoreau went to jail for refusing to pay his taxes and (2) he lived for a while in a small cabin in the woods that he built by himself. While Thoreau wrote about both these experiences (and much, much more), I said, it is his experience in the woods at Walden Pond that is the subject of his major work, "Walden." Undeniably an American classic, "Walden" is definitely a book they should be familiar with.

Though these students had not read Thoreau's essay on "Resistance to Civil Government," written after his one-night stint in jail, there was little I could teach them about the subject. Less than a year ago they had boarded buses armed with no more than blankets, food and the kind of moral fortitude that only the young seem to possess, headed for Kyiv to take part in the "Orange Revolution," joined, but not led, by teachers and even their rector.

Later, when I asked Rector Pasichnyk if they had not put their jobs, even the very existence of the university, at risk by supporting now President Viktor Yushchenko's opposition party, he simply smiled and said, "The students were going with or without us." It was clear to me he would have considered himself a failure as an educator had they not participated in Ukraine's first-ever "civil disobedience."

I had not come to Ostroh to introduce a particular philosophy, moral or otherwise. For me, Thoreau provides a unique snapshot of life in a newly forming democracy, albeit one that only a century later emerged as a world super power. Understanding this snapshot is key to understanding "Walden." Thoreau's views on emerging technology, represented by the advent of the train, which brought with it a rapidly expanding industrialization and concurrent degradation of the environment provide an important perspective on America in the 19th century. He wrote about it with understated passion and originality. Still, what underlies that American democracy is American individualism and that, along with originality, is the foundation of Transcendentalism – a philosophy that Emerson articulated and Thoreau lived.

By car, Ostroh is about three and a half hours east of Lviv, Ukraine's second largest city. It doesn't take long

(Continued on page 17)



A view of the campus of the National University of Ostroh Academy.

farmer's kitchen – a bug, he surmises, "from an egg deposited in the living tree many years earlier still, as appeared by counting the annual layers beyond it." I was reminded of this story that so strengthened Thoreau's "faith in a resurrection and immortality" during my September 2005 visit to Ukraine's National University of Ostroh Academy.

The purpose of my visit was to provide the students of Ostroh Academy's Foreign Language Department the experience of being in an American university classroom, which would be a distinct departure from their traditional lecture hall filled with 100 or so students laboriously taking notes with no thought of asking questions or expressing opinions.

The academy's Foreign Language Department offers majors in French, German, Polish and Latin, as well as English, which is considered the school's second language. Russian is noticeably not part of the curriculum, nor is it spoken on campus, signifying the significant nationalistic role the academy has played since Ukraine's declaration of independence. Ostroh Academy reopened in 1994 under the direction of Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk – after a 356-year hiatus.

The town of Ostroh is ancient. The first known mention of it is in 1100, and by the 14th century, the Ostrozky family had built a castle and a church there, both of which are still standing and open to the public. In 1576, Prince Konstantyn Ostrozky founded the original academy in an attempt to intellectually strengthen Ukraine's Orthodox clergy against Jesuit attempts to convert the country to Roman Catholicism. Its curriculum included the trivium (grammar, logic, rhetoric) and the quadrivium (mathematics, astronomy, geometry and music), as well as theology, philosophy, medicine and natural science.

Soon after, in 1578, Ivan Fedorov established Ukraine's first printing press in the town of Ostroh and printed the first Ukrainian primer for the academy; in 1582, the year before he died, Fedorov printed 1,200 copies of the first Slavic-language Bible. However, with the establishment of a rival Jesuit academy in Ostroh in 1636, Ostroh Academy fell into decline and, when Prince Ostrozky died in 1638, it ceased to exist altogether.¹ Or so it seemed.

Evidence of Ostroh's rich history is on display not only in the town's Museum of the History of the Book but also in the academy, where a copy of the 628-folio

attracted not only international support but also well-recognized professors from throughout Ukraine as well as the U.S. and Canada.

That year, Northern Illinois University (NIU) established a program to facilitate an exchange of American scholars who teach summer courses at Ostroh, and Ostroh scholars, who study for their master of science in education degrees at NIU.² Presently, the academy is attempting to position itself within the European Union's structure of educational institutions.

When I accepted the invitation to visit Ostroh Academy, I was told my students were fourth-, fifth- and sixth-year students who were majoring in English; the duration of my stay and the topic of my presentation would be entirely my choice. Because my doctorate is in English and because I have worked at the "Writings of Henry D. Thoreau" at NIU since 2001, Thoreau seemed to me an appropriate foundation for a three-hour discussion comprising American literature and the American Renaissance in general.

Once there, I managed to whittle the Ukrainian notion of a "small group" from 50 to 25 students per day, which, in the end, swelled each of my three teaching days to accommodate more and more enthusiastic learners.



The new library at the National University of Ostroh Academy.

Since 2001, Dianne Piper-Rybak has been editorial assistant for *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*, University of California, Santa Barbara. She telecommutes from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., and holds both an M.P.A. in comparative administration and a Ph.D. in English from NIU.

Yushchenko journeys...

(Continued from page 1)

presented military decorations to Ukrainian troops.

Reflecting on Ukraine's involvement in Iraq, Mr. Yushchenko said Ukraine has significantly strengthened its position on the international arena. "Practically no political conflict" is regulated without Ukraine's presence, and "Ukraine is trusted," the president noted.

Mr. Yushchenko also noted that Ukrainian troops had professionally

trained 6,000 Iraqi soldiers. They made a significant contribution to humanitarian development of the Wasit province, building 16 schools, renovating seven kindergartens, repaired four highways and fixed three electricity cables lines. They also restored four water-supply facilities and gave medical aid to 40,000 Iraqis. "The Ukrainian peacekeepers are leaving this country as partners and friends," he said.

Ukrinform also reported that President Yushchenko spoke for closer cooperation between Ukraine and Iraq. Apart from military cooperation, the two countries

could start cooperation in the energy sphere, water power, water resources and machine building. "I think real economic cooperation will begin after today's meeting with [Iraq's] prime minister," Mr. Yushchenko said.

As the Iraqi economy awakens, Ukrainian-Iraqi relations "could be much closer," Mr. Yushchenko noted. Commodity turnover between the countries has grown to \$100 million (U.S.) per year, but it could be even greater. By comparison, he said, in 1998 trade turnover between the two states was \$1.5 million and there were no economic ties between the countries.

Touching on current "active cooperation projects" between Ukraine and Iraq, Mr. Yushchenko mentioned a recently signed agreement on supplying more than 2,000 KrAZ automobiles to Iraq. The two countries have also started negotiating agricultural projects and programs to explore and produce oil and gas.

During his visit to Iraq, President Yushchenko also met with Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari. The Iraqi leaders thanked Ukraine for the high professionalism of its peacekeepers, noting that security matters are acute and important for Iraq, and pointing out that it is

hard to overestimate Ukrainian peacekeepers' contribution to ensuring peace and stability in the country.

Mr. Yushchenko stated that Ukraine is ready to increase its participation in the reconstruction of Iraq's transportation network, prospecting for oil and gas fields, restoring the water-supply and training Iraqi specialists. Furthermore, Ukraine is interested in supplying agricultural vehicles, cargo and passenger planes. He also said Ukraine is ready to welcome an Iraqi diplomatic mission to Ukraine.

As a result of the meeting between Messrs. Yushchenko and al-Jaafari the prime minister will go to Ukraine in May, at which time an action plan between Ukraine and Iraq will be signed with the aim of promoting relations between the two countries.

Also while in Iraq, President Yushchenko met at Baghdad International Airport with Deputy Commander of the Multinational Forces in Iraq Nick Houghton.

Commander Houghton praised Ukraine's peacekeepers for their professional skills and meritorious service, as well as their contribution to training Iraqi military and paramilitary servicemen.

Intricate deal...

(Continued from page 1)

the first 24 hours of the cut off.

"With the indisputable thievery of our gas from the export pipes, we've decided to take all possible measures to secure our gas so that Western consumers continue to receive gas in accordance with contracts," Mr. Medvedev said.

Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Minister Ivan Plachkov firmly denied Mr. Medvedev's accusations of theft.

However, the Financial Times quoted a natural gas advisor to the Ukrainian government, Alex Danilyuk, acknowledging that "we have no choice but to take some of the Russian gas" because Turkmenistan had also cut its supplies to Ukraine.

Gazprom was widely suspected of cutting off the Turkmen gas as well in order to put additional pressure on Ukraine.

Mr. Putin's ploy to scapegoat Ukraine ultimately backfired as European leaders began questioning Russia's reliability as an energy partner, prompting Gazprom officials to return to the negotiating table and restore much of the natural gas it had cut off.

Even after the two sides reached consensus in the early morning of January 4, European leaders and the media kept the finger of blame pointed directly at Mr. Putin.

"Everyone but Putin and his Gazprom underlings agree that this was a total disaster from the Kremlin," said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is exclusively financed by Ukrainian business donations. "Yushchenko and his government handled it okay."

The Yushchenko government was able to survive the crisis without selling part of the gas transit system's ownership to Russia, as its northern neighbor Belarus had done.

As part of its agreement with Naftohaz, Ukraine's state-owned natural gas counterpart, Gazprom agreed to a 47 percent increase in the fee it pays for transporting gas through Ukrainian-owned pipelines and to stop the system of bartering transit fees for natural gas.

The higher revenues will provide Ukraine with about \$500 million to put toward the \$1.5 billion it faces in higher natural gas costs.

The deal will have a positive effect on Russian-Ukrainian relations, Mr. Putin asserted. "It's not only important that Russia's approach to calculating the gas price was recognized as justified, but that our relations are assuming a new quality and becoming a truly transparent market partnership," Interfax quoted Mr. Putin as saying.

RosUkrEnergo, the company acting as the middleman in the deal, is jointly owned by Gazprom bank and "a number of private Ukrainian investors" whose portfolios are managed by Raiffeisen Investment, according to CEO Wolfgang Putschek.

When the Yushchenko administration

came to power in January 2005, one of the first acts of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was to call for a criminal investigation into RosUkrEnergo, characterized as a "criminal enterprise," according to a Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) report.

Shortly afterwards, Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Chief Oleksander Turchynov said he was launching a criminal case against RosUkrEnergo. The investigation abruptly ended in mid-August, RFE/RL reported.

Soon after Mr. Turchynov's dismissal, the SBU officer in charge of the investigation, Andrii Kozhemyakin, was transferred from the case to other duties, the Ukrainian website obozrevatel.com.ua reported in September.

It's no coincidence that Mr. Putin inflicted the crisis upon the Yushchenko government on New Year's Day, the holiday the majority of Ukrainians consider most significant during the year when they are typically at home with their families and watching television.

Amidst television news reports of Mr. Yushchenko and his officials wrestling with the crisis, advertisements promoting the Party of Regions and a calm, presidential-looking Viktor Yanukovich offering Ukrainians stability dominated the commercial breaks of most networks.

"You would be almost irrational to think the Russians didn't do this on purpose," Mr. Lozowy said. "Their biggest supporters (in Ukraine) immediately took up the refrain of criticizing their own government for precipitating this gas crisis, which confirms the whole purpose was to impact and influence the pre-election tendencies of voters."

The election campaigns are already in full swing for the March 26 parliamentary elections, which will not only determine control of the Verkhovna Rada but the prime minister as well.

All polls point to the pro-Russian Party of Regions commanding a solid lead over fractured pro-Western blocs, namely Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Reforms and Order/Pora Bloc.

During the crisis, the Party of Regions coordinated its statements with Kremlin and Gazprom officials, Mr. Lozowy said. Throughout the crisis, the same statements made by Mr. Yanukovich were almost identically repeated the next day by Kremlin and Gazprom officials, and vice versa, he said.

"It's amazing that a Ukrainian political party would coordinate its actions with a foreign country which is acting against Ukrainian interests in a brutal way," Mr. Lozowy said. "But that is the reality of Ukrainian politics and they can get away with that."

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn's conduct was even more egregious, Mr. Lozowy said. The leader of the People's Party of Ukraine traveled to Moscow during the crisis, where he insisted the Yushchenko government apologize for its role in the crisis, even after Western governments almost unanimously criticized the Kremlin, he said.



President Viktor Yushchenko decorates Ukraine's soldiers in Iraq.



The Ukrainian president dines at the Delta base in Al-Kut.

Shevchenko Scientific Society recalls the contributions of two deceased presidents

NEW YORK – A program dedicated to reminiscences about the lives of two deceased presidents of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), Dr. Ivan Rakovsky (1874-1949) and Dr. Oleh Romaniv (1928-2005), took place at the

society's headquarters on December 10, 2005. The commemoration of Dr. Rakovsky at this time was prompted by the recent publication of a book about his life by Ivan Holovatsky. Dr. Romaniv was remembered and mourned because of his death in Lviv, on November 3.

The program was introduced by NTSh President Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych and chaired by Prof. Vasyl Makhno.



At the Shevchenko Scientific Society (from left) are: Prof. Vasyl Makhno, Yuriy Rakovsky, Dr. Leonid Rudnytsky, Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, Dr. Orest Popovych and Dr. Swiatoslaw Trofimenko.

The book about Dr. Rakovsky was presented by his grandson Yuriy Rakovsky, who accompanied his narra-

tive about the life of his grandfather with a slide show of family photos. Dr. Orest Popovych, an NTSh vice-president, talked about Dr. Rakovsky as a scientist and a pedagogue, NTSh activist, chief editor of the first ever

Ukrainian Encyclopedia (1930-1935) and NTSh president (1935-1940 and 1947-1949). Dr. Rakovsky's interests and expertise covered an enormous range of disciplines – all the natural sciences, as well as mathematics and psychology. He was a prolific author and lecturer in all these fields, utilizing the popular genre aimed at a wide Ukrainian audience.

At the conclusion of the program segment dedicated to Dr. Rakovsky, Prof. Makhno read a memoir sent from Brazil by Vira Vovk, in which the writer remi-

nised about the time she roomed as a teenager with the Rakovsky family in Lviv.

The part of the program dedicated to Dr. Romaniv began with a slide show prepared by Dr. Vasyl Lopukh, depicting the recently deceased president of NTSh in Ukraine in a variety of solo and group pictures, primarily with members of the American NTSh.

Dr. Swiatoslaw Trofimenko, NTSh vice-president and learned secretary, traced the career of Dr. Romaniv as scientist and engineer in the fields of metallurgy and the strength of materials, in which he left behind 380 scientific publications and 30 patents. In the process he earned the degrees of candidate of sciences, doctor of sciences as well as the title of professor and corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Perhaps the most significant accomplishment of Dr. Romaniv was his suc-

cessful initiative to renew and expand the activity of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Ukraine, of which he was elected president in 1989. In 1992 Dr. Romaniv became secretary general of the World Council of NTSh.

Next to speak was Dr. Leonid Rudnytsky, who as the president of the World Council of NTSh enjoyed a prolonged close relationship with the deceased. Running through the many personal memories recounted by Dr. Rudnytsky was the theme that Dr. Romaniv was the engine, as well as the heart and soul, behind the NTSh in Ukraine, and that his loss to the society is irreplaceable.

The program was capped with the closing remarks by Dr. Onyshkevych, who pointed to a common quality in the two honored ex-presidents of the Shevchenko Scientific Society: their dedicated and selfless service to Ukrainian causes.

OBITUARY: Washington-based champion of Ukrainian music, Joseph McLellan, 76

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – “To the best of my recollection, I had never heard a note composed by Myroslav Skoryk until Wednesday night” With this straightforward admission, The Washington Post's music critic Joseph McLellan began his review of violinist Solomia Soroka's concert in Washington in February 2000, and added that “he should be better known in this country.”

As in this instance, Mr. McLellan's reviews of other Ukrainian artists performing in the nation's capital over the past two decades oftentimes highlighted the “discovery” aspect of the experience.

Mr. McLellan died here on the day after Christmas. And with his passing Ukrainian classical music lost its great champion in the nation's capital.

On hearing about his death, Laryssa Courtney, who was the director of The Washington Group Cultural Fund for 10 of those years, observed that he approached music “with an open mind and keen ear.”

“He relished hearing unfamiliar music performed by unfamiliar artists and wondered out loud why he hadn't heard it before. He was a very thoughtful and kind man, providing valuable background information where necessary, and highlighting the most positive aspects of a performance, where most of his colleagues made it a mission to point out any real or imagined shortcomings,” Ms. Courtney said.

Mr. McLellan related his music experiences so eloquently, she added, that reading his column “was the next best thing to being there.” In his 1983 review of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide anniversary concert at the Kennedy Center, Mr. McLellan included historical background information about the Holodomor and about Mykola Lysenko's opera “Taras Bulba” as describing an earlier Ukrainian struggle with Russian domination.

Less than two weeks after the Soroka concert in 2000, Mr. McLellan's review of another TWG Cultural Fund concert in a tribute to Taras Shevchenko, featuring bandurists Alla Kutsevych and Ludmyla Hrabovska, focused on the Ukrainian bard's role in the development of Ukraine's cultural and political history.

“Shevchenko, an early and outspoken

critic of despotism in the czarist empire, was arrested and ended his life in exile,” Mr. McLellan wrote. “His words attracted music, ranging from simple folk melodies to cantatas and operas, not only by relatively unfamiliar Ukrainian composers such as H. Hladkyi, M. Lysenko and Y. Stepovyi but by such well-known Russians as Modest Mussorgsky and Sergei Prokofiev.”

One year later, Mr. McLellan found three more Ukrainian composers deserving of more attention in the United States: Mykola Kolessa, whose “Autumnal” and “Hutsulian” preludes were premiered in Washington by pianist Mykola Suk at the National Gallery of Art; and Stanislav Liudkevych and Vasyl Barvinsky (as well as Skoryk) – exemplars of a vital and ancient musical culture that has struggled for centuries to win recognition for its distinctive identity” – whose works were on the program of another Cultural Fund concert, featuring soprano Oksana Krovyska and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky.

As Ms. Courtney noted and The Washington Post's current lead critic Tim Page pointed out in his obituary, Mr. McLellan was not known for sharply negative reviews; his criticism reflected more his “gentle, inquisitive and compassionate” nature, as Mr. Page described it.

His Krovyska-Vynnytsky review was one example: “Not many performers in this country know the Ukrainian repertoire well enough to give such a performance, and the result was fascinating – a glimpse of musical riches hardly suspected by American audiences. The performances were both skilled and fervent, the music – Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian – carefully selected for quality and interest.”

As Mr. Page indicated, Mr. McLellan was aware that he was sometimes viewed as a “cheerleader.” Some could say that about his appraisal of Mr. Suk's encore performance of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 11, which he wrote, “nearly set the keyboard on fire.”

Born in Quincy, Mass., the oldest of 12 children, Joseph McLellan came to The Washington Post in 1972. Initially he wrote on various subjects, Mr. Page noted, including cinema, drama, philosophy and chess, as well as music. He became the lead music critic in 1982, a position he held until 1995. He was 76 when he died of kidney failure in Hyattsville, Md.

Bishop Losten...

(Continued from page 1)

of British Columbia with a bachelor's degree in commerce in 1980, the bishop worked as an accountant for two years. Responding to God's call to a vocation, he entered the novitiate of the Order of St. Basil the Great at the Basilian Monastery in Glen Cove, N.Y., in November 1982.

He professed his final vows in Rome on January 1, 1988, and was ordained to

the priesthood on October 1, 1988, by Bishop Jerome Chimy, OSBM at Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Vancouver. He then studied philosophy at the University of St. Anselm and the Gregorian University in Rome, receiving a bachelor's in sacred theology in 1990.

Upon his return to Canada he served briefly as an assistant pastor at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Mundare, Alberta, and St. Basil's in Edmonton. Eventually he would return to both parishes as their pastor in 1997 and 2000; he also served as the pastor of St. Mary's Church in Vancouver in 1994-1997.

During his tenure as pastor at St. Basil's in Edmonton and St. Paul's in Mundare, he was also the superior of the local Basilian monastery. Bishop Chomnycky also served as the director of the Basilian Fathers museum in Mundare, a member of the Provincial Council of the Basilian Fathers of Canada, and a member of the college of consultors of the Edmonton Eparchy.

He was appointed Exarch for Ukrainian Catholics in Great Britain on April 5, 2002, and ordained as a bishop on June 11, 2002, by Cardinal Lubomyr Husar.

Correction

In the article titled “Hnizdovsky reburied in Ukraine, commemorative art exhibit held in Lviv” which appeared in the January 1 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, it was erroneously reported that Stephanie Hnizdovsky, the artist's widow, and Mira Hnizdovsky, the artist's daughter, were present at the reburial and exhibition opening. They were unable to attend due to health reasons, and had asked Mr. Roman Ferencevych of Alexandria, Va., to represent them at the ceremonies.

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FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych



The Order of Bohdan Khmelnytsky (and Soviet stamps depicting the hetman)

Last month I related some information about an Austrian military pin of World War I that bore a Ukrainian inscription designed to instill pride among the soldiers of a Ukrainian-manned battalion. This month I present some information of a World War II medal that was meant to provide a similar function to

Ukrainians serving in the Soviet Red Army.

Background

When the German Wehrmacht attacked the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, it initially encountered limited resistance. While the Soviet Union had the manpower in 1940 to bully and annex the Baltic countries in the north or to grab Bessarabia (from Romania) in the south, it was totally unprepared to face a war on the scale the Germans unleashed. Over 3 million troops, 3,350 tanks, 7,184 artillery pieces, 600,000 motor vehicles, 625,000 horses and 2,500 aircraft of all types poured onto Soviet territories. The German allies of Finland, Romania, Hungary, Italy and Slovakia also provided significant additional manpower.

Although the invasion did not attain ultimate goals of Leningrad and Moscow, for the most part its offensives during 1941 and 1942 were successful. All of Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltics, and huge chunks of Russian territories – particularly in the north Caucasus area – were overrun. The situation started to change in 1943 as rebuilt Soviet armies began to take the offensive.

Since these military formations would now be moving to retake former Soviet lands (Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltic states) occupied by the Germans for a couple of years, it was unclear how the peoples of these lands would react to yet another occupation (a reoccupation). So, Soviet propagandists felt that it would be useful to appeal to these peoples' patriotism. The vast struggle between the Red Army and the Nazi war machine began to be called the Great Patriotic War by Soviet ideologues, and many subtle changes designed to instill pride in being a Soviet citizen were undertaken.

In October of 1943, the front commands were renamed: what had been the Voronezh, Steppes, Southwest and South fronts became the first, second, third and fourth Ukrainian fronts. A new,



Figure 1



Figure 2

Who was Khmelnytsky?

Bohdan Khmelnytsky (ca. 1595-1657) is one of the most celebrated and at the same time one of the most controversial political figures to emerge from Ukraine's early-modern (Kozak) period. He was a brilliant military strategist, who assumed leadership of a typical Kozak uprising in 1648 against the Polish Commonwealth and turned it into a successful war of liberation for the Ukrainian populace.

His greatest achievement in this national revolution was the formation of a Kozak Hetman state, which was to endure for over a century (1648-1782). His leadership and talents were demonstrated in various areas of state-building – in administration, finance, economics and culture, as well as in the military sphere.

At the height of the Kozak-Polish War (1648-1657), Khmelnytsky concluded the fateful Treaty of Pereiaslav in 1654 with the tsar of Muscovy, as a result of which Ukraine became a Russian protectorate and fell under the sphere of influence of Muscovy.

Although the treaty was soon abrogated, it was used for centuries as a Russian (and later Soviet) pretext for the occupation of Ukraine. Some of Ukraine's most prominent intellectuals – including Taras Shevchenko bitterly criticized Khmelnytsky for his strategic error.



Figure 3



Figure 4

prestigious Order of Bohdan Khmelnytsky was instituted on October 10.

Khmelnytsky was seen as a natural figure after which to name a Ukrainian-related honor. After all, he was the great hetman who had voluntarily "joined" Ukraine to Russia in the 1654 Treaty of Pereiaslav. Ignored was the fact that the treaty was simply one of convenience, designed to procure Muscovite aid in the Kozaks' struggle against Poland.

About the award

The Order of Bohdan Khmelnytsky came in three classes and was presented to officers, noncommissioned officers and enlisted men of the Soviet army, navy and guerrilla forces who especially distinguished themselves in battle. First class went to commanders of posts, senior officers, and senior partisan leaders. Second class was for division and regimental commanders, their deputies and commanders of partisan regiments. Third Class was designated for enlisted men, noncommissioned officers and others up to the rank of battalion commander, and partisans.

The order was primarily a World War II award. Nikita Khrushchev, who in 1943 was lieutenant general of the First Ukrainian Front, was largely instrumental in having this award established.

The first-class order was a 10-pointed star, five of gold and five of silver. The center medallion portrayed Khmelnytsky holding a mace in his right hand. His name, inscribed in Ukrainian, appeared along the edge of the medallion, while a highly ornate rim surrounded the medallion (Figure 1). The ribbon was a light blue moire with a white stripe at center.

The second-class award was similar, but the rays were all silver. The ribbon was light blue moire edged in white. For the third-class order the rays were again silver, but of shorter length. Instead of the ornate decoration, the name of Khmelnytsky was removed from the medallion to the rim (Figure 2). The rib-

bon was a light blue moire with white center stripe and edges.

Khmelnytsky on stamps

What is interesting about this order, and what demonstrates its valuable propagandistic value, is that it appeared no less than five times on stamps of the Soviet Union. The first time was in February of 1945 when three, single-colored, 2-ruble stamps (black, dark green and brown) were issued that showed the first-class order (Figure 3). In June of that year, shortly after the conclusion of the war, a smaller 45-kopek stamp showed the first-class order again on both perforated and imperforated versions (Figure 4).

Almost a decade later, the Soviet Union decided to go all out in its commemoration of the tercentenary (300th anniversary) of the Treaty of Pereiaslav. A total of 10 stamps were released for the occasion, all showing Ukrainian topics and all proclaiming "300 Years of

(Continued on page 13)



Figure 5

The Order...

(Continued from page 12)

Ukraine United with Russia.” Three of these stamps depicted Khmelnytsky in one form or another. A 60-kopek stamp showed the famous statue of the hetman in Kyiv (Figure 5), a 1-ruble value depicted the hetman ostensibly giving his pledge of fealty to Russia (Figure 6), and the third was a reissue of the green February 1945 Order of Bohdan Khmelnytsky stamp, this time with a red overprint proclaiming the “Union” (Figure 7).

In succeeding decades, the Khmelnytsky statue appeared five more times on stamps of the USSR, each time as part of an issue honoring Kyiv or showing parts of the city. In 1963 the 20th anniversary of the retaking of Kyiv was recalled on one of the stamps in a series honoring



Figure 6



Figure 7

the “Great Patriotic War,” (Figure 8). In the background of this 4-kopek stamp, behind a Soviet soldier, looms an outline of the Khmelnytsky statue. In 1967 another series of stamps honored the 50th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. In the right foreground of this 4-kopek value, before various Kyiv structures, the hetman’s statue can again be discerned (Figure 9).

In 1980 the Soviet Union issued a series of what are termed semi-postal stamps. These were used to move the mails just



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

like regular stamps, but also carried a surcharge to raise funds for the Olympic Games, held that year in Moscow. A 1-ruble stamp carried a 50-kopek surcharge and was titled “Tourism Kyiv”; it showed the Khmelnytsky statue in front of the St. Sophia Cathedral bell tower (Figure 10).

In 1982 the Soviet Union concocted a 1,500th anniversary for the supposed founding of Kyiv. No one really knows when the city was established and 482 seemed as good a year as any. To celebrate this special event postally, a large 10-kopek stamp was produced that showed many of the city’s most famous buildings, bridges and monuments all crowded together. In the lower right quadrant, a tiny profile of the Khmelnytsky statue may be discerned. (Figure 11).

The final stamp to present the Khmelnytsky monument appeared in 1989, just two years before the dissolution of the USSR. On this 15-kopek stamp the statue is prominently shown in front of St. Sophia Cathedral (Figure 12).



Figure 11

Bohdan Khmelnytsky also appeared on numerous Soviet pre-stamped envelopes and on special cancellations, but these cannot all be listed due to space considerations. However, one example of each will serve and may be seen in Figure 13.

Further information about Ukrainian philately and collecting may be found on the website of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society: www.upns.org. Dr. Inger Kuzych may be contacted at P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150 or via e-mail at ingert@starpower.net



Figure 12



Figure 13

National Museum of Lviv renamed in honor of Sheptytsky

LIVIV – President Viktor Yushchenko recently issued a decree to name the National Museum of Lviv after its founder, Count Andrey Sheptytsky, former metropolitan of Halych.

A ceremony took place on December 15, 2005, to mark both the naming of the museum and its 100th anniversary. A jubilee exhibit opened on December 19, to commemorate the history of the museum, as well as many of its contributors and benefactors, foremost among them Metropolitan Sheptytsky.

The metropolitan, whose secular name was Roman Oleksander Sheptytsky, was born into a noble family on July 29, 1865, in Prylbychi, Yavoriv county, Halychyna. He was ordained in August 1892 and went on to earn a Ph.D. in law at the University of Krakow, and to complete his studies of theology and philosophy at the Jesuit seminary in Krakow.

He was a cultural and civic leader, and served as metropolitan of Halych, archbishop of Lviv and bishop of Kamianets-Podilskyi and, prior to that, as bishop of Stanyslaviv. He was also a member of the

Galician Diet and the Austrian House of Lords and the Imperial Ministerial Council.

A defender of the Ukrainian nation and his Church, he was arrested by Russian and Polish authorities at various times during and after the first world war. During World War II he advocated an independent Ukrainian state and spoke out against the Nazis’ treatment of the people of Ukraine and, in particular, against their persecution and extermination of the Jews. He took a fearless stand also against the Soviet regime.

After his death in 1944, a popular movement for Sheptytsky’s beatification arose. He was recognized in 1968 by Pope Paul VI as a Servant of God. Ukrainian Catholic leaders are continuing their efforts to have him recognized as a saint.

The National Museum of Lviv was originally founded by Sheptytsky in 1905 as a church museum on the grounds of St. George’s Cathedral of the Lviv Metropolitanate. It acquired national museum status in 1908, after which it

was legally named the Lviv Church Museum.

In 1909, with the blessings of the museum’s curatorship, it was officially named after its founder and most valuable benefactor, Sheptytsky. However, the museum was transferred to the public domain of Ukraine shortly thereafter, in 1913.

Metropolitan Sheptytsky was a patron of the arts, as well as a very generous philanthropist; the museum’s first artifacts were donated by him and his family. Among the items donated were rare manuscripts, ancient books, embroideries, icons, wood carvings and religious artifacts recovered from Basilian monasteries throughout Ukraine. During the first 25 years of the museum’s operation, Sheptytsky donated approximately \$111,000 and over 10,000 additional historical artifacts from his personal collection.

Sheptytsky was the museum’s most generous benefactor, but not the only one. Over the years, the museum received donations from significant persons like historian Anton Petrushevych, Prof. Volodymyr Shukhevych and the

Prosvita Society.

A figure whose role in the museum’s history was comparable to that of Sheptytsky’s is its former director Ilarion Svetsitsky, who oversaw the museum’s operation from 1905 to 1952. Svetsitsky significantly affected the museum’s status during its first 50 years of existence; he successfully represented the museum at various art institutions and research centers throughout Europe.

In celebration of the museum’s distinguished existence in Lviv, several special exhibits were prepared. Among them were “Echo of the Centuries: From the Lviv National Museum’s Treasure Trove,” “Ukrainian Art at the Turn of the 20th Century” and “Early Ukrainian Art of the late 15th-18th Centuries.”

The museum continues to operate successfully today, despite a lack of funding, which once was much more prevalent. The curatorship hopes to see a surge of generous benefactors, as it is mostly the donations of artists and historians themselves upon which the museum’s future is dependent.

Update on the 2005 Canada-Ukraine excavations in Baturyn

by Volodymyr Mezentsev

The Canada-Ukraine archeological expedition has conducted its fifth annual excavations of Baturyn in Chernihiv province, Ukraine.

In 2005, the Baturyn expedition team grew to nearly 150 students and scholars from the universities of Chernihiv and Nizhyn, and the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. Dr. Volodymyr Kovalenko of the University of Chernihiv was the expedition leader; his assistant was Yuri Sytyi. Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev of the University of Toronto acted as the CIUS research fellow responsible for the Baturyn project. Yuri Kovalenko of the Hlukhiv Historical Preserve participated in field research. Prof. Martin Dimnik of PIMS has overseen the funding and helps to publish the findings of the excavations in the Canadian press.

Between 1669 and 1708, Baturyn was the capital of the hetman state and one of the most significant and prosperous towns in Ukraine. In 1708, it became the center of an insurrection led by Hetman Ivan Mazepa (1687-1709). In an alliance with Sweden, Mazepa attempted to liberate Left-Bank Ukraine from the overlordship of Muscovy. That same year, by order of Tsar Peter I, the Russian army seized Baturyn and burned it to the ground and also slaughtered the town's military garrison together with the civilian population of some 14,000 in total. This was a punitive measure designed to suppress the rebellion with the terror.

Baturyn recovered during the reign of Hetman Kyrilo Rozumovskyi (1750-1764) who moved his residence there from Hlukhiv. Although the Russian empire abolished the Hetmanate in 1764, Rozumovskyi continued to support the construction of monumental churches, schools, hospitals and the famous palace in Baturyn until his death in 1803. From this time, the town declined and became a semi-agrarian settlement. Since 2005, the Ukrainian government began to promote the development of Baturyn, restoration of its outstanding 17th-19th century architectural monuments, as well as expansion of the Baturyn National Historical Preserve with the regional-studies museum.

Last summer, in the town's citadel, two semi-subterranean dwellings with clay ovens from the Kyivan Rus' era were uncovered. These archeological finds strengthen the view that Baturyn raised from an 11th century fortress, out-



Fragments of revetment ceramic tiles (kakhli) with relief geometric and floral motifs and polychrome glazing produced in Baturyn during Mazepa's rule.

post of the medieval Chernihiv principality.

The expedition unearthed remnants of the gallery or porch of the hetman's central palace in the citadel's bailey. A layer of charcoal and ash from the conflagration of 1708 that destroyed this state edifice has been revealed. In 2001-2004, archeologists excavated the entire site of this palace and reconstructed its ground plan and architectural type. This residence of Hetmans Demian Mnohohrshnyi (1669-1672) and Ivan Samoilovych (1672-1687) was a comparatively sizeable, rectangular, one-story, vaulted brick structure. It is likely represented the traditional type of masonry mansions of the Kozak offi-

cers' class, which originated from wooden Ukrainian peasant dwellings (khata).

On the ground of the former fortress, the team discovered a cemetery surrounding the hetman capital's main

church, Holy Trinity Cathedral, commissioned by Mazepa ca. 1692. It, too, was ravaged in 1708. Next season, the expedition intends to locate and excavate the foundations of the lost Trinity Cathedral along with its tall belfry known as the "Mazepine tower."

Nearby, researchers unearthed the remnants of several burnt ordinary timber dwellings belonging to the fortress' residents. In one of the storage pits, the skeleton of a slain youth was revealed, while next to it, the burnt skull of another casualty of 1708. In the fortress, archaeologists found 15 silver and copper Polish, Czech and Russian coins, three neck crosses, pieces of the engraved copper setting from an icon or a book, two silver finger-rings, a copper seal-ring with carved images of Adam and Eve, two fabric fragments and a strip of brocade, artistic glazed ceramic tobacco pipes in the shapes of a flower and a boot, numerous pieces of broken fine ceramic tiles, or "kakhli," with relief patterns used for decorating the stoves in houses of the elite, fragmented costly painted table-plates and various glassware of the 17th-18th centuries, as well as musket or pistol bullets, a cannon ball and grapeshot, and a spearhead – relics of the heroic defense of Baturyn.

The discovery of a glass vessel's piece with the Cyrillic inscription in the fortress is of special interest. Together with finds such as fragments of a glass ink-pot and a seal-ring (used for letters and the other written documents), it provides evidence of literacy among the Kozak elite residing in the hetman capital.

In 2005 the expedition extended its archeological research of the remnants of Mazepa palace, erected by the hetman in the Baturyn suburb of Honcharivka before 1700. This rich villa was looted by the marauders in 1708 and then stood abandoned, falling gradually into ruins.

Archeologists unearthed new portions



Archaeological investigations of the remains of a child who perished during the sacking of the hetman capital in 1708.



Fragment of a terra-cotta kakhli with the relief of a horseman's arm from the excavations at the fortress site.

of foundations of the palace and its annex. They established that the structure's spacious basement (15 by 15 meters) had four storage rooms separated by two inner walls, crossing at right angles. Remnants of stairs were uncovered in the annex. Laboratory examinations of the bricks and lime mortar from wall debris conducted at the Institute of Geology of the National Academy of Sciences in Kyiv showed that they are 1.3 to 1.5 times stronger than the average contemporary brick.

According to the 1744 drawing of the Mazepa palace and archeological evidences the main part of this building (without the annex) had an approximately squared outline, three floors, a



Figured ceramic tobacco pipe bowls covered with green glazing and found at the hetman fortress.



Copper ring with seal depicting Adam and Eve with serpent and Tree of Knowledge, 17th-18th centuries, and sample of a seal wax impression (on right).

mansard, wooden ceilings and a vertical symmetrical composition of its front elevation. In general, this edifice was designed and adorned in the Western European or, more precisely, Italian Baroque style. However, its elaborated exterior embellishment included elements borrowed from Ukrainian Baroque architecture – a semi-cylindrical band made of figured bricks (possibly running along the socle); recessed whitewashed ceramic details on the cornices or portals; and circular tiles with multi-colored glazed rosettes nailed to the cornices.

The floor was paved with terra-cotta and blue glazed ceramic tiles. Conceivably, the Baturyn ceramists, inhabiting the Honcharivka quarter, fashioned these high-quality construction and decorative materials for the palace. Thus, recent archeological investigations indicate that Mazepa's largest, principal residence located near his capital was a remarkable structure with no known direct analogies in Ukrainian or Western architecture, while displaying some local decorative elements.

In the summer of 2005, within the citadel and fortress, the expedition uncovered 33 graves of Baturyn townsfolk from the late 17th to early 18th centuries (Mazepa's time). Seventeen of them, containing the skeletons of children and women buried in shallow pits without coffins, as well as some human remains devoid of any traces of a Christian burial, have been identified as victims of the massacre of 1708. For the first time, archeologists unearthed the two family graves with the skeletons of women together with their children or grandchildren who lost their lives simultaneously. In total, between 1996 and 2005, researchers excavated 92 graves of the 17th and early 18th centuries in Baturyn. Most of them – 48 graves – belonged primarily to the civilian population, which perished at the hands of the tsarist troops during the fall of the hetman capital.

Among the pre-1708 graves investigated in Baturyn, particular attention should be paid to one containing the

skeleton of elderly Kozak who was buried with a wine goblet left near his skull. This deviates from standard Orthodox burial custom and represents a vestige of pagan rites, which was heretofore unseen in the study of Baturyn.

Thus, new archeological findings have reinforced the view that during the Hetman period Baturyn was one of the leading centres of development of Ukrainian Baroque culture. The town's total destruction in 1708 abruptly disrupted its intensive growth. While Baturyn recovered under Rozumovskiyi, it failed to revive its broad-reaching Western economic and cultural contacts, as well as the high level of urban craft and distinctive folk art, which flourished there during the illustrious Mazepa era.

The Canada-Ukraine archeological expedition plans to continue its excavations in Baturyn in 2006. This field research, laboratory analysis of the archeological finds, and publication of its results depend on donors' support. The Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies in Toronto administers the Canadian and American funds for the Baturyn project.

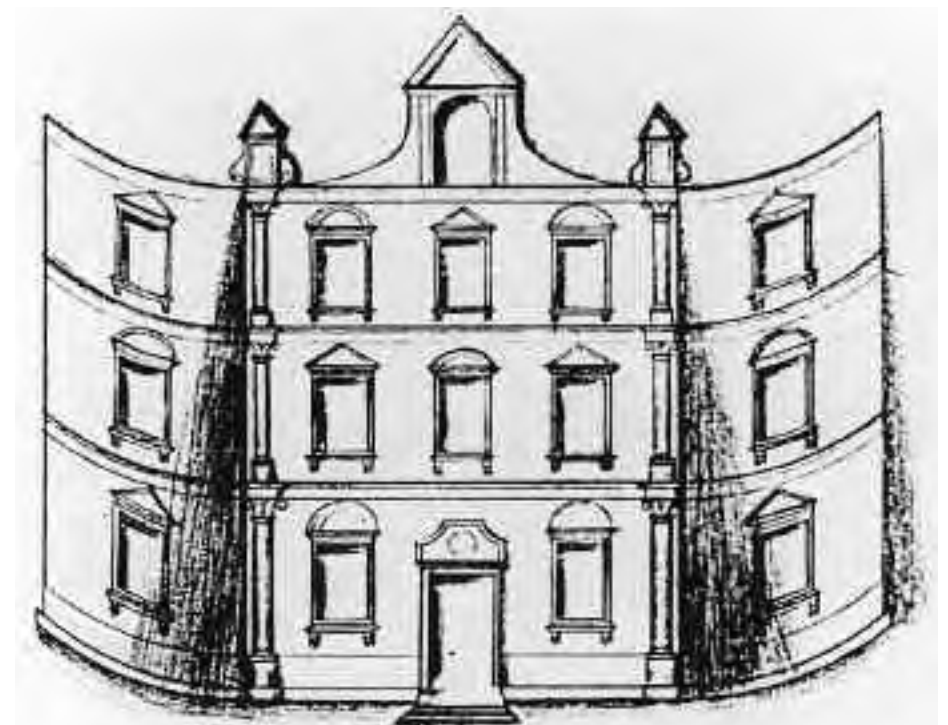
To support this project, kindly send your donations to: Prof. Martin Dimnik, Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 59 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C4. Please make your check payable to: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, Re: Baturyn project.

This institute will issue receipts for tax-deductible purposes. Organizations, institutions and private donors supporting the Baturyn excavations and dissemination of its findings will be gratefully acknowledged in the publications and public lectures related to this project.

For further information or any questions about the Baturyn archeological project, readers may contact: Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev (100 High Park Ave., Apt. 808, Toronto, Ontario, M6P 2S2; telephone, (416) 766-1408; e-mail, v.mezentsev@utoronto.ca.



Archeological finds of silver finger-rings, copper neck crosses and fragments of an engraved copper setting, possibly from an icon or a book, 17th-18th centuries.



The drawing of ruins of the Mazepa palace in Honcharivka suburb near Baturyn, 1744. (National Museum, Stockholm).

Supporters of the Baturyn project

The Baturyn archeological project is sponsored by the Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine and the Marusia Onyshchuk and Ivanko Kharuk Memorial Endowment Fund at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), the Yurii Kuzev Endowment at the Shevchenko Scientific Society of America (NTSh-A), and the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies (PIMS) in Toronto. In 2005, the Ukrainian Studies Fund (Harvard University), the Nursing Care Inc. (Wood Dale, Ill.), the Ukrainian Graduates of Windsor and Detroit, the Prometheus Foundation, the Buduchnist Credit Union (Toronto), the Ukrainian National Federation and the Help to Ukraine Fund (Montreal) supported research of Baturyn with donations. The Baturyn Fund, established by the president of Ukraine, contributed, for the first time, to these excavations. The eminent historian of the Kozak Hetman state and director of CIUS, Prof. Zenon Kohut, and Dr. Larysa Onyshkevych, president of NTSh-A are the patrons of and academic advisers to this project.

– Volodymyr Mezentsev

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Will Yushchenko...

(Continued from page 2)

having its own way.

What could constitute a reasonable
compromise for Moscow and Kyiv?
Some economic experts have suggested a
compromise price could be agreed at
\$150 to \$160 per 1,000 cubic meters of
gas, adding that Ukraine could simulta-
neously increase its gas-transit tariff
from the current \$1.09 to some \$2-\$2.50
per 1,000 cubic meters of gas per 100
kilometers.

But even such a compromise would
increase Ukraine's present gas bill –
some \$2.2 billion in 2005 – at least
threefold, depending on the terms of
Turkmen gas supplies to Ukraine in
2006. As a result, the impact of such a
rise could be painful for the Ukrainian
economy and Ukrainians in the upcom-
ing year.

According to experts from the
Economist Intelligence Unit, if the
Ukrainian government decided to cush-
ion this impact, it would have to raise
household gas tariffs by 50 to 100 per-
cent and double gas tariffs for industrial
consumers. Such moves would be
fraught with grave political and econom-
ic consequences.

First, the Ukrainian electorate could
offset such a gas price shock by voting
overwhelmingly for forces opposing the
government of President Yushchenko,
primarily the Party of Regions led by his
unsuccessful presidential rival, Viktor
Yanukovich. Current polls indicate that
the Party of the Regions is supported by
some 25 percent of voters, while the pro-
Yushchenko Our Ukraine bloc is backed
by 15 percent of Ukrainians.

Second, the industrial base of the
Ukrainian economy – particularly its
energy-intensive metallurgical and chem-
ical branches – would certainly shrink,
spawning unemployment and possibly
consumer price hikes. The economy is
already decelerating, from a growth rate
of 12 percent in 2004 to 3 percent in
2005. The Economist Intelligence Unit
has said the economy could be close to
stagnation in 2006.

Kyiv seems to be well aware of such
unpleasant consequences of the gas row
with Moscow and has already taken or
declared that it will take some precau-
tions and countermeasures.

Prime Minister Yekhanurov
announced on December 28, 2005, that
household gas tariffs would rise by 25
percent on January 1, or by some \$1.20
monthly for the average Ukrainian fami-
ly.

Earlier last week, Fuel and Energy
Minister Plachkov returned from
Ashgabat, saying that he signed a con-
tract for Turkmen gas supplies for 2006.
However, he has not disclosed either the
contracted volume of gas or its price. It
is also not known how much the opera-
tors of Russian gas pipelines will charge
Ukraine for Turkmen gas transit next
year.

In addition, Mr. Yekhanurov publicly
warned Moscow that if Gazprom reduces
its gas flow across Ukraine in 2006 only
to transit volumes, Ukraine will take 150
cubic meters of gas from every 1,000
cubic meters as payment for transit.
Gazprom responded that such a practice
would be treated as theft. However,
Gazprom did not go as far as to say that
it will stop sending gas via Ukrainian
pipelines to Europe in 2006 altogether.

In theory, government measures could
help the Ukrainian economy survive at a
relatively stable level until the March 26
vote even without a gas-supply contract
for 2006. But it is anybody's guess as to
whether President Yushchenko and his
allies can maintain their current political
weight for that long.

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Thoreau in Ukraine...

(Continued from page 9)

on this highway to realize that “horse-power” takes on a newer, more literal meaning here. Our car, “small, but made in Ukraine” our driver from the academy proudly informed us, was soon outnumbered by wooden carts perched on four automobile tires and pulled by one or two horses, depending, presumably, upon the wealth of the driver.

In September, these carts, wide enough to accommodate a driver and one another, are brimming with hay, the same hay seen piled into Monet-like stacks along the highway. Fences, except those encircling houses within the villages, are rare here and grazing cattle are kept from wandering onto the road by a lone cattleman (or woman) who assumes this responsibility for neighbors while they perform more remunerative work outside the village. It is “cooperative,” not “collective,” farming today; that is, it is a way of life no longer mandated and managed by the Soviet government.

I began to wonder how appropriate Thoreau’s “Simplify, simplify” would be here.

Arriving at the university, I was surprised to see a wooded campus where students mow the lawn and weed flowerbeds. Some were digging a trench through which water would soon flow toward a fountain in front of their newly built library, inside which students were sanding and painting, determined to meet their goal of an October 30, 2005, grand opening. Rector Pasichnyk explained that students feel a sense of ownership when they are allowed to do these things themselves.

It was an idea he might have taken from Thoreau’s “Economy” (had he known of it): “I cannot but think that if we had more true wisdom in these respects, not only less education would be needed, because, forsooth, more would already have been acquired, but the pecuniary expense of getting an education would in a great measure vanish.”³

Students at Ostroh did not build their living quarters, but they did reclaim and renovate the former Soviet military barracks built soon after Russia “liberated” Ukraine. These are conveniently located across the street from the academy. In a sense, they are living the evolution of an era; that is, they do not “play life, or study it merely, while the community supports them at this expensive game, but earnestly live it from beginning to end. How could youths better learn to live than by at once trying the experiment of living?”⁴

Lacking books for them, I asked my students to take turns reading passages from “Walden” from overhead transparencies, assuring them that there would be words they would not know: some words were common only in the 19th

century, others are representative of Thoreau’s penchant for archaic words, still others are understood to be Thoreau’s attempt at humor. Nonplused, they read and provided what comment they could; they seemed particularly to appreciate Thoreau’s play on the “Cenobites,” who “see no bites.” The sixth-year students, compared to the fourth-year students, were noticeably reserved – a consequence their teachers attributed to their having been longer under the Soviet system of education.

I question still why Thoreau, in 2005, was unheard of in this remnant of the former Soviet socialist republic. Perhaps it is simply because there was no access to Thoreau’s work; American literature has until recently been low on Ukraine’s priority list, although that is certainly not the case any longer. The academy’s library is growing day by day with English-language books, much of it literature, donated from the U. S. and Canada.

Or, perhaps it was because there was no room in the former Soviet Union for individualism and originality. Individualism runs counter to communism. To be sure, Thoreau’s “Let each step to the music he hears however measured or far away” struck a chord with many of these students. Almost without exception, students mentioned this passage in the end-of-session short essay I had been asked to require of them – the ubiquitous “coherent five-paragraph essay” addressing the question “In your opinion, is Thoreau’s “Walden” relevant today?”

Except for one young man, who wrote that he now thought he might follow that different drummer within him and retreat to live his life in a cabin in the woods, the essays generally argued that living alone in the woods – even as an experiment – was no solution. It was more important to accept life’s challenges and adapt to life, to contribute to society; to live life to the fullest was impossible alone. But, they said, it was up to the individual to decide how to live – each should follow the voice within him or her.

My account of Thoreau’s life, that he had indeed been a social creature, that Walden Pond was an easy 25 minute walk from Concord, that then, as now, Walden Woods was a public park, had fallen on deaf ears in Ukraine – just as it often does in America. However, Thoreau’s words had not.

The most thoughtful of the essays tackled the “Simplify, simplify” passage. One young woman wrote, rather astutely I thought, that perhaps “Walden” would be more meaningful to middle-aged readers than to people her age. She admitted that she did not like to think about giving up the few material things she has only just begun to acquire. Self-gratification is important to college students and is the driving motivation behind larger ambitions for one’s self and one’s country.

Ukraine is finally emerging into a

world of technology and industrialization; will its people turn away from these in the name of simplicity? Probably not, but there is much to be done just to get to the point of consideration. In the town of Ostroh, the central hot-water system has not functioned for years, although the university has hot water in the mornings. Since the Chernobyl disaster, a deep distrustfulness lingers about the safety of the nearby nuclear power plant. Unemployment is high and locals commute to larger towns to work.

The university, all agree, is an economic boon as more and more students arrive; today enrollment is at 2,000, up from 890 only five years ago, and many of the students prefer to rent flats in private homes rather than live in the dorms. While duplex-style housing is provided for teachers on campus, just a few minutes walk past clay tennis courts and an outdoor stadium for track meets (and jogging), many of them, with their families, have spilled over into the town now, too.

It may be that Ukraine’s epoch of what Thoreau referred to in 19th century New England as a time when “the mass of men live lives of quiet desperation” is over. I had not needed to explain Thoreau’s “what is called resignation is confirmed desperation” to these students. They’ve been there, and the role Ukraine’s young people played in the “Orange Revolution” suggests that they are not going back.

For now, the academy has resisted both Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic overtures to re-establish its ancient church (and renew the 16th century rift that resulted in the academy’s establishment in the first place). Rather, this space, with its extraordinary acoustical qualities, is used for free cultural events such as the Rivne District Symphony’s performance of Stravinski’s “Symphonies of Wind Instruments” that I

attended just minutes after my last class.

The previous day, at the end of classes, the stadium’s loud speakers disrupted the campus serenity with The Fifth Dimension’s “Let the Sun Shine” heralding the arrival of a team of Ukrainian bicyclists on their way to Kyiv promoting world peace. As I looked around, I found it impossible to identify within the crowd the two dozen Canadian students participating in a six-month exchange program this year – the academy’s own crusade for promoting world peace. During my visit, the rector declared the entire campus to be a non-smoking area, and soon after, students began planning a “day of awareness” about the problems Ukraine faces resulting from drugs and alcohol.

In these and many other ways, the National University of Ostroh Academy can be heard slowly “gnawing out” a 21st century example of the “egg deposited in the living tree many years earlier still, as appeared by counting the annual layers beyond it.” And, as Thoreau writes, “Who does not feel his faith in a resurrection and immortality strengthened by hearing of this?”

You can help secure the future of Ukraine by giving to the National University of Ostroh Academy. Please send your tax-exempt contributions to: Friends of Ostroh Academy, c/o Myron B. Kuropas, 107 Ilehamwood Drive, DeKalb, IL 60115-1856. Checks should be made out to Ukrainian National Foundation/Ostroh Fund.

3. Thoreau, Henry D. Walden, ed. J. Lyndon Shanley (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1971), p. 50.

4. Thoreau, Henry D. Walden, ed. J. Lyndon Shanley (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1971), p. 51.

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Mathematics competition honors Prof. Joseph W. Andrushkiw

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. – The 20th annual Joseph W. Andrushkiw Mathematics Competition was held at Seton Hall University in South Orange here on November 19, 2005. It was attended by 273 students from 30 high schools in the state. Prof. Andrushkiw died in 1984, but his memory lives on in the competition named for this beloved teacher and mentor. He was born in Ukraine where he studied mathematics, receiving a master's degree. He completed his doctorate in Germany, after World War II. He then emigrated to the U.S. and eventually began teaching at Seton Hall University.

This year, on the 20th anniversary of the mathematics competition, Prof.

Andrushkiw's son, Roman, a mathematics professor at New Jersey Institute of Technology, and his grandson, Paul, were in attendance to award the prizes to the winning students.

Taking first prize was Meryl Federman, a junior from Livingston High School. Livingston High School also won the team award.

Second and third place were won, respectively, by Alex Yang of West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North and Jian Li of Livingston High School.

In the team category, West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North came in second, while West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South was third.



Paul and Roman Andrushkiw (first and second from left), grandson and son of Prof. Joseph W. Andrushkiw, in whose honor an annual math competition is held, with the winning students.



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Ukrainian American Youth Association's future leaders meet in Washington

by Marta Matselioukh

WASHINGTON – On a recent autumn holiday weekend, nine bright and energetic teenagers gathered in Washington for the second annual Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) Leadership Seminar.

During the three day conference on October 8-10, 2005, the participants' busy schedules were filled with thought-provoking discussions, challenging teamwork exercises, lectures by prominent community figures and even a moonlight tour of the nation's capital. The goal of the seminar was two-fold: to equip the leaders of tomorrow with strong leadership skills, and to encourage the young adults to become more active in SUM and in their community.

The conference focused on leadership, marketing in organizations, project management and branding. Speakers included Andriy Bihun, director of youth for the Ukrainian American Youth Association; Eugenia Kuzmowycz-Blahy, chief operating officer of Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union; Jerry Dutkewych, director of country relations at the Millennium Challenge Corporation; Diana Howansky, staff associate at the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, Mykola Hryckowian, co-founder of the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations; and Bohdan Shevchik, financial advisor at UBS and former general manager of Coca-Cola Ukraine. Key in organizing the successful seminar were Andriy Bihun, Lida Mykytyn, Eugenia Kuzmowycz-Blahy, Marta Matselioukh and Lesia Harhaj.

Sessions of the seminar took place at the Washington offices of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. At the opening of the seminar, John Kun, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation vice-president and chief operating officer, addressed the students, speaking about the foundation's work, and encouraged the participants to become more involved with Ukraine. The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation presented the seminar's participants with various Orange Revolution memorabilia, and generously donated Orange Revolution sticker booklets to the young children of SUM's many U.S. branches.

"What is Leadership?" was not only the first question posed during the seminar, but also the title of the seminar's first meeting. Mr. Hryckowian provided answers to this broad question by drawing on history and his own experiences.

The next session explored the importance of marketing in organizations and the role played by effective leaders. Ms. Kuzmowycz-Blahy shared her stories from the business and banking world of New York to teach valuable lessons about image, perception and marketing.

On Saturday afternoon, Mr. Dutkewych acquainted the conference attendees with the work of the Millennium Challenge Corp., and touched upon the various ways to improve one's leadership skills.

This session was followed by a discussion with Diana Howansky of Columbia University, who spoke about project management, and her experience as a Fulbright scholar in Poland doing research on "Akcja Wisla: The relocation and assimilation of Lemkos." Ms. Howansky encouraged the seminar's participants to apply for the Fulbright program.

After an exciting day of workshops and discussions, the participants were treated to a festive dinner at Georgetown's Ristorante Piccolo, and a tour of that part of the city, which highlighted the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington.

Sunday's schedule included a liturgy at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, leadership workshops and a tour of the nation's capitol.

The day's guest lecturer, Bohdan Shevchik, spoke about branding. Drawing upon his entrepreneurial skills, his work as the general director of Coca-Cola's Ukraine operations, and his post as the first head of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine, Mr. Shevchik gave a dynamic and thought-provoking presentation on branding and marketing, then gave participants the opportunity to apply the presented concepts on their own.

An interactive afternoon session, titled "Leadership in the Ranks of SUM," challenged participants to organize and run a fictional summer camp. The camp workshop, coordinated by Ms. Kuzmowycz-Blahy and Mr. Bihun, was an opportunity for the participants to apply their newly acquired leadership skills. Working in two groups, the participants created two distinct and interesting summer camps by taking into consideration concept-building, the target market, practical administrative and management skills, budgeting and financing, program development, project



During an evening tour of the nation's capital, a visit to the Embassy of Ukraine in Georgetown.


management, hiring and volunteerism, and advertising.

On Sunday evening, the group enjoyed a moonlit tour of Washington. The Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and the Iwo Jima Memorial were among some of the stops. Afterwards, the participants visited the Taras Shevchenko monument, where they paid tribute to Ukraine's great poet.

The seminar's participants – high school juniors and seniors – hailed from various parts of the United States: Christina Drozd, Chicago, Marko Diaczun, Strongsville, Ohio; Simon Kaarenko, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Natalya

Kuzewycz, Philadelphia; Andrea Popovech, Astoria, N.Y.; Monica Sawchuk, Scarsdale, N.Y.; Yuriy Symczyk, Union, N.J.; Michael Ushak, Tenaflly, N.J.; and Alexandra Szkafarowsky, Yonkers, N.Y.

Participation in the Leadership Seminar was based on a competitive process and was by invitation from SUM's national executive, and was fully funded by SUM's National Education Fund. The planning for next year's third annual Youth Leadership Seminar, which will take place in October 2006, is already under way. For more information about SUM's Leadership Seminar, readers may visit www.cym.org.



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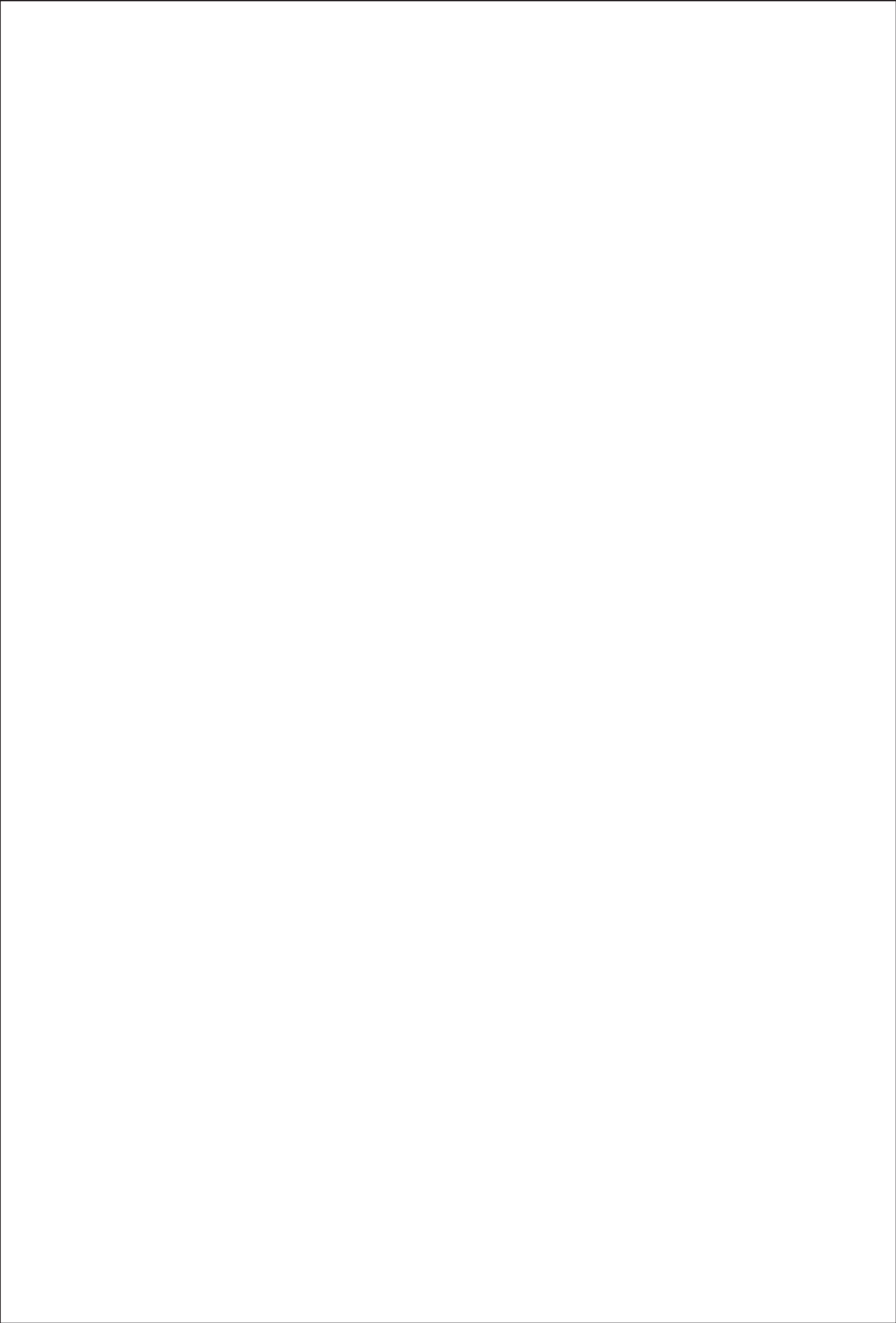
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Working with CCRDF, GlaxoSmithKline donates vitamins to Ukraine's children

KYIV – GlaxoSmithKline, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, has announced that it will be donating a large quantity of its Vitamin C

large district of Sviatoshyn located in the western area of the Ukrainian capital. The distribution of Imunovit C began on November 15, 2005, at the Sviatoshyn

Vitamin C participates in the production of antibodies, thus raising the body's immunity. It also ensures the proper structure of collagen fibers, so it reduces the risk of viruses penetrating the respiratory epithelium into the body. Rutin seals the walls of blood vessels, which reduces the penetration of pathogenic microorganisms and lowers the risk of infection. Moreover, Imunovit C, by reducing the edema of the nose and throat mucosa and

running nose, relieves nagging symptoms of infection. Imunovit C was officially registered by the Ukrainian Ministry of Health in 2004. It is recommended for the prevention of colds and for combating certain types of allergies. This over-the-counter product can be consumed by adults and children over the age of 4 with a recommended daily dosage of one or two tablets.



At Sviatoshyn Elementary School No. 206 in the west end of Kyiv, children greet representatives of GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceutical Co. and the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund prior to the distribution of Imunovit C, a vitamin designed to strengthen children's immune systems. In the back row are Alexander Kuzma, executive director of CCRDF, Dr. Lubov Suslova, representing the District Ministry of Health; Dr. Alla Oliynyk, district medical officer and allergy specialist; Andriy Hunder, director of external affairs and communications for GlaxoSmithKline; and Olha Ohorodnyk, director of the Sviatoshyn School Board.

Imunovit C to over 10,000 schoolchildren in the Sviatoshyn District of Kyiv in an effort to strengthen their immune systems in anticipation of the winter flu season.

The company will be donating 10,000 packs of Imunovit C to the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, an award-winning charity based in Kyiv and in the United States that has delivered over \$53 million worth of medical aid and technology to hospitals and orphanages across Ukraine.

"We are very grateful for GSK's donation of this valuable product," said Alexander Kuzma, executive director of CCRDF. "Many children living in the poorer districts of Kyiv have been suffering from chronic illnesses and weakened immune systems, and many parents have been pleading for vitamins or nutritional supplements that can help protect their youngsters from winter colds and bronchial infections."

Imunovit C will be distributed to children between the ages of 6 and 10 in the

District School No. 206 in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Education, GlaxoSmithKline and the CCRDF.

Following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, there have been widespread reports of increased immune deficiencies among children exposed to low levels of radiation. Nuclear fallout, like chemotherapy, is known to weaken the immune system by destroying so-called "Killer T-Cells" that help protect the human body from opportunistic infections.

"We are very pleased to be able to make this donation just as children are returning from their autumn vacations, and bracing themselves for the winter season," said David Pritchard, area general manger of GlaxoSmithKline in Ukraine.

Imunovit C – rutin + vitamin C – enhances the body's immunity, particularly to virus infections. Rutin helps the body to absorb and metabolize vitamin C. It also bonds with cooperation and neutralizes the oxidation of ascorbic acid, prolonging its effectiveness.

A closer look...

(Continued from page 2)

of Viktor Yushchenko came to power in January 2005, one of the first acts of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was to call for a criminal investigation into RosUkrEnergo, calling it a "criminal enterprise." Soon afterwards, the head of the Security Service of Ukraine, the SBU, Oleksander Turchynov announced that a criminal case had been launched against RosUkrEnergo.

The investigation abruptly ended in mid-August 2005. Mr. Turchynov told RFE/RL that President Yushchenko told him in mid-August to stop "persecuting my men" and that the investigation of RosUkrEnergo was "creating a conflict with Russian President Putin." Mr. Turchynov would not elaborate on why Mr. Putin was so upset by the investigation.

Soon after Mr. Turchynov's removal as head of the SBU on September 8, 2005, the Ukrainian website Obozrevatel reported on September 21 that the SBU

officer in charge of the investigation of RosUkrEnergo, Andrii Kozhemiakin, was transferred from the case to other duties. Mr. Turchynov confirmed this information for RFE/RL.

Gazprom has not come under any official scrutiny in Moscow for its role in the RosUkrEnergo or Eural Trans Gas gas schemes. The lone critical voice was that of Moscow-based Hermitage Capital Management, whose spokesman told The Moscow Times on June 16, 2005, that Gazprom is losing out on \$478 million in annual revenues from the RosUkrEnergo deal and that this money is going to unknown beneficiaries participating in RosUkrEnergo via Raiffeisen Investment.

How the inclusion of RosUkrEnergo into the settlement of the Ukrainian-Russian gas conflict will play out in the West is not yet known, but it will raise many eyebrows in Europe and the United States. The American FBI has been investigating RosUkrEnergo for some time now, and European law enforcement agencies are also aware of the allegations in this case.

Sincere thanks to Roman Ferencevych and Victoria Hubska!

My daughter and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Roman Ferencevych, Jacques Hnizdovsky's long-time friend, and to Victoria Hubska for helping us carry out my late husband's wishes to be reburied in his homeland at the Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv, Ukraine.

Without Roman Ferencevych and Victoria Hubska's earnest devotion, the task would have proved very difficult.

Pan Roman kindly represented us in Ukraine since I was physically unable to make the trip. Sincere thanks also to Victoria for taking care of all the minute details and red tape.

My daughter joins me in sending them and the entire Ukrainian community our Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Stephanie and Mira Hnizdovsky

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Azerbaijan...

(Continued from page 8)

eye of Heydar Aliyev, whose portrait was always prominently displayed.

Surprisingly, at only one of the polling stations I visited were there any obvious signs of electoral fraud. I was made to sit in a chair from where I had no clear view of voters' names being checked off the

manifest. The entire time I was there (and I stayed there longer than I did at most polling stations) everyone who came to vote was turned away with an excuse – yet the polling station had one and a half full ballot boxes. Every time I tried to approach the table where the voting precinct employees were sitting with the voter manifest they would stop what they were doing, trying to cover the

manifest with their arms and refusing to look me in the eye. And the chairwoman of the precinct spent most of her time in a back room, a pile of pre-validated ballots on the desk in front of her, with the door closed.

However, many of my fellow election observers witnessed more serious violations. Two of my IFES colleagues observed a vote count in Sumgayit, where the original protocol “disappeared” toward the end of the process only to “re-appear” a few minutes later with new vote tallies written on it. And a friend of mine, acting as an observer in the south of the country, walked into a polling station to find the chairman with both his hands in an open ballot box. I imagine that incidents such as these also marred the voting process in the parliamentary election.

As part of my work with International Medical Corps, I visited the region of Kurdamir, in central Azerbaijan, in January 2005. BP has a Community Investment Program which funds projects in the communities affected by BP activity. Financially supported by this program, IMC was involved in several projects to improve the quality of health care infrastructure and services in the towns and villages along the BTC pipeline. In the small village of Topal Hasanli, not far from the regional center of Kurdamir, they constructed and sup-

plied a new health clinic. Our trip that day was to attend the grand opening.

The small yellow building stood on a parcel of land between some village houses. It was surrounded on all four sides by a wrought-iron fence, to keep out the farm animals that grazed nearby. Staffed by one doctor and some nurses, the clinic had six small rooms, including a laboratory of rudimentary hot plates and glass beakers.

For the grand opening the children had been let out of the village school, and a van-load of nurses had been brought from the nearest hospital. When everyone was assembled and the ceremony was about to begin, the local authorities brought out two placards bearing photos of Heydar Aliyev and his son Ilham, and made sure the ruling party's flag was held aloft right next to the Azeri national flag.

This was to the great bemusement of Adam, IMC's country director, who couldn't help pointing out, once we were in the car on the way out of Topal Hasanli, how little the government had had to do with the funding and implementation of the health clinic construction project. This state of affairs – how little the ruling party invests in infrastructure, the economy (outside of the oil industry), and the citizens of Azerbaijan – has in part contributed to the prevalent dissatisfaction and current post-election protests.

I left Azerbaijan at the end of March. In August, there came a report that shopping centers in Baku were being raided by officers in civilian clothes who were confiscating orange-colored merchandise. I was bemused, for two reasons. First that the Azeri opposition, who chose orange as a reference to the success of the Orange Revolution that brought President Viktor Yushchenko to power in Ukraine, could not come up with an original color or symbol for its campaign, and second that the government seemed to believe that by suppressing the use of the color orange it could suppress the discontent felt by the opposition and its supporters.

Two opposition protests in the week following the November 6, 2005, parliamentary election drew crowds of at least 20,000. A third protest on November 19, 2005, was attended by approximately 30,000 people. Held on the outskirts of Baku, as regulated by the government, they have all ended peacefully at the end of the three permitted hours. The protesters were watched closely by police who have demonstrated in the past that they have no qualms about beating and arresting opposition supporters.

The opposition has stated that its intentions are peaceful and that it has widespread popular support. However it has also warned that it may not abide by government restrictions on demonstrations once the official election results were published. At the same time the opposition is seriously hampered by pessimism and fear among the general population.

My own experience in the country – though admittedly limited – causes me to cast a skeptical eye on current events. The cynicism of the electorate, the lack of progress in curbing voting irregularities, and the pervasiveness of the ruling party's imagery all suggest that a truly “popular” democratic revolution is still a ways off. The next presidential election in Azerbaijan is scheduled for October 2008. It will be interesting to see what three additional years of training and organization by the opposition will bring about.

But for now, President Ilham Aliyev is unlikely to relinquish control of this small but strategic country, despite the recent protests of its citizens.



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Edmonton hosts Mykhailo Koval, outstanding Ukrainian folk artist

by Natalie Kononenko

EDMONTON – Mykhailo Koval is a man of many talents. He sings and plays the bandura, a unique Ukrainian folk instrument. He weaves, making traditional belts and picture rugs of his own design. He works with straw, producing hats for adults and dolls for children. From October 23 to November 6, 2005, he shared his interests and his talents with the Edmonton community to the delight of all.

Mr. Koval lives in Velykyi Khutir, a village in central Ukraine located approximately 250 kilometers southeast of the capital, Kyiv. He was trained as a school teacher and worked with the children of his village until his retirement two years ago. Like all village school teachers, he is also a farmer, raising the crops and keeping the livestock necessary to feed his family. What makes Mr. Koval unique is his love of the arts, combined with his impressive talents.

Mr. Koval has been singing ever since he was a child. As he remembers, singing was something that he and everyone in his family always did. They sang on festive occasions and while working. The same was true of many people in the village and from his family and his neighbors Mr. Koval learned the songs of his region, ranging from ballads and lyric songs to wedding songs and historical material.

He was especially influenced by a neighbor, Oksana Kryvorit, known locally as “Baba Sanka.” Her songs were especially beautiful and emotionally powerful and a song that Mr. Koval learned from Baba Sanka was chosen to represent Ukraine on the Eurodisc CD.

Mr. Koval learned to play the bandura later in life. He fell in love with this instrument as a child, but his family could not afford to get him one. When the museum in Cherkasy, the provincial seat in his area, loaned him a hand-made bandura, he realized his desire to learn this unique, asymmetrical instrument. The bandura is associated with the “kobzari” professional minstrels who sang historical songs, psalms, and Ukrainian epic poems called “dumy.” As a modern representative of the kobzar tradition, Mr. Koval has made sure to learn all of these

song types.

While in Edmonton, Mr. Koval performed the many songs that he knows at the University of Alberta and for the community. He participated in university classes on Ukrainian folksong, and performed at the graduate student folklore lunch. He visited language classes and was interviewed on CJSR radio.

A highlight was his public performance hosted by folkwaysAlive!, the Ukrainian Folklore Center and the Kule Endowment, where the full range of his songs was professionally recorded. Graduate students in the Ukrainian Folklore Program also videotaped a biographical interview with Mr. Koval. All recordings will be housed in the Bohdan Medewidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives and available to the public.

Outside the university, Mr. Koval performed at the Shumka Dancers’ fund-raising gala. He sang for Ukrainian youth organizations and visited church and other groups. Especially meaningful to both Mr. Koval and to the community were his visits to schools. Mr. Koval spoke with and sang for the children at Delwood and Balwin, and also visited the H. A. Kostash School in Smokey Lake. Everywhere he went, he not only performed, but showed his weaving and his work with straw, leaving dolls as presents for the children.


Mr. Koval’s visit to Edmonton was made possible by the Peter and Doris Kule Endowment. The endowment’s mission is to foster education and to increase awareness of Ukrainian topics. Mr. Koval offered a special opportunity because he is the type of artist who is seldom seen in North America. He performs music learned orally, from other folk performers, rather than through formal instruction at a conservatory.

Through him, Alberta students, both at the university and in the public schools, were able to experience traditional music firsthand. Students in Ukraine will benefit also. This was Mr. Koval’s first trip outside Ukraine and he plans to tell students in his own and in surrounding villages about his many experiences.



Mykhailo Koval performs at the University of Alberta.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

gas to Ukraine at \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters. Russia will also pay higher rates to ship gas via pipelines across Ukrainian territory. According to the agreement, the new rate will be \$1.60 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers, an increase from the \$1.09 per 1,000 cubic meters

per 100 kilometers Russia had been paying. The deal ends a tense standoff that saw Gazprom shut off Ukraine's gas supplies on January 1, affecting supplies to Western Europe. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... to the satisfaction of both sides

MOSCOW – Oleksii Ivchenko, the head of Ukraine's state gas company Naftohaz Ukrainy, praised the compro-

mise deal between Ukraine and Gazprom on January 4, saying it benefits both parties, Interfax reported. "We are satisfied with the outcome of our negotiations. We reached mutually beneficial and, therefore, mutually acceptable agreements, which will allow us to fully meet Ukraine's gas needs, on the one hand, and ensure the transit of Russian gas intended for Europe, on the other hand," Mr. Ivchenko said in Moscow after talks with Gazprom CEO Aleksei Miller. "Consequently, I believe that we are switching to market principles, which will allow us to meet our companies' needs," Mr. Ivchenko added. Mr. Miller said that "the agreements will provide additional security guarantees to gas exports to Europe and act as a sound foundation for further cooperation between Russia and Ukraine in the gas sector based on market principles." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Leader seeks to end Russia's rent ...

MOSCOW – Dmitrii Rogozin, the leader of the nationalist Motherland Party, sent a letter to senior Russian officials on January 3, asking them to place the issue of the Black Sea port of Sevastopol on the agenda with Ukraine, Interfax reported the next day. Sevastopol, which is on Ukrainian territory, hosts Russia's Black Sea Fleet. "Russia has every legal ground not to pay Ukraine any rent" on the Russian Black Sea Fleet deployed in Sevastopol, Mr. Rogozin said. "Sevastopol remains a Russian city from a legal standpoint," he added. "We insist on a revision of an increasingly dubious section of the underlying treaty ratified in 1997 that deals with Sevastopol rent payments," he said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

...but minister says pact valid until 2017

MOSCOW – Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov told vesti.ru on January 2 that there is no justification for recent dis-

cussions in Ukraine about raising the rent that Russia pays for using facilities in Sevastopol for the Black Sea Fleet. Mr. Ivanov argued that the current rent agreement is valid until 2017 and that Ukraine in general and Sevastopol in particular have made money on it. In response to a question about the problem of a lack of housing for officers and their families, Mr. Ivanov said that housing for military personnel is the army's most serious problem and can only be resolved over time and with strong support from the state budget. Mr. Ivanov was more optimistic about the modernization of the military, saying that much progress has been made recently. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lazarenko and Lithuanian banks

KYIV – According to a January 4 report in the Lithuanian newspaper Lietuvos Rytas, former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko laundered money through Lithuanian banks, Interfax-Ukraine reported. The Lietuvos Rytas article cited data from the FBI and the Lithuanian Financial Crime Investigation Service. "Lazarenko included Hermis bank, which was prosperous then, in his schemes of money laundering in 1998 and transferred \$30 million, gained illegally, to the bank's accounts," the report stated. In late 1999, according to the report, the funds were transferred to SEB Vilniaus Bankas, which bought out Hermis bank. "This money is in an account of this bank to this day," the report stated. Mr. Lazarenko was arrested in the United States in February 1999 for money laundering. He was found guilty on 14 charges related to money laundering and fraud, each carrying a term of imprisonment of 20 years. (RFE/RL Newsline)

(Continued on page 25)

As Russia...

(Continued from page 3)

European and four CIS states are defined as "partly free," while Russia and six other CIS states are "not free."

Thus, these designations show the degree to which post-Communist states in East-Central Europe and the CIS are radically diverging. They also show how 2004-2005 were pivotal years where Russia and Ukraine diverged in their paths – the former towards autocracy and the latter towards democracy.

Few Western commentators have bothered to connect Russia's growing autocracy and undemocratic regime at home with a return to a neo-Soviet aggressive foreign policy. It is now evident that Russia's aggressive stance toward Ukraine both in the gas conflict, and during the 2004 presidential elections, show how Russia's domestic and foreign policies are closely woven.

The resignation of Russian presidential adviser Andrei Illarionov on the eve of the gas conflict brought home this inter-connection. The use of gas pressure, Mr. Illarionov claimed, was first tested inside Russia during regional governor elections. After their success, the Russian authorities decided to apply them to foreign countries (grani.ru,

December 21).

Recent events in the gas dispute, and Freedom Houses designations, have also brought home another close connection between Russia's undemocratic domestic policies and its support for autocratic regimes abroad. Of the six CIS states that are designated by Freedom House as not free, four are politically aligned with Russia (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan).

Russia supported Uzbekistan's brutal massacre of civilians in May 2005 which led to Tashkent's re-alignment from the U.S. to Russia. Freedom House defines Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan as two of the eight worst human rights offenders in the world.

During President George W. Bush's second term, the U.S. has gradually become more aware of the inter-connection between Russia's undemocratic domestic and aggressive external policies. But, it is "old Europe" inside the European Union that is now finally having to come to terms with the real Russia under President Putin.

Germany has already changed its view of Russia after the Social Democrats lost the elections. But, traditionally Russophile France continues to hold on a view of Mr. Putin's Russia that, as the gas conflict proves, is out of touch with reality.



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 24)

CEC refuses to register Lazarenko

KYIV – Ukraine’s Central Election Commission on January 3 refused to register former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko as a candidate in the country’s March parliamentary elections, Interfax-Ukraine reported the same day. The CEC said that it could not register Mr. Lazarenko because he had not lived in Ukraine for five years prior to election day, as required by law. It marked the second time the commission has refused to register Mr. Lazarenko as a candidate. The former prime minister’s party list, Lazarenko’s Bloc, was registered on December 27, 2005, but the commission at that time also refused to register Mr. Lazarenko himself as a candidate. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Estonia simplifies visa rules

TALLINN – In early 2006 a new law on simplification of the tourist visa registration procedure was enacted in Estonia. Ukrainian, Russian, Kazakh and Belarusian citizens, thus, can be granted a one-time visa, effective for five days. Presently, European Union countries, the United States and a number of other countries are allowed entrance without a visa. Anyone who wishes to obtain a visa and visit Estonia should possess a sum of not less than 600 kroons (38.5 euros) per day. According to experts, this sum of money will be enough to provide food, check into a hotel and purchase a return ticket. The essential sum of money is supposed to be checked at the border. (Ukrinform)

State of emergency lifted in Crimea

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has abolished the state of emergency he introduced in some areas of the Crimean peninsula on December 3, 2005 to help authorities fight an outbreak of bird flu,” the UNIAN news service reported on December 29. By the end of last week, the authorities destroyed nearly 70,000 domestic birds in Crimea in order to prevent the bird-flu outbreak from spreading. No bird-flu infection cases have been registered among humans on the peninsula. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rabbi speaks on anti-Semitism

KYIV – Chief Rabbi of Ukraine Azriel Chaikin said he believes the issue of discrimination against Jews in Ukrainian society should be solved on the legislative level. On December 15, 2005, he came from Brussels, Belgium, to the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk to take part in a conference dedicated to the problems of anti-Semitism and xenophobia. Rabbi Chaikin said the problem of anti-Semitism does exist. Jokes about Jews are only the slightest demonstration of the lack of respect towards this people, he said. “It is even more unpleasant when people find offensive cards in their mailboxes or when the public buildings of Jewish communities get attacked,” he said. The chief rabbi of Donbas (Donetsk region), Pinkhas Vyshenskyi, said that the official statistics on the number of Jews living in Ukraine do not reflect reality. In fact, he said that nearly 600,000 Jews live in Ukraine, though most of them do not announce this in order not to stand out. The Donetsk region is home to more than 120 ethnic groups, therefore, Rabbi Vyshenskyi said, the problem of anti-Semitism is not pronounced there. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Sobor’s construction in final stages

KYIV –The construction of the new Sobor (Cathedral) of the Resurrection of Christ of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) in Kyiv is two-thirds fin-

ished, according to expert opinion publicized by the UGCC press service on December 15, 2005. Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the UGCC, asks for the prayerful and financial support of the faithful to complete the work. Since the dedication of the sobor’s cornerstone on October 27, 2002, the walls have been built, five domes have been installed and their crosses have been dedicated. The cross of the central dome is already installed. In addition, the basement of the future patriarchal residence has been built. Work is now being done to mount the central dome. The see of the head of the UGCC was transferred to Kyiv on August 21, 2005, in accordance with a decision of the Synod of Bishops. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

UOC-KP makes new appointments

KYIV – A session of the Holy Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP), headed by Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), took place on December 14, 2005. Because of the death of Metropolitan Danyil (Chokaliuk) of Rivne and Ostroh, the synod decided to appoint Metropolitan Yevsevii (Politylo) of Poltava and Kremenchuk as metropolitan of that area, preserving his position as regular member of the synod. Archimandrite Mykhail (Bondarchuk), treasurer of St. Michael’s Golden-Domed Monastery, was appointed bishop of Poltava and Kremenchuk. In connection with the need to elect a new regular member of the synod from Ukraine’s central region, after Metropolitan Yevsevii became a regular member of the synod from western Ukraine, the Hierarchal Sobor [Assembly] of the UOC-KP elected Archbishop Volodymyr (Ladyk) of Mykolaiv and Bohoiavlensk as new regular member of the synod from central Ukraine. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

UOC-KP forum on national Church

KYIV – The First All-Ukrainian Church-Civic Forum “For a Ukrainian National Orthodox Church” took place in the National Opera Hall on December 13, 2005. Participating in the forum were representatives of the episcopate, clergy and laity of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP), state officials and social activists, politicians, scholars and artists, and representatives of the Ukrainian Kozaks, youth and other social unions. UOC-KP Archbishop Dymytrii (Rudiuk) of Pereiaslav and Khmelnytskyi and National Deputy Lilia Hryhorovych were elected co-chairs of the forum. Dmytro Stepovyk, professor of the Kyiv Spiritual Academy, presided at the meeting. Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko sent his greeting, noting the importance of creating a national Ukrainian Church. The speech delivered by Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), head of the UOC-KP, lasted for more than an hour and was the key moment of the forum. The head of the UOC-KP defined the problems the Ukrainian church is facing now, as well as ways to overcome them. He showed the close connection between the national status of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine and Ukraine’s independence and the unity, stability and development of Ukrainian society. The patriarch also highlighted the role of the Constantinople and Moscow patriarchates in the modern life of the Ukrainian Church. In the end, the participants of the forum sent letters to President Yushchenko and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople and wrote an appeal to the Ukrainian nation to support the establishment of the Kyiv Patriarchate as the Ukrainian national Orthodox Church. Also, they created a church-civic committee “For a Ukrainian National Orthodox Church,” with Archbishop Dymytrii and National Deputy Hryhorovych as co-chairs. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

St. Sophia belongs to all Churches

KYIV – St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv cannot be transferred to any one denomination because there is no single national Ukrainian Church and there are ongoing arguments among the existing Churches, said Nelia Kukovalska, general director of the St. Sophia of Kyiv National Reserve, according to a December 13, 2005, report posted on 5tv.com.ua. “All denominations, Greek-Catholics, Roman Catholics and all the Orthodox denominations could have claims to conduct liturgies at St. Sophia Cathedral. We know there is no union among the Orthodox denominations now. Therefore it is still too early to talk about one denomination,” said Ms. Kukovalska. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Polls on support for Ukraine in EU

KYIV – About 42 percent of citizens

of 25 European Union countries back Ukraine’s membership in the European Union, according to an opinion poll released on December 23, 2005, by the European Commission. Eurobarometer is the European Commission Public Opinion Analysis program, which is conducted twice a year. Ukraine is the only CIS nation, toward whose potential membership almost 30,000 respondents were asked to express their attitude. Forty-two percent of respondents backed Ukraine’s membership in the EU – a level of support higher than that for Macedonia, which has recently become a candidate-nation, and for Turkey, which EU is negotiating with on membership. Among former socialist bloc countries who are not yet members of the EU, Ukraine was in fourth place after Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania. (Ukrinform)

Immigration judge...

(Continued from page 3)

grounds that he illegally gained entry into the United States and illegally gained U.S. citizenship because he had concealed his service as a camp guard. His citizenship was revoked in February 2002, with Judge

Matia saying there is enough evidence to prove Mr. Demjanjuk was a guard at Nazi death and forced labor camps without eyewitness corroboration. That ruling was affirmed in April 2004 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th District.

In December 2003, the Justice Department had asked that Mr. Demjanjuk be deported.

Cuban Americans...

(Continued from page 5)

In his meeting with President Yushchenko, Rep. Diaz-Belart recalled how inspired he was to hear the president’s speech to the joint meeting of Congress during his first state visit to the U.S. last April. “That was one of the most inspiring moments in my life,” said the congressman.

He also extended a special greeting to the Ukrainian President from Cuban political prisoners, including a leading physician who has been languishing in

solitary confinement. “You have no idea how much the Orange Revolution has meant to my countrymen who dream of the day when true democracy and freedom will arrive for Cuba,” he added.

Rep. Diaz-Belart and other members of the delegation promised they would not forget the plight of Chornobyl children and the crucial need for aid to the institutions they visited in Kyiv.

For more information on the Cuban American goodwill mission, readers may contact the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund at (973) 376-5140, or Ana Carbonell, chief of staff for Rep. Diaz-Balart at (202) 225-4211.



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Children in Hillside, N.J., welcome St. Nicholas ...



St. Nicholas visits children at Immaculate Conception Parish.

HILLSIDE, N.J. – St. Nicholas visited many good children and adults at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Parish here on Sunday, December 4, 2005. He was especially pleased to sense the great Christmas spirit among the audience.

In honor of St. Nicholas, several children and adults presented a bilingual holiday entertainment program. Children’s performances included the sopilka music, recitations of poetry, songs and dances as performed by Nadika Szpyhulsky, Julianna Shatynski, Sophika and Ariadna Stockert, Maria and Sofiyka Soroka, and Sonya Khedr.

The Stockert family added a special spark to the celebration. Tom, Odarka, Sophika and Ariadna sang a special carol called “The Friendly Beasts,” accompanied by Odarka performing on the harp. A 12th century French carol that was translated into English by an anonymous translator, “The Friendly Beasts” took the audience back to the day when Jesus was born in the crib surrounded by animals. One by one, the donkey, cow, sheep and dove all came to make their offering to the Baby Jesus.

Ms. Stockert further enhanced the Christmas spirit by playing sev-

eral international Christmas carols on the harp.

Mike Szpyhulsky served as emcee. Bill Davis served as liaison to St. Nicholas. Julianna and Ariana Shatynski, Maria and Sofiyka Soroka, Sophika and Ariadna Stockert, and Oksana Zaviysky served as angel helpers to St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas commented that it was a great privilege to have so many helpers and said that he was very pleased to have a very diverse program presented in his honor.

Hillside’s pastor, Father Joe Szupa, was present to lead the group in prayer and koliady.

... as do their peers in Woonsocket, R.I.

WOONSOCKET, R.I. – The parish hall of St. Michael’s Ukrainian Catholic Church here was the venue on December 11, 2005, of a special program hosting St. Nicholas that was organized by Ukrainian National Association Branch 241, led by Janet Bardell, secretary. The Ladies Sodality prepared a delicious luncheon, while Dr. Lydia Klufas-Tkach organized the program of songs and poems, with music provided by John and Marko Tkach. Seen below at the event are children with St. Nicholas, Msgr. Roman Golemba and local activists.



Mishanyna

To solve this month’s Mishanyna find the words capitalized in the text hidden within the Mishanyna grid.

One year ago, after the Orange Revolution, Ukraine witnessed a historic INAUGURATION. Sunday, JANUARY 23, marked a turning point in the HISTORY of Ukraine. After many TRIALS and TRIBULATIONS – the man known as “the people’s president” – was inaugurated as the THIRD president of Ukraine since the country re-established its independence in 1991.

VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO was well aware that he was making history, and all his actions on inauguration day sent a powerful MESSAGE both to the people of Ukraine and around the globe: a new Ukraine had been BORN.

At the Verkhovna Rada that day, the new president said Ukrainian democracy was “built with MILLIONS of Ukrainian hands,” and he explained that “the citizens of Ukraine secured an HONEST election.”

Speaking at INDEPENDENCE Square, Mr. Yushchenko said: “Today Ukraine is a free and independent NATION. We have thrown the burdens of the past off our shoulders. No one will ever dare to dictate to us how we are to live and whom to elect.”

Finally, at the Mariinskyi Palace, at a state reception for foreign dignitaries, President Yushchenko emphasized: “A new Ukrainian nation has been born in EUROPE at the beginning of the 21st century. We are starting a new EPOCH .. of solidarity, partnership and unification in one European house.”

Y	K	N	U	B	L	R	O	E	D	E	N	A	M	E
U	A	A	K	R	O	N	U	M	N	E	A	N	I	L
S	T	Y	R	T	N	R	R	A	M	A	T	U	L	O
H	E	U	K	A	O	R	N	Y	A	U	T	L	L	T
C	R	I	A	P	U	D	R	I	H	T	I	I	I	S
H	V	S	E	A	R	A	R	T	A	T	O	C	O	E
E	T	R	I	B	U	L	A	T	I	O	N	S	N	N
N	R	A	R	N	D	E	N	T	A	L	I	T	S	O
K	I	N	A	U	G	U	R	A	T	I	O	N	I	H
O	A	J	M	A	K	E	R	U	P	H	I	S	O	R
L	L	A	S	T	E	Y	R	O	T	S	I	H	S	E
G	S	S	O	C	I	A	L	S	E	C	U	R	I	T
A	E	P	O	C	H	E	P	O	C	H	S	I	D	S
M	R	E	E	C	N	E	D	N	E	P	E	D	N	I

Soyuzivka's Datebook

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

Ellenville High School Junior Prom

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

Saturday, January 14

NEW YORK: The New York Bandura Ensemble, under the direction of Julian Kytasty, and the Promin Vocal Ensemble, under the direction of Bohdanna Wolansky, present a concert of Ukrainian Christmas carols at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, 30 E. Seventh Street. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10. For additional information, please call (212) 995-2640.

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. The evening features a 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 the NJ Turnpike. There is also a Holiday Inn near the exit. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., and music starts at 8:30 p.m. For table and ticket reservations call Peter Prociuk, (732) 541-5452. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Deadline for tickets is January 16.

Thursday, January 19

WASHINGTON: The Washington Group Cultural Fund, in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, cordially invites the public to commemorate the 20th anniversary

of Chornobyl at an event featuring Mary Mycio, a Kyiv-based journalist and author of the recently published "Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chornobyl," at 7 p.m. at the Embassy of Ukraine, 3350 M St. NW. Suggested donation: \$10; free admission for students, RSVP by January 16 to (202) 349-2961 or e-mail nholub@ukremb.com. Books will be available for purchase.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday, February 25

LOS ANGELES: The California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU) will host its annual charity ball and presentation of debutantes. Pack your beach hat and join us at the Marriott Hotel in Marina Del Rey, Calif., south of Los Angeles. Proceeds from the 2006 ball are designated for biomedical research in Ukraine. Admission: \$95 per person for adults; \$85 for students. Admission price includes champagne and hors d'oeuvres, three-course meal, live music and dancing. The silent auction will feature a dazzling array of Hollywood items, Ukrainian gifts, baskets, artwork and toys. For reservations send a check to Treasurer Marta Mykytyn-Hill, 1219 Via Arroyo, Ventura, CA 93003. Accommodations are available at the hotel. For preferred rates book before February 6; mention CAAU when booking. Rooms are subject to availability. For further information contact Luba Keske, (818) 884-3836 (home) or (310) 449-3485 (office), or Shannon Micevych, (818) 774-9378.

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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New Britain
Malanka

Largest Malanka on the East Coast of the USA

Saturday, February 4, 2006
9:00 p.m.

St. George Hall
301 West Main Street
New Britain, Connecticut

Music Provided By:
Zolota Bulava & Vorony

Tickets: \$30 - Adults & \$20 - Students under age 17

as Evening Attire as BYOB
as Ice, Coffee & Kanapky will be available for purchase

For tickets and recommended table reservations,
contact Christopher Iwanik at 860-716-0334
or ciwanik@comcast.net