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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Lviv's 'Orange voters' now evenly divided

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

LVIV — “Orange voters” are about evenly divided in their support for the Our Ukraine Bloc and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc in the 2006 parliamentary election campaign, based on the daily churn of polls that put either bloc in second place behind the Party of the Regions.

Nowhere is this divide more apparent than in the Lviv Oblast, whose students, activists and everyday patriots formed the backbone of the Orange Revolution.

Deciding between the two blocs is a choice they wish they didn't have to make.

“We had hoped there would be one team,” said Lviv resident Myrosia Vashenska, 20, who plans to vote for the Tymoshenko Bloc.

“It hurts Ukraine when (Viktor) Yushchenko and Yulia (Tymoshenko) aren't together. But maybe Yulia will improve things,” Ms. Vashenska said.

More than 2.2 million Lviv residents voted in the third round of the 2004 presidential elections, according to the Lviv Oblast organization of Ms. Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna Party.

Political experts predict that the Our Ukraine and Tymoshenko blocs will split most of these votes, while nationalist groups such as the Kostenko-Pliusch Bloc and Oleh Tiahnybok's Svoboda Party will earn between 1 and 5 percent each.

The moderate Reforms and Order — Pora bloc also may earn that level of support.

Recent polls show the Tymoshenko Bloc leading in the oblast, but Our Ukraine leading in the city of Lviv, said Ihor Balynskyi, the editor-in-chief of Zakhidna Informatsiyna Corp., an information-analytical news agency based in Lviv.

The fierce competition between the two blocs has gotten nasty.

In recent weeks, some Lviv residents received anti-Semitic postcards in their mailboxes which mockingly depicted the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc leadership as Jews.

The Batkivshchyna Party's Lviv Oblast organization also accused Lviv Oblast Council Chair Petro Oliinyk, who chairs the Our Ukraine People's Union oblast organization in Lviv, of using his government resources to campaign against the Tymoshenko bloc.

“They created a horrible noise offending Yulia Volodymyrivna when Oliinyk publicly called upon Batkivshchyna members to quit the party on television,” said Vasyl Stefak, the director of the analytical service of the Batkivshchyna Party's Lviv Oblast organization. “This was done using administrative resources.”

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## Yushchenko, Yekhanurov outline priorities for Ukraine

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — On the first anniversary of his inauguration, President Viktor Yushchenko told the Ukrainian people that they had just gone through a year in which society had changed, promising



Official Website of the President of Ukraine  
**President Viktor Yushchenko as he addressed the nation on January 23.**

even more reform during his second year in office.

“More than anything, 2005 was a year of re-evaluating views in society,” Mr. Yushchenko said in the television address broadcast the evening of January 23. “There is historical value in that. We have viewed ourselves in a new way — our nation, our history and its future.”

Mr. Yushchenko listed five primary spheres of society his government would target for improvement: health care, education, energy resources, the judicial system and Ukrainian villages.

More than a week after the president's address to the nation, Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov outlined the top six priorities for his Cabinet of Ministers for 2006 in a speech before several hundred students and professors at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy on February 2.

First and foremost among these priorities, Mr. Yekhanurov said, is stabilizing Ukraine's economy. The prime minister also listed establishing a dialogue between government and business, improving energy independence and improving the people's quality of life among his top goals.

### The state of the state

President Yushchenko told Ukrainian citizens on January 23 that a “Health of the Nation” program will guarantee every Ukrainian a list of free medical services. The government will also strive to provide basic health care in Ukrainian villages.

The education system demands modernizing, Mr. Yushchenko said, and government needs to improve access as well as quality. “The era of ‘the knowledge economy’ has emerged, when intellectual resources bring a nation far more profit than natural ones,” he said. Teachers will earn adequate salaries, Mr. Yushchenko said, and corruption in institutes and universities will be combated through independent testing.

Ukraine needs to diversify its energy resources and implement a program of energy savings, he said.

“To ensure the nation's energy independence, we plan to reduce energy consumption this year by a minimum of 10 percent,” Mr. Yushchenko said.

The president said he would focus judicial reform on creating an independent judicial branch of government “to ensure the rights and freedom guaranteed by the Constitution.”

Developing Ukrainian villages and encouraging young people to remain or return will require support for farmers, extending credit for agricultural ventures, providing social programs and implementing the latest agricultural technology.

Ukraine's main foreign policy goal remains joining the European Union (EU), said Mr. Yushchenko. Another priority is rebuilding quality relations with Russia.

“I will demand that each government

official and Ukrainian diplomat tenaciously defend Ukraine's national interest,” he said.

Mr. Yushchenko said he hopes the new Parliament will pass laws bringing Ukraine into compliance with European standards, thereby quickening accession to the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

In five years, every Ukrainian able to work will have a steady job and decent salary, Mr. Yushchenko added.

The March 26 parliamentary elections will test Ukrainian society's commitment to democracy, he said, and will determine Ukraine's path of development in the next five years.

For the first time in a Ukrainian election, the government won't abuse government funds or pressure voters, he said. All political advertising will occur on the parties' dole.

Mr. Yushchenko said he won't allow any political party to work toward dividing Ukraine by exploiting linguistic or religious differences, or by promoting federalism or separatism.

The president also proposed a plan to stabilize the social-political situation in Ukraine. First, he called for a moratorium on any legislative or executive decisions or actions that would destabilize

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## Former UNA President Joseph Lesawyer dies

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Joseph Lesawyer, former supreme president of the Ukrainian National Association (1961-1978), died on Tuesday night, January 31, in Orlando, Fla. He was 94.

Mr. Lesawyer became president of the UNA in 1961, after the death of longtime Supreme President Dmytro Halychyn. After serving the remainder of Mr. Halychyn's term, Mr. Lesawyer was elected to four terms as the UNA's top executive officer.

Mr. Lesawyer also held the post of supreme vice-president of the UNA in 1950-1954 and 1958-1961.

Among his other community leadership roles was service as an officer of both the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (today known as the Ukrainian World Congress). He also served on the board of the Ukrainian Institute of America and was an officer of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America.

Mr. Lesawyer served in the U.S. Army in 1941-1945, attaining the rank of captain.

A funeral liturgy will be offered on Monday, February 6, at 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in

Northport, Fla. Interment will take place at Indiantown Gap Military Cemetery in Pennsylvania, the final resting place of Mr. Lesawyer's wife, Mary (née Wallick).

(A more extensive obituary of Joseph Lesawyer will appear in next week's issue.)



Fabian Bachrach

**Joseph Lesawyer during his years as UNA supreme president.**



## ANALYSIS

## Yushchenko's referendum threats ring hollow

by Taras Kuzio

Eurasia Daily Monitor

President Viktor Yushchenko used the dual anniversary of Ukraine's unification into an independent state in 1919 and his own inauguration in January 2005 to provide concrete suggestions to escape the political crisis resulting from Parliament's January 10 vote of no confidence in his government (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, January 11). In an address to the country, the president outlined a long list of achievements made in his administration's first year in office, such as media freedom, reducing the shadow economy, and improving social welfare and pensions (president.gov.ua).

Mr. Yushchenko also claimed, "Together we have proved that the Ukrainian nation is capable of building a modern, independent and democratic state." He continued, "Today we say: Yes, I am a citizen of Ukraine and I am proud of it. This is the main achievement of the first year of my presidency."

Mr. Yushchenko also stressed Ukraine's democratic breakthrough under his watch. The New York-based Freedom House

upgraded Ukraine from "partly free" to "free" in 2006 (freedomhouse.org). Mr. Yushchenko declared, "The year of 2005 was, first of all, the year when our community revised its values. And this is its historical significance. We have taken a new look at ourselves and our country, its history and its future."

On the day of his address, President Yushchenko also issued a long decree outlining steps to ensure that the March 26 parliamentary elections will be free and fair. He called upon Ukraine's political forces to sign a memorandum in support of free and fair elections.

Ukraine has not held free and fair elections since 1994, before the term of former President Leonid Kuchma. The 1998 and 2002 parliamentary elections used a mix of proportional and majoritarian voting, and the contests for the 250 majoritarian seats saw abuse of "state-administrative resources" that helped propel pro-Kuchma officials and businessmen to victory. The 2006 elections will be held using a fully proportional law that reduces the opportunities for such abuse.

Mr. Yushchenko's address heeded the call of many politicians to accept the legitimacy of the constitutional reforms that went into effect on January 1. "But, I do not regard them as ideal," he added. The president reiterated that the amendments had been made without the input of Ukraine's citizens and, therefore, "society

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## Crimea lighthouse becomes another bump in relations

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Port authorities in Yalta, Crimea, on January 13 took over a lighthouse that had been used thus far by Russia's Black Sea Fleet. The takeover provoked a diplomatic squabble between Moscow and Kyiv and drawn public attention in both countries to the Russian military presence in Ukraine. The rekindled controversy over the deployment of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, apart from spawning diplomatic wrangles, may also have meaningful economic and political repercussions.

Moscow reacted to the takeover of the lighthouse with angry statements from government and military officials who described the Ukrainian move as a "seizure" of the Black Sea Fleet's property and demanded that it be immediately returned to the Russian Navy. Kyiv responded that the lighthouse, as one of the "hydrographic installations" used by the Russian Navy in Ukraine, does not belong to Russia. Of the 101 "hydrographic installations" used by the Russian Black Sea Fleet in the 1990s, Ukraine now has 66 under its control.

Both sides quote the same document – the intergovernmental agreement on the deployment of the Black Sea Fleet of May 28, 1997 – to support their arguments.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov, who sug-

gested earlier in January that Russian sailors in Crimea should defend their property with arms, has no doubt as to Russia's right to use the disputed lighthouse. "The sea navigation facilities of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, part of which is stationed on Ukrainian territory, in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, were each specifically mentioned in a special section of the 1997 basic agreement, including the Yalta lighthouse. So, when Ukraine says that this lighthouse is not mentioned anywhere, it is not true," he stated.

But the truth hidden within the mentioned "special section" of the 1997 agreement may be difficult to decipher.

Nezavisimaya Gazeta on January 19 quoted a part of the so-called Addendum No. 2 to the 1997 agreement, in which the Yalta lighthouse is mentioned under the codename Ya-13. But Ya-13, along with other facilities, is designated in the addendum for joint use by Ukraine and Russia. The addendum also stipulates that a definitive list of facilities in use by the Russian Black Sea Fleet on Ukrainian territory is to be approved by a separate intergovernmental accord. Such an accord, however, has never been concluded.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Vasyl Filipchuk obfuscated the row by asserting that the codename Ya-13 cannot refer to the Yalta lighthouse, since, Mr. Filipchuk explained, Addendum No. 2 lists exclusively naval facilities in Sevastopol, which is 80 kilometers away from Yalta. Mr. Filipchuk also admitted that Kyiv does not know what Ya-13 stands for.

And, Ukrainian Vice Minister of

(Continued on page 17)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### UOC-MP group to back Communists

KYIV – Orthodox Choice, an organization formed by the Society of Orthodox Brotherhoods of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, will support the Communist Party in the parliamentary elections on March 26, Interfax-Ukraine reported on January 27, quoting the head of the Society of Orthodox Brotherhoods, Valentyn Lukiyanuk. Mr. Lukiyanuk said the Communist Party's principles are close to Orthodoxy in spirit. He noted that such political organizations as Our Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Socialist Party and the People's Rukh are "anti-Orthodox." Orthodox Choice head Yuriy Yehorov claimed the Communist Party consistently defends Orthodox values and is "closer to the people." According to Mr. Yehorov, Orthodox Choice's cooperation with the Communists is based on their similar sociopolitical agendas: combating illegal enrichment, seeking the unification of Slavic peoples, supporting the use of the Russian language in Ukraine, and opposing Ukraine's potential NATO membership. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kyiv reacts to Moscow ban

KYIV – Ukrainian Agriculture Minister Oleksander Baranivskyi told journalists on January 30 that Kyiv may impose a ban on Russian meat and dairy products unless Moscow lifts a similar ban on Ukrainian food exports, Ukrainian and Russian news agencies reported. Russia banned the import of all Ukrainian livestock products earlier that month, claiming that veterinary controls in Ukraine are inadequate. "Such trade wars do no good and affect producers on both sides. The Ukrainian side still hopes that Russia will revise its decision and the tension will be eased," ITAR-TASS quoted Mr. Baranivskyi as saying. He added that Russia's unwillingness to discuss its ban on Ukrainian meat imports forced him to cancel his planned visit to Moscow on January 30. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Gas prices set for six months only

KYIV – Oleg Palchikov, executive director of the Swiss-based gas trader

RosUkrEnergo, said on the Ukrainian television channel Inter on January 30 that the price of \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas for Ukraine will remain unchanged only for the first half of 2006, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Thus, Mr. Palchikov confirmed critical voices from the Ukrainian opposition asserting that a framework gas agreement concluded by Naftohaz Ukrayiny, Gazprom and RosUkrEnergo in Moscow on January 4 set the price of gas supplies only for six months, while simultaneously establishing a tariff for Russian gas transit across Ukraine for five years. "This price is clear for us in the first half of 2006," Mr. Palchikov said. "In the future it will depend on the price of gas purchased [by RosUkrEnergo] from Central Asia." Kyiv and Moscow have not yet signed an intergovernmental agreement specifying the volumes of gas supplies and gas transit to and across Ukraine in 2006. Kyiv is reportedly making this signing contingent on obtaining full information about the shareholders of RosUkrEnergo, which became the monopolist of Russian and Central Asian gas supplies to Ukraine under the January 4 deal. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ukraine expels Russian CIS expert

SYMFEROPOL – Ukrainian border guards deported Russian political scientist Kiryll Frolov, a section head in Russia's Institute of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), from Symferopol in Crimea on January 27, Ukrainian and Russian news agencies reported. Mr. Frolov was detained at a local airport in Symferopol earlier the same day after making remarks that Ukraine has allegedly compiled "black lists" of Russians who are not wanted in that country. Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Vasyl Filipchuk said banning foreign citizens from entering Ukraine is a prerogative of law-enforcement and judicial bodies. "According to Ukrainian legislation, the Foreign Affairs Ministry is not empowered to impose entry bans on citizens of other countries, and there are no endorsed black lists of

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# Last Tu-22M strategic bomber eliminated in Ukraine

POLTAVA, Ukraine – The last Tu-22M strategic bomber was eliminated on January 27 at Poltava Air Base under the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program.

"I think we can all agree that, through our cooperative efforts, the CTR Program has enjoyed considerable success here in Ukraine," stated U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John E. Herbst during the elimination ceremony in Poltava.

"But, these combined efforts have accomplished much more than just the elimination of weapons, delivery systems and infrastructure. They have clearly demonstrated Ukraine's commitment to international peace and stability and enhanced Ukraine's standing as a nation

willing to play its part in the global war on terrorism and as a reliable partner in arms control efforts," the ambassador said.

At a press conference commemorating this event, Doug Englund, the acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for chemical demilitarization and threat reduction programs, commended Ukraine for its steadfast support of this and the other strategic nuclear arms elimination programs. "The elimination of the last Tu-22M Backfire bomber represents a significant milestone in both the relationship between Ukraine and the United States, and in the elimination of a weapon of mass destruction," Mr. Englund said.

In October 1993 the United States and Ukraine signed the CTR Umbrella Agreement for the elimination of strategic nuclear arms. Sixty bombers have been eliminated under this \$12 million program since January 2001.

Using elimination methods specified in the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) arms control treaty, high-speed saws cut off the nose of the bomber and hydraulic shears cut through the tail. The metal is cut into smaller pieces and sold as scrap metal; the equipment is sent to another military base, where the precious metals are recovered and sold. All funds received from these activities are used by Ukraine to provide housing for retired military officers.

Through the CTR program, the U.S. Department of Defense is assisting the Ministry of Defense and the National Space Agency of Ukraine with the elimination of strategic aircraft and air-to-surface missiles and with the storage of SS-24 intercontinental ballistic missile solid propellant rocket motors.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency implements the CTR program which prevents the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials, technologies and expertise from former Soviet Union states. This includes providing for the safe destruction of Soviet era WMD, associated delivery systems and related infrastructure.

## Yushchenko, Yekhanurov...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukraine's situation.

The government, the president and the Verkhovna Rada are supposed to work together to create conditions for honest elections, elect a new Parliament and create a majority that will shape the new government.

Second, Mr. Yushchenko said it's necessary to ensure that the Constitutional Court of Ukraine performs competent work of high standards. Therefore, he called upon the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada's next session to nominate and approve judges to the Court.

At present, only nine of the Constitutional Court's 18 seats have been filled. It doesn't have a quorum and, therefore, is unable to perform its duties of reviewing whether laws or government actions are constitutional. Six judges are appointed by the president, another six by a panel of judges and another six by a majority in the Rada.

Political experts believe Mr. Yushchenko wants a functioning Constitutional Court in order to challenge the legitimacy of the constitutional changes that took effect on January 1.

Although questioning the constitutionality of changes to the Ukrainian Constitution may seem irrational, the Constitutional Court typically executes the wishes of the Ukrainian president, said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is exclusively financed by Ukrainian business donations.

The main achievement in the first year of his presidency, Mr. Yushchenko said, was renewing a feeling of national dignity. "Today we say, 'Yes, I am a citizen of Ukraine and I'm proud of that!'" Mr. Yushchenko said.

Economic accomplishments of 2005 included reducing the black market that resulted in a 150 percent increase in budget revenues and the re-privatization of Kryvorizhstal.

Mr. Yushchenko claimed real incomes rose 20 percent, however many Ukrainians argue that inflation eliminated any increases.

Freedom of speech has been ensured under his presidency, Mr. Yushchenko said.

"The government's main lesson from 2005 was 'Ukraine above everything!'" Mr. Yushchenko said. "We are supposed to be a strong and united team, refraining from our own ambitions on behalf of Ukraine's future."

The best example of the Ukrainian government defending its national interests was during the natural gas crisis with Russia. The Yushchenko government fulfilled its promise of not increasing natural gas prices and secured the least expensive price in all of Europe.

Furthermore, "Ukraine's gas transport system remains in the state's ownership," Mr. Yushchenko said. "There is no discussion of transferring its ownership to other nations or groups of nations."

### PM outlines Cabinet's priorities

Prime Minister Yekhanurov's speech on February 2 at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy came less than two months before the parliamentary elections, which will lead to the formation of a new government.

Unless Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc is able to form the parliamentary majority after the March 26 elections, Mr. Yekhanurov and his Cabinet are likely to leave their posts.

At this point, almost all Ukrainian political experts foresee Our Ukraine forming a coalition with either the Party of the Regions or the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc.

If a coalition is formed with the Tymoshenko Bloc, then Ms. Tymoshenko would become prime minister because that is the bloc's pre-condition.

If Our Ukraine opts to join with the Party of the Regions, the latter party would have the advantage selecting the prime minister because the Party of the Regions is likely to win the most votes in March.

In spite of his likely dismissal after the elections, Mr. Yekhanurov discussed his Cabinet's priorities, the first of which involve stabilizing Ukraine's economy.

The government will help improve the innovation and competitiveness of entrepreneurs, promote small- to medium-sized business and develop the instruments of an effective market economy.

Halting re-privatization and optimizing a system of taxation also will stabilize the economy, he said.

Negative acts by Parliament contribute to the negative investment climate in Ukraine, Mr. Yekhanurov said, directly referring to the pro-Russian forces opposing Ukraine's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

As a second priority Mr. Yekhanurov stressed the importance of government building a dialogue with businesses.

Government has to become more responsible, transparent and predictable for business, he said. Businesses need to be warned of changes in law that would affect the business climate, and their participation in government committee work will enable that, Mr. Yekhanurov said.

The government will encourage more businesses to finance and renew Ukrainian culture. "In a democratic society, business should realize on its own its social responsibility in building the nation," he said.

Ukraine must reduce its dependency on foreign energy sources, Mr. Yekhanurov said, a problem which has deep historical roots. He referred to Ukraine's relations with the Russian

Federation in this sphere as "monodependence."

A normal country should depend on another nation for only 30 percent of its energy, he said. To accomplish this, Ukraine must reduce natural gas consumption, Mr. Yekhanurov said.

To replace natural gas, Ukraine has significant potential in further developing its electric energy, which it already exports to neighboring countries.

Hydrostations are inexpensive investments in this sphere, he said.

However, Ukraine's single most significant means of ensuring independence is atomic energy, Mr. Yekhanurov said.

More than 50 percent of Ukraine's energy comes from atomic stations, but the nation receives 100 percent of its atomic fuel from Russia, another form of dependency that requires reduction. "You understand that for the last 15 years this problem has not been resolved," Mr. Yekhanurov said.

The Cabinet's fourth priority is improving the quality of life of the Ukrainian people, the prime minister continued. The government is supposed to guarantee high standards in education, health care, pension security and material provision to the population in need, Mr. Yekhanurov said.

Fifth, the Cabinet would make efforts to unify Ukraine. Historically, Ukraine has been divided between various nations and cultures, and this fact has been and is currently being exploited by political forces acting in their own interests.

The main instrument for unifying the diverse Ukrainian population is development of the transportation infrastructure, Mr. Yekhanurov said. Government policy should make available to every young person the ability and access to fly from Donetsk to Lviv, he said.



Zenon Zawada

**Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy on February 2.**

A project is under way for trains to travel as fast as 300 kilometers an hour, Mr. Yekhanurov added.

Improving trust in the government is a sixth goal, Mr. Yekhanurov said. "We have quite a low trust in government from society, and this doesn't adhere to democratic traditions," Mr. Yekhanurov said.

To renew trust among the people, the government will continue to actively fight corruption, raise the transparency and accountability of government policy, and reduce government interference into the business and social relations of citizens.

"I want to stress that the Cabinet's priorities aren't only an inseparable part of Ukraine's strategic development, but it's a working document which constantly renews itself," Mr. Yekhanurov stated.

## Election observers begin mission

WARSAW/KYIV – The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights has established an election observation mission for the March 26 parliamentary elections in Ukraine. This follows an invitation from Ukraine's authorities.

The mission, headed by Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj of Slovakia, consists of 12 international staff based in Kyiv and 50 long-term observers deployed in the regions. The experts and long-term observers are drawn from 21 participating states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The observation mission will assess the electoral process in terms of its compliance with OSCE commitments for democratic elections and international standards, as well as national legislation. It will also focus on the election campaign, the legislative framework and its

implementation, the media situation, the work of the election administration and relevant government bodies, and the resolution of election-related disputes.

While the OSCE/ODIHR will not observe the local elections that are scheduled for the same day as the parliamentary election, it may comment on issues related to local election to the extent they impact on the parliamentary election process.

The ODIHR has requested 600 short-term observers to be deployed immediately prior to the March 26 election. They will work in teams of two, monitoring the opening of polling stations, the voting, the counting of ballots and the tabulation of results. It is expected that these observers will be joined by delegations from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.



## OBITUARY: Roman Baranowskyj, prominent community leader, 100

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Dr. Roman Baranowskyj, a veterinarian by profession and a prominent Ukrainian community leader and notable contributor to Svoboda, died on January 23 in Kerhonskon, N.Y., at the age of 100.

Dr. Baranowskyj was born June 12, 1905, in Halych, western Ukraine, into the family of the Rev. Evstakhiy and Sofia (née Nestajko).

Upon completing his secondary education in Buchach, Ternopil region, he served a stint as a volunteer in a field army hospital across the river Zbruch during the time of Ukraine's liberation struggle and the declaration of the independent democratic Ukrainian National Republic (January 22, 1918).

He returned to Halychyna (western Ukraine), enrolling in the school of veterinary medicine at the University of Lviv, which he completed in 1933. In 1937 he married Stefania Dmochowskyj, a dentist by profession.

Dr. Baranowskyj worked in Lviv in the area of animal disease eradication (1934-1936) and conducted a general veterinary practice (1936-1945).

With the outbreak of war, in September 1939, he was drafted into the Polish Army and shortly thereafter was taken prisoner of war by the Germans. Upon his release in 1940, he worked in an army hospital in Zgierz near Łódź and later as a veterinarian in the town of Stawiszyn near Kalish.

As political refugees, the family moved to Munich, Germany, in 1945, where Dr. Baranowskyj was active in the displaced persons camps. In 1948 he completed his doctorate in veterinary medicine at the University of Munich and worked as an assistant professor at the Ukrainian Technical Husbandry Institute (1948-1949).

In 1949 the family emigrated to the United States, settling in Chicago. Dr. Baranowskyj secured a job with the U.S.



Dr. Roman Baranowskyj

Department of Agriculture as a veterinary meat inspector (1950-1963). From 1963 until his retirement in 1977, Dr. Baranowskyj served as a veterinary medical officer with the Bureau of Veterinary Medicine at the Food and Drug Administration Agency in Washington.

Dr. Baranowskyj was a member of the Ukrainian Veterinary Medical Association, serving as the association's president in 1950-1951, and again in 1961-1963, and was editor of the association's journal *Informatyvnyi Lystok* (Informative Newsletter) in 1950-1963.

Apart from his professional commitments, Dr. Baranowskyj was known as a leading Ukrainian community activist in various spheres of endeavor. He served as president of the Ukrainian American Association and was co-editor of its jour-

nal *Nash Holos* (Our Voice). He also served as secretary and press secretary of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council from 1982 up to the time of his death.

Dr. Baranowskyj was widely known as a frequent contributor of articles on a full range of timely topics to the New Jersey-based *Svoboda* Ukrainian-language newspaper, published by the Ukrainian National Association (UNA).

He was also an active member of the Ukrainian National Association and the UNA Seniors, as well as the community of retirees who reside in the condominium complex near the UNA estate Soyuzivka where, upon retirement, Dr. Baranowskyj lived with his wife.

The oldest surviving member of the Lisovi Chorty Plast Fraternity, Dr.

Baranowskyj was also instrumental in compiling and serving as editor for the memoirs written by members of the Lisovi Chorty Plast Fraternity.

Dr. Baranowskyj was inducted into the Order of Malta, a lay religious order of the Catholic Church.

Dr. Baranowskyj is survived by his wife, Stephanie; son Yuriy, with his wife Areta; daughter Vera Hrabets with her husband, Yuriy; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and sister, Liuba Korol with her husband, Stefan and family.

A panakhyda service for Dr. Baranowskyj was held on January 27 in Kerhonskon, N.Y. Funeral services were held at the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity in Kerhonskon on January 28.

## Natural gas conflict ripples beyond Russia-Ukraine relations

RFE/RL Press Room

WASHINGTON – The crisis over supplies of natural gas to Ukraine by Russia that erupted on New Year's Day has implications that spread well beyond the borders of these two countries and will impact both economic and political policy-making throughout Europe. That was the consensus of three briefers who addressed different aspects of the Russia-Ukraine gas conflict during a briefing on January 19 at RFE/RL's Washington office.

Clifford Gaddy, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, outlined what he described as Russia's "grand energy strategy," in which Ukraine is perceived as merely an obstacle frustrating Russia's energy ambitions in wealthier Western Europe and, therefore, a non-entity in Russia's broader strategic planning.

According to Mr. Gaddy, Russia's strategic goal as regards energy is to maximize the role of its own energy resources in the world energy markets, so as to increase its geo-political influence. To do this, it must reduce competition and maximize dependency on its own energy resources, as well as ensure a stable supply. Ukraine, Mr. Gaddy said, is a hindrance to the latter. That Russia raised Ukraine's gas prices was inevitable from an economic standpoint, Gaddy argued. By doing so, Ukraine's demand for gas would decrease, thereby freeing more supply for Europe.

Taras Kuzio, a visiting assistant professor at George Washington University and recognized expert on Ukraine, rebutted Mr. Gaddy's argument, claiming that Russia's actions evidenced a complete lack of geopolitical strategy and resulted in strong denunciations by Western countries and a loss of political allies in Ukraine.

According to Dr. Kuzio, Russian President Vladimir Putin's desire to have

a deal signed by the January 4 European Union energy summit outweighed his hope of reinforcing opposition to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko during the run-up to Ukraine's March 26 parliamentary elections.

Dr. Kuzio argued that Mr. Yushchenko gained most from the agreement, both domestically and internationally. The events showed him to be a competent leader able to navigate and overcome crisis, whereas Russia came off as a bully and a threat to Europe's energy supply.

RFE/RL Coordinator of Corruption Studies Roman Kupchinsky's review of the situation did not fully agree with Dr. Kuzio's assessments of President Yushchenko or Ukraine. Mr. Kupchinsky outlined three major problems that are feeding the conflict between Russia and Ukraine over gas.

The biggest, he argued, is that the state-owned Russian gas giant Gazprom holds a monopoly on natural gas sales outside of the CIS. Mr. Kupchinsky also decried Ukraine's consumption of natural gas, terming it "out of control." Corruption is also a major factor in the conflict, he said, although the extent to which it taints the deal struck between Russia and Ukraine remains unknown.

One of the major questions concerning this agreement, according to Mr. Kupchinsky, is why Gazprom's export manager, Alexander Medvedev, and President Putin insisted on including the little-known intermediary firm RosUkrEnergo, which under the deal will be the party actually selling gas to Ukraine. While Mr. Yushchenko has defended the company, its role in the agreed procedure for future gas sales, said Mr. Kupchinsky, leads to suspicions of "a crooked scheme."



## Joseph Lesawyer

May 25, 1911 - January 31, 2006

The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association regrets to announce to members of the General Assembly and to the UNA membership at large that former UNA Supreme President Joseph Lesawyer died on Tuesday, January 31, at the age of 94. Mr. Lesawyer served as UNA supreme president for 17 years, and prior to that as supreme vice-president.

The Executive Committee and the entire UNA membership wish to express their sincere sympathy to Mr. Lesawyer's family members, including his many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and great grandnieces and great grandnephews.

A funeral liturgy is to be held on Monday, February 6, at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Northport, Fla., with interment to take place at Indiantown Gap Military Cemetery in Pennsylvania, where Mr. Lesawyer's wife, Mary (née Wallick) is buried.

The family has noted that memorial donations may be made in Mr. Lesawyer's name to any Ukrainian charity or to the Alzheimer's Association.

The entire UNA family wishes Joseph Lesawyer eternal peace in the Lord.

*Vichnaya Pamiat!*

## Immediate job opening at The Ukrainian Weekly

Editorial staff member based at our home office in Parsippany, N.J.

Journalism or related experience required. Bilingual (English/Ukrainian) skills a must. Photography skills a plus. Position requires knowledge of Ukrainian community in the diaspora (primarily North America) and current events in Ukraine. Position involves: writing, reporting, interviewing, rewrites, copy editing, proof-reading, translation and more. Applicants must have a willingness to work on diverse assignments.

Send résumé and clippings, plus a cover letter explaining your interest in the position, to: Editor-in-Chief, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ. For info call (973) 292-9800, ext. 3049.



## Lviv's 'Orange voters'...

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Stefak stated as a further violation the fact that Mr. Oliynyk conducted two or three press conferences a week attacking Ms. Tymoshenko, which were repeated on Lviv television several times a day.

Close advisor Mykola Tomenko convinced Ms. Tymoshenko to go to Lviv, after visiting the city himself and realizing that she needed to defend her record against lies and smears, Mr. Oliynyk noted. In addition to holding two press conferences, Ms. Tymoshenko spent an hour and a half on live Lviv Oblast television explaining her political positions and promoting herself.

It remains to be seen whether Ms. Tymoshenko succeeded in convincing her Lviv supporters that she did the right thing in criticizing the natural gas deal between Ukraine and Russia.

"She quickly reacts to problems that arise," Mr. Balynskyi said. "That gives her the potentially better chance of defeating the Our Ukraine bloc."

Traces of disappointment with the Our Ukraine bloc are also apparent among Lviv voters.

The same day that Ms. Tymoshenko visited Lviv, the party council chairman of the Our Ukraine People's Union (OUPU), Roman Bezsmertnyi, arrived from Kyiv with other party leaders and held a simultaneous meeting. Between 3,000 and 4,000 supporters showed up for the rally, a lackluster turnout, Mr. Balynskyi said.

Then, on Unity Day, January 22, the OUPU Lviv organization planned a march from Lviv Polytechnic University to the Taras Shevchenko statue on Freedom Boulevard. The march was intended to show support for the Our Ukraine Bloc.

After the party posted hundreds of fliers throughout the city, frigid temperatures that plunged to below 0 degrees Fahrenheit convinced even the most enthusiastic Yushchenko supporters to stay home.

At Lviv Polytechnic University, only about 25 supporters showed up, with only a handful wearing orange scarves.

"People are here," said Ihor Kovalisko, leader of the OUPU city staff. "But there wasn't that extreme necessity to risk victims [to exposure of the freezing weather]."

The Our Ukraine coalition in Lviv was thrown into disarray when the OUPU oblast organization declared on January 20 that it was supporting a different candidate for mayor than the bloc's other members.

The OUPU is backing media mogul Andrii Sadovyi, while Rukh and the Christian-Democratic Union support former Mayor Vasyl Kuibida for re-election.

The day of the OUPU's endorsement, the Lviv Oblast organization of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs declared that it was quitting the Our Ukraine bloc and supporting a third candidate, Oleksander Sendeha, a former oblast council chair.

"There's quite a serious conflict within the Our Ukraine circle," Mr. Balynskyi said. "I don't know how it will turn out. But, more likely than not, Our Ukraine won't be able to endorse a single candidate for mayor."

Political experts are divided over

which bloc will win the Lviv Oblast.

The final result will likely be a margin of 2 to 3 percent in the Lviv oblast, Mr. Balynskyi said, giving the Tymoshenko Bloc the slight edge.

Unlike Our Ukraine, the Tymoshenko Bloc has the advantage of being in the opposition.

Halychyna residents also dislike President Yushchenko's close circle of supporters, particularly millionaire businessmen such as Petro Poroshenko, Mykola Martynenko, David Zhvania and Yevhen Chervonenko, he said.

"After the scandals, a large number of voters are convinced that these people are ruining Yushchenko's image," Mr. Balynskyi said. "Now they are crossing over to the Tymoshenko Bloc."

Instead, Lviv voters enjoy seeing nationalists such as Levko Lukianenko and Andrii Shkil achieve prominent positions in the Tymoshenko Bloc.

And, for those Lviv residents wanting more radical change in Ukrainian society, the Tymoshenko Bloc is the clear choice over Our Ukraine, which voters will associate with Mr. Yushchenko's policy of seeking compromise, Mr. Balynskyi said.

Lviv City Council Deputy Anatolii Romaniuk, who also chairs the Center for Political Research in Lviv, gives the Our Ukraine bloc the edge in Lviv Oblast.

The Tymoshenko Bloc's vote to dismiss the Yekhanurov government likely turned off many Lviv voters, said Mr. Romaniuk, who currently is independent of any party.

"She voted as a woman," he said. "She opposed the government emotionally. But, for many people, this raised the question of whether a person who allows herself to be guided by emotions is the best political choice."

However, it's exactly Ms. Tymoshenko's passionate approach to politics that appealed to Volodymyr Yakhvak, 18.

"Only a 'baba' [slang for woman] will bring order to Ukraine!" he said. "During the Revolution, most people only came out on the maidan because Yulia was up there with Yushchenko. Without Yulia, he wouldn't have won the presidency."

Two Ivan Franko University classmates exemplified the conflict among Lviv voters. Lidia Hapliak, 21, supports the Tymoshenko Bloc, while Emilia Krayevska, 20, supports Our Ukraine.

Ms. Hapliak is supporting Ms. Tymoshenko because she believes her to be an intelligent politician.

Ms. Krayevska is a member of the OUPU youth organization and is very fearful that the Party of the Regions will come to dominate the Verkhovna Rada.

"We stood on the maidan for what? For the Party of the Regions to take Parliament and make Russian an official language?" Ms. Krayevska asked. "I am categorically against that!"

That comment triggered a debate between the two.

"But why did Yushchenko have to get rid of Yulia as prime minister?" Ms. Hapliak asked. "Everyone went on the maidan because of Yulia!"

"But she stole!" Ms. Krayevska retorted.

Ultimately, the two reached a conclusion. "It's bad that they split because they were a good team," Ms. Krayevska said. "We support the team."



## THE UNA FORUM

### Young UNA'ers



Emily Ruth Lundquist (left) and Christina Lee Lundquist, daughters of Dr. Bryan Lundquist and Angela Pankow of Kenduskeag, Maine, are new members of UNA Branch 125. They were enrolled by their great grandparents Levka and Peter Pankow.



John Michael Chalupa (left), and Brianna Olia Chalupa, children of Michael J. and Stephanie Chalupa of Rochester, N.Y., are new members of UNA Branch 283. They were enrolled by their grandparents Michael and Olga Chalupa.



Nathaniel Joseph Dubanowitz, son of Christopher and Jeannine Dubanowitz of Clifton, N.J., is a new member of UNA Branch 42. He was enrolled by his grandparents Joseph and Nadia Dubanowitz.

### ANNUAL MEETING of UNA Branch 5

will be held on  
Tuesday, February 21, 2006,  
at 7:00 p.m.  
at the  
Ukrainian East Village  
Restaurant (back room)  
140 2nd Avenue  
New York, NY 10003

All Branch 5 members are  
invited to attend!  
Please RSVP to  
Maya Lew  
(212) 689-8894

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THE UNA: 111 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY



## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

# Ukraine's voters abroad

The State Statistics Committee of Ukraine announced in mid-January that Ukraine's population had fallen to 46,958,740 as of December 1, 2005. In the January-November 2005 period, the country's population fell by 0.7 percent, or 322,060 people, according to the Ukrainian News Agency. According to the nationwide census conducted in December 2001, Ukraine's population was 48,415,500. Ukrainians, it seems, are leaving Ukraine in record numbers.

Meanwhile, the number of Ukrainian immigrants living abroad continues to grow. In Italy, for example, the number of Ukrainians has increased tenfold – from 9,000 people three years ago to 93,000 this year, according to the charitable organization Caritas. There are similar situations throughout Europe and the United States, where the most recent wave of Ukrainian immigrants have been settling in what appears to be an upward trend.

These statistics indicate that Ukrainian citizens continue to leave their home country to find opportunities abroad. Their reasons for leaving do not concern us at this moment. Rather, we write today with an eye toward the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, which are scheduled for March.

In light of political developments there over the past few months, it is certain that the newly elected Parliament will hold considerable sway over the future of Ukraine. Therefore, we believe it is imperative that its citizens, who live abroad and are eligible to vote, are given the opportunity to do so. Therefore, the issue of access to voting precincts abroad and the manner in which votes will be secured is of no small concern.

We are concerned about this coming election because we remember well the limited number of foreign voting stations in countries where large Ukrainian populations are scattered over great distances, such as Canada and Russia. It made it nearly impossible to accommodate all Ukrainians who had a right to vote in the previous election.

In a letter sent to Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, the Ukrainian World Congress noted recently that, "during the hotly contested presidential elections of 2004, some 100,000 Ukrainian citizens abroad participated, which while triple the next largest turnout abroad in the history of Ukraine, still represented less than one-third of 1 percent of the eligible voters abroad."

There are other concerns, as well. Both the Ukrainian ambassador to the United States and Ukraine's consul general in New York were recently recalled to Ukraine. The new people who will occupy these posts are tasked with overseeing the vote in Washington and New York, two areas heavily populated with eligible Ukrainian voters. We are concerned that Ukraine's new ambassador to the United States and the next consul general in New York may have little time to properly prepare for the elections and we worry that similar situations may occur in other countries.

With the stakes so high for this election, it is important that every Ukrainian who wants to vote can do so. While the actual number of Ukrainians living abroad, or even in Russia, is impossible to determine, official and unofficial figures range from as low as 2 million to as high as 8 million people. And while many may be living abroad temporarily, they nonetheless have every right to vote in Ukraine's elections.

We urge Ukraine's citizens abroad to communicate immediately with their consulates and embassies to ensure that voting stations are made accessible to them. We urge those citizens to identify what it is they need to do in order to vote and ensure that their names are included on the list of voters for the upcoming elections.

And, we encourage members of the Ukrainian diaspora to use their contacts to help ensure that the maximum number of Ukraine's voters who find themselves abroad can exercise their voting rights.

Feb.  
6  
2005

## Turning the pages back...

"Encouraged and hopeful about the prospect of enhancing U.S.-Ukraine relations in the wake of the recent presidential election, Rep. Steve Rothman (D-N.J.) on January 31 led a bipartisan group of House members calling on President

George W. Bush to invite newly elected Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko to come to the United States for an official state visit."

That was the lead paragraph to a story published in The Ukrainian Weekly's February 6, 2005, issue, which reported that a campaign had begun to invite the new Ukrainian president to the United States on an official state visit.

Rep. Rothman and 19 of his colleagues from the House of Representatives wrote to President Bush: "We are writing to urge you to establish a relationship with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and encourage him to schedule a state visit to the White House promptly."

"As you well know, the outcome of the recent Ukrainian elections provides the opportunity for Ukraine to become more closely integrated in Euro-Atlantic institutions, demonstrate true democratic governance under the rule of law, and operate a genuine free market economy. It is critical that at this time we recognize the importance of the relationship between the United States and Ukraine and reach out to President Yushchenko in an effort to enhance these relations," they added.

"As a demonstration of American solidarity with the Ukrainian people and its newly elected leader, and in an effort to further strengthen U.S.-Ukraine relations, we believe it is important for you to urge President Yushchenko to come to the White House for a state visit in the near future," the letter noted.

Rep. Rothman, a member of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, and his colleagues also congratulated Ukraine on following the democratic processes that ultimately led to the conduct of a free and fair election for the Ukrainian presidency and the peaceful swearing-in of President Yushchenko.

Source: "Rep. Rothman, joined by 19 colleagues, calls for state visit by Yushchenko to U.S.," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 6, 2005, Vol. LXXIII, No. 6.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The year 2005 in Washington

Dear Editor:

In looking over your comprehensive and informative "2005: The Year in Review," we noticed that only a relatively small percentage of Washington events pertaining to Ukraine were mentioned or covered. This is certainly not meant as a criticism of The Weekly, which remains an invaluable resource to the Ukrainian community. We fully realize that it is not possible to cover each and every event especially without a full-time Washington correspondent, which would be difficult given The Weekly's unfortunately limited resources or to include it in the year-end. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to amplify on the panoply of Ukraine-related events in D.C.

It is worth recording that Washington continues to remain the pre-eminent location for the study of contemporary Ukraine. This is at the government, policy-making and academic levels. No other location in the United States has such a large number of events taking place dealing with contemporary Ukraine. Washington is also the location for the largest number of students studying contemporary Ukraine.

We, therefore, think readers of The Ukrainian Weekly would find it of interest to know of the large number of substantive Washington Ukraine-related events – conferences, roundtables, meetings, briefings that took place in 2005 that underscore the high level of attention that Ukraine receives in Washington. This is something that is still not fully understood by many Ukrainian Americans. This was one of the principal themes in our August 7, 2005, article "A Guide to Who's Who in Washington, D.C.'s Ukraine-related activities."

In addition to the several Washington events mentioned in "2005: The Year in Review," over 40 public or semi-public events took place that dealt exclusively or primarily with Ukraine in 2005. Most took place at various influential policy think-tanks, including the Woodrow Wilson Center's Kennan Institute (which hosted an impressive 20 events), the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, George Washington University, Georgetown University, International Republican Institute (IRI), The Washington Group (TWG) and Johns Hopkins' School for Advanced International Studies, American Enterprise Institute (AEI), Rand Corporation, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Freedom House/Poland American Ukraine Cooperative Initiative (PAUCI), National Democratic Institute (NDI) and elsewhere.

Many of these events/discussions were covered by Voice of America TV and other media broadcasts to Ukraine. In numerous additional forums, Ukraine may not have been featured exclusively, but still was addressed in some capacity.

Speakers and panelists at these events included a wide variety of experts, academics, government officials, some from Ukraine or of Ukrainian heritage, as well as many non-Ukrainians. It is worth noting that the majority of attendees were various experts, policy-makers, academics and students, most of them non-Ukrainian American, as many of these events take place during the work-day.

Moreover, there are numerous limited U.S. government or semi-governmental Ukraine related meetings and scores of meetings by visiting Ukrainian officials or non-governmental organizations with their U.S. Washington-based government-

tal, Congressional and non-governmental counterparts, testifying to the vibrancy of interest in contemporary Ukraine in Washington. Also worth noting is the Congressional hearing in July devoted exclusively to Ukraine, as such hearings are an important, albeit relatively infrequent occurrence, as well as the unanimous passage of resolutions in both the Senate and House early in 2005 congratulating the people of Ukraine on the free and fair December 26, 2004, elections.

The attention by these influential institutions to Ukraine, in the city where U.S. policy toward Ukraine is formulated, is a testament to how far interest in Ukraine has come in the last decade. This level of meaningful attention by American organizations should be welcomed by Ukrainian Americans everywhere. Ukraine's future integration into Euro-Atlantic structures during the Viktor Yushchenko presidency will be formally decided in Brussels where the European Union and NATO are based. At the same time, preparatory work and the support of the U.S. administration in Washington will be decisive in backing Ukraine, especially with respect to NATO.

Orest Deychakiwsky  
Taras Kuzio  
Washington

### Reaction to report by UNA officer

Dear Editor:

Mr. Eugene Iwanciw has produced some admirable work over the years but his latest report as a member of the UNA Executive Committee appearing in the January 22 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly really muffs it when it comes to his calculations of how many people use Soyuzivka.

To suggest that we measure the number of people that use Soyuzivka by basically dividing the annual revenue by the cost of a weekly stay for a family and to then conclude that less than 2 percent of our members use it is just plain incorrect. To base further decisions about Soyuzivka on such faulty reasoning would be disastrous. Soyuzivka is used by many people who stay less than a week and even more by those who do not even stay the night. This is unfortunate because they are missing out on a fun and relaxing place at a reasonable price, but this is a community-building service our fraternal performs for the public along with the publication of two fine newspapers, etc.

There is no point in talking about concentrating on our core business being insurance because the core business of the UNA has always been community building. It is nice to know that my premium envelope is being opened by a Ukrainian in a Ukrainian entity, but its tough to get too excited by it. Unlike the pioneer miners in 1894 in Shamokin, we have plenty of options for insurance. It is fraternalism that defines the UNA and is its core business.

Yes, the worrisome subsidies to these worthy activities could and should be less but they are not large by today's standards of the cost of things and should not have a material impact on an organization supported by a community that has come into its own financially.

Trouble is the UNA simply does not sell enough of its bread-and-butter whole life insurance to allow it to make these relatively small annual subsidies. The face amount of policies being bought by individuals, often well-meaning individuals, is minuscule. I know of grandparents (why it's not the parents is the topic for another

(Continued on page 7)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Reaction to report...

(Continued from page 6)

letter) that proudly enroll their grandchildren with the purchase of a \$5,000 face amount policy with a \$400 one-time premium. The UNA is then required to manage and invest such funds, keep records of them, file annual reports with the respective state agencies, hire actuaries to figure out the values of such policies for the next 70, 80 years. The sum of \$400 represents less than a very modest three-day weekend away from home, and it certainly won't get you through a deb.

How many of us have stopped to consider what it costs to run an insurance company? You don't need an actuary to tell you it's a lot more than can be earned on the above policy. Some individuals note the lack of a dividend as a reason for not buying more insurance. If the UNA doubled the amount of insurance in force its overhead would certainly not double and there would be a lot more black ink flowing down to the bottom line. These funds that could be used to support Soyuzivka, The Weekly and other worthy causes, as well as to restore the dividend to members.

Dr. Myron B. Kuropas had an interesting article in the January 22 issue about the origins of the UNA. Is it not incongruous that the supposedly simple coal miners of late 19th century Pennsylvania could figure out how to maintain a truly fraternal and yet profitable UNA while the newer generations with all their Ph.D.s, etc. cannot?

What we need is a pact between management and members that members will buy policies in real-world amounts and not demand twice the service for half the price at our resort, and that management will see to it that every premium penny is spent as it should be, the UNA dividend will be restored as soon as possible, and fraternal activities maintained. Hopefully we can all rise to the occasion.

**Zenon B. Masnyj**  
New York

### More on meaning of "nationalism"

Dear Editor:

The January 22 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly contained the letter "The meaning of nationalism" by Bohdan Pasichny.

I would like to add that, in today's Ukraine, not all patriots are nationalists, and not all nationalists are patriots, because some of them work for the special services of enemy states, and some work to the detriment of Ukraine.

**Eugene Stakhiv**  
Waldwick, N.J.

### Ukraine still in grip of uncertainty

Dear Editor:

The uncertainty that gripped Ukraine in the last quarter of year 2005, after President Viktor Yushchenko dismissed Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, and continues into the new year stands in sharp contrast to the president's stated goal of stability.

As Mr. Yushchenko's popularity evaporated in the wake of wide-ranging corruption allegations, pro-democracy strategists were also troubled by rising poll numbers of Viktor Yanukovich and his pro-Russian Party of the Regions. Still, they are unable to get their act

together. The phrase "The Orange Revolution is irreversible" emerged as an antidote to creeping doubts. "The big picture" characterization of shaky civic conundrums became a verbal escapism replacing the specifics.

And it became more bizarre. The "Orangization of Yanukovich" was postulated by some specialists in the diaspora as a distinct possibility just around the corner, while Mr. Yanukovich was actually tying the president up in knots in a deal that included official rehabilitation of organizers of the election fraud that sparked the Orange Revolution a year ago.

In all fairness, it is not clear whether President Yushchenko understood the essence of corruption that allegedly, if not apparently, had pervaded the circle of his political cronies, or the self-destructive quality of the image created by his intemperate response to media criticism of his son's antics. In a country where no one was ever convicted, much less jailed for high-level malfeasance during the post-Soviet period, the ruling strata have become desensitized to despicable conduct. In contrast, in permissive America, every governor of the state of Louisiana in recent memory, except the present one, has served jail time.

It is not an exaggeration to note that no contemporary statesman has squandered the political capital and the good will of the people in such a short time as did Mr. Yushchenko.

The timing of Russia's President Vladimir Putin's "gas attack" at the end of last year has not helped, except perhaps by sobering up Mr. Yushchenko's view as a self-acknowledged economist. Remarkably, he is no longer extolling the "infallibility of markets," as he did during the gas crisis last May, when he was faulting Prime Minister Tymoshenko for supposedly causing the crisis. He is now lambasting Moscow's political motives, as did Ms. Tymoshenko last May. But Mr. Yushchenko still has "no regrets" about firing her, thus inviting even more skepticism about his own reflexes.

The energy supply and cost issue is not going away any time soon; in fact it keeps Ukraine and Russia "joined at the hip." Given also a pronounced desire in Ukraine's east and south for dual citizenship with Russia, the art of governing the country as an independent nation seems like running a circus from a monkey cage. The country probably would have caved in by now if it were not for substantial diplomatic support from the West – which did not exist in centuries past. Everything has changed with the splash of central Asian oil and the subsequent extension of the American sphere in the region, witness the visit of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to Kyiv at the beginning of the gas confrontation in December.

But the turmoil goes on. The Financial Times of January 12 quoted Igor Ostash, a Yushchenko supporter: "The possibility of a return of a criminal government in the form of a coalition with one or the other of the former Orange forces – whether Our Ukraine or Tymoshenko – is very real." Writes Tom Warner in the same article: "Mr. Yushchenko is left looking as if he is losing control, not just of the government, but of country's political future."

The official rosters of political blocs' candidates for the parliamentary elections in March include family members and relatives of the highest party leaders near the top of the list, virtually guaranteeing their election under the new law, with all votes cast for parties rather than individuals. Cozy nepotism is hardly an inspiration to come and vote. Many may decide to sit it out.

**Boris Danik**  
North Caldwell, N.J.

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### Losten should stick around

Bishop Basil Losten should stick around. We need his energy and wisdom. C'mon folks, once a bishop, always a bishop.

I know, I know. Bishop Losten turned 75 and, according to Catholic canon law, he needs to step aside to make room for a younger bishop.

With all due respect to Bishop Paul Patrick Chomnycky, who I'm certain will become a worthy successor in time, I believe Bishop Losten will be a tough act to follow. You don't become a Bishop Losten overnight!

We've had bishops and we've had bishops. Some leave a rich legacy, others, well ... you fill in the blanks.

Don't get me wrong. I love our bishops, Catholic and Orthodox alike. Bishops are pastors who shepherd and nurture their flock. They have a tough job. Most take their responsibilities very seriously. Many come to the table with special gifts, special charisms.

Some, like Catholic Bishop Emeritus Innocent Lotocky in Chicago, a saintly man, are able to heal and to ameliorate conflict in our community. Others, like Bishop Michael Wiwchar, formerly of Chicago, now in Saskatoon, are gifted administrators who are steadfast in their principles and are all about building and enlivening the Church.

My favorite Orthodox bishop was the late Bishop Mark Hundiak, a delightful man, an immigrant pioneer and a walking encyclopedia of early Ukrainian church history in America. Once the assistant pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Chicago, he joined the Orthodox Church in 1924 and helped newly arrived Bishop John Theodorovich, America's Ukrainian bishop, to build Ukrainian Orthodoxy in the United States. I had the privilege of interviewing this fascinating man for my Ph.D. dissertation while he was still a pastor in Carteret, N.J. His memory lives on.

As bishop, Basil Losten has had few peers. He is a man of unflappable good humor; his episcopacy has been a model of indefatigable Christian commitment. He is a charismatic leader who spent weekends visiting parishes to encourage priests and parishioners alike to love the Lord and, when necessary, to get off their butts.

The author of numerous theological monographs, Bishop Losten has been an enthusiastic ecumenist, an outstanding administrator and a man grounded in Catholic principle and sanctity. No cream puff, he's been tough when he's had to be, conciliatory when necessary and jolly when appropriate. Whatever he starts, he finishes. His legacy is vast. Among his many laurels is the coveted Shevchenko Freedom Award, which he received from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America in 2004.

It was Bishop Losten who initiated The Sower, unquestionably the best Ukrainian Catholic periodical we have. Professionally edited, well-organized, and interesting to read, The Sower remains a tribute to the vision of Basil Losten.

Committed to inter-Christian dialogue, Bishop Losten is co-founder of an international ecumenical discussion group, an effort that led to his being named by Pope John Paul II to the Pontifical Commission for Christian Unity.

By far the most far-reaching contribution of Bishop Losten to his beloved Ukrainian Church is the seminary in Stamford. Realizing early on the importance of training the next generation of Catholic priests in Ukraine to be competent, energetic and informed, he has staffed his seminary with the best talent available. Seminarians undergo a rigorous and demanding course of intellectual study and moral enrichment; graduates return to Ukraine eager to renew and invigorate the Body of Christ.

Basil Losten's early years were spent in Maryland where, along with his brothers, he worked in his family's modest dairy. In a tribute to Bishop Losten which appeared recently in The Sower, Msgr. Leon Mosko, mentions a memory that still sticks in the bishop's mind: "on a blizzard day during Christmas season – when the drivers could not even make it to the dairy, Bishop Losten, still a teenager, loaded a truck and made milk run after milk run to the stores on Route 1."

"From the earliest days," explains Msgr. Mosko, a one-time classmate, "Bishop Losten was a man of action, a man who initiated and saw projects through to their realization ... The commitment to service, encouraged by his sacrificing parents and the example set by his family, has become the hallmark of his years in the priesthood and episcopacy."

Bishop Losten "firmly believes that if he and the clergy of his eparchy do not give of their all in the service of their Church, the faithful will suffer and, eventually, be lost to other, larger Churches," concludes Msgr. Mosko.

Forgive me for a slight digression here but haven't you wondered why it is that Bishop Losten never became our metropolitan? He certainly had the seniority. I've thought about it, and what I've concluded isn't pretty.

Being a Ukrainian bishop has never been easy. Ukrainians are not given to being shepherded, especially by a bishop. We can be ornery, willful, and tiresome – and that's on our good days. Take a look around your congregation this Sunday and ask yourself, are you among a group of joy-filled Christians? Would you be eager to join your church if this was your first visit? If you were a stranger, would your parish compatriots go out of their way to welcome you, or would they either totally ignore you or stare at you as if you were something the parish cat dragged in?

Word on the street has it that Bishop Losten, now an emeritus bishop, will still serve in some capacity, sharing his wisdom and his enthusiasm. No one is more familiar with the history of our Ukrainian Catholic Church during the last 50 years. No one has been more pro-active on her behalf. And no one can serve as a better mentor for our newly hatched Ukrainian bishops.

Although he richly deserves a long, comfortable retirement far from the snows of Stamford, Bishop Losten should stick around. There is much that still needs to be done. He knows the drill. There are egos to salve, fences to mend and stray sheep to be collected. No one can do it better.

*Dr. Myron B. Kuropas's e-mail address is [kuropas@comcast.net](mailto:kuropas@comcast.net).*



# OBSERVATIONS: An institution that deserves our respect

by Walter Prochorenko

Courtesy, confidentiality and efficiency. These are the service mandates of one of our best known and respected Ukrainian institutions: Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union. Couple this mandate with the three tenets of the business philosophy that this financial institution espouses – establishing a good customer base, maintaining a high capital ratio and providing loans to help in the development of the community – and you can see the reason for Self Reliance New York’s tremendous success.

In recent reports by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), which encompass 9,300 credit unions in the United States, Self Reliance in New York ranked fourth in average share balance, fifth in average loans, ninth in net worth, 16th in lowest expenses, and 25th in returns on assets. This is quite an accomplishment considering that these criteria were measured against some federal credit union powerhouses such as those of the U.S. Navy, the Pentagon, all of the various 50 States employees’, etc. The Navy credit union alone has over \$25 billion in assets, and there are now over 100 Credit Unions with over \$1 billion in assets. Thus to beat out such “big boys” in these rankings should make us

*Dr. Walter Prochorenko is director of publications at the Ukrainian National Association. He holds a Ph.D. in international business and wrote his dissertation on the economic and political situation of Ukraine since independence.*

very proud. No wonder the national banks are becoming very nervous and want to change the rules and regulations that govern federal credit unions.

Recent success of Self Reliance New York can be attributed to the affable and dedicated president of this institution who has been on the board of directors since 1973, and its CEO since 1992: Bohdan J. Kekish. Dr. Kekish is a former economist for Moody’s Averages and a former investment banker with Hornblower, Weeks Hemphill and Noyes Inc.

Dr. Kekish expresses great pride and satisfaction not in himself or in his own achievements, but in how much this credit union has meant to the Ukrainian community; how much this establishment has given to various educational, artistic and community causes; and how democratic the entire institution remains.

Started in 1951 with \$350 in deposits, Self Reliance New York now has well over \$500 million in assets and hopes to attain the \$1 billion mark very shortly. That’s quite an accomplishment for an institution that only requires a \$50 membership fee and a minimal deposit in order that the members can enjoy some of the very best interest rates on their money, lower than average mortgage and loan rates, and friendly personal services from a well-trained staff. Dr. Kekish also proudly points out that any member regardless of how much he or she has with the credit union has the same single vote as any other member, even though their deposits can differ by millions of dollars. This is democracy at its best.



The leaders of Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union: (seated, from left) Bohdan J. Kekish, president and CEO; Myroslaw Shmigel, chairman of the board; (standing) Andrew Juzeniw, board member; Jaroslaw Oberyszyn, vice-chairman of the board; Lubomyr Zielyk, board member; Catherine Popovech, board member; Orest Glut, Membership Committee chairman; Stefan Kaczaraj, board member; and Bohdan Kurczak, treasurer and chief financial officer.

Completing this democratic formula is the credit union’s board of directors, which meets monthly and which provides an interactive source of ideas while also acting as an important sounding board for innovative services and processes. Dr. Kekish speaks of his board members as his associates and proudly refers to their collective achievement. The board’s importance and their own individual and collective accomplishments also must not be underestimated.

As for community relations, very few institutions or individuals give back as much to the community as does this New York credit union. Last year alone, Self Reliance, directly or through its newly

formed NY Self Reliance Foundation Ltd., gave over \$1 million for community projects. This consisted of donations of \$250,000 to Columbia University’s Ukrainian studies program, some \$500,000 to The Ukrainian Museum (part of an overall \$1 million donated so far), \$50,000 to the Ukrainian Free University, \$1,000 for every year of the 100 years that St. George’s Church has been in existence, and various amounts to miscellaneous schools, museums, concerts, choirs, dance and drama groups, seminars, etc. Therefore, it is no wonder that Self Reliance has only a 0.01 percent

(Continued on page 16)



# УКРАЇНА

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Tour Name	Tour Dates	# Days	Itinerary	Price
Mini Ukraine I	May 18   May 26	9	L'viv, Kyiv	\$1975
Ukraine & Russia I Escort: Dr. Walter Karpinich	May 20   May 30	11	Kyiv, Moscow, St. Petersburg plus: Pushkin/Petrodvorets . Special Features: "White nights" in St. Petersburg	\$2990
Best of Ukraine I	May 25   Jun 09	16	Kyiv, Odesa (Bilhorod Dnistrovsky), Yalta, L'viv plus: Bakchysaray, Sevastopol and Chersonesus, Karpaty-Slavsk	\$3390
Dnipro Cruise "MS Dnipro Princess"	May 30   Jun 11	13	Kyiv, Kaniv, Kremenchuk, Zaporizhia, Kherson, Sevastopol, Odesa (rate includes: air + cruise)	\$2475
Western Ukraine + Poland I	Jun 23   Jul 07	15	Kyiv, L'viv, Yaremche, L'viv, Krakow plus: Rohatyn, Ivano Frankivsk, Vorokhta, Kolomyja, Zarvanytcia	\$3350
Best of Ukraine II	Jun 29   Jul 14	16	Kyiv, Odesa (Bilhorod Dnistrovsky), Yalta, L'viv plus: Bakchysaray, Sevastopol and Chersonesus, Karpaty-Slavsk.	\$3590
Mini Ukraine II	Jul 06   Jul 14	9	L'viv, Kyiv	\$2290
Ukraine & Russia II	Jul 08   Jul 18	11	Kyiv, Moscow, St. Petersburg plus: Pushkin/Petrodvorets	\$3190
Ukraine, Poland + Hungary I	Jul 12   Jul 23	12	Kyiv, L'viv, Krakow, Budapest plus: Wieliczka Salt Mines and Szentandre Village	\$2690
Western Ukraine + Poland II	Jul 21   Aug 04	15	Kyiv, L'viv, Yaremche, L'viv, Krakow plus: Rohatyn, Ivano Frankivsk, Vorokhta, Kolomyja, Zarvanytcia	\$3350
"TAK" – Student Tour Escort: Dr. Adriana Helbig Chaperon: Oresta Fedyniak Age: 18-35	Aug 02   Aug 21	20	Kyiv, Odesa, Yalta, L'viv, Yaremche, Budapest plus: Kaniv, Bakchysaraj, Chersonesus, Sevastopol, Rohatyn, Vorokhta, Kolomyja, Ivano Frankivsk	\$3790
Eastern Ukraine	Aug 15   Aug 29	15	Kharkiv, Poltava, Chernihiv, Kyiv (Independence Day), L'viv plus: Sorochynskyj Yarmarok	\$3290
Western Ukraine + Poland III	Aug 18   Sep 01	15	Kyiv, L'viv (Independence Day), Yaremche, Krakow plus: Rohatyn, Ivano Frankivsk, Vorokhta, Kolomyja, Zarvanytcia	\$3090
Mini Ukraine III	Aug 17   Aug 25	9	L'viv, Kyiv (Independence Day )	\$2150
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Dnipro Cruise "MS Gen. Vatutin "	Sep 09   Sep 24	16	Kyiv, Kaniv, Kremenchuk, Zaporizhia, Odesa, Sevastopol, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv (rate includes: air + cruise)	\$2650
Ukraine, Poland + Hungary II	Sep 13   Sep 24	12	Kyiv, L'viv, Krakow, Budapest plus: Wieliczka Salt Mines and Szentandre Village	\$2490
Western Ukraine + Poland IV	Sep 22   Oct 06	15	Kyiv, L'viv, Yaremche, L'viv, Krakow plus: Rohatyn, Ivano Frankivsk, Vorokhta, Kolomyja, Zarvanytcia	\$2890
Mini Ukraine IV	Sep 28   Oct 06	9	L'viv, Kyiv	\$1875
Ukraine & Russia III	Sep 30   Oct 10	11	Kyiv, Moscow, St. Petersburg plus: Pushkin/Petrodvorets	\$2790

Features: All rates include air/land arrangements, transfers, meals (except ski tour), sightseeing and portorage. Not included: Airport security taxes, excursions on cruises and gratuities. Rates subject to currency fluctuation and fuel surcharge. For individual travel arrangements, lowest airfares to Ukraine and additional cruise departures call or e mail Scope!



## Exhibition highlights the colors and melodies of Christmas holidays

by Larissa Babij

Special to the Weekly

KYIV – At the end of Khreschatyk, strung with festive holiday lights, vibrant banners over the entrance to the Ukrayinskyi Dim announce the exhibition “Rizdvo: Koliory I Melodii” (Christmas: Colors and Melodies). While the objects on display and the carols playing in the background may be familiar to diaspora Ukrainians, the exhibit presents a wide variety of holiday traditions and folk artifacts to a population that has greatly lost its sense of cultural heritage.

“Christmas was celebrated that way then in Ukraine as it is now in America,” said Lidia Lykhach, one of the curators. “And now, unfortunately, through the 70 Soviet years, it’s not so.”

President Viktor Yushchenko, a long-time collector and champion of his nation’s cultural history, approached Ms. Lykhach, who is an adviser to the Ministry of Culture, and the Rodovid Gallery to organize an exhibition showing the Ukrainian way of celebrating the holidays. Mr. Yushchenko writes in the foreword to the exhibition catalogue: “The Christmas traditions are the wisdom and faith of our people.”

Drawing from the collections of President Yushchenko, Petro Honchar, Vasyl Vovkun and her own, Ms. Lykhach, together with co-curators Mr. Vovkun and Iryna Azizova, chose embroidered ritual cloths, pottery, icons of the winter saints, wooden crosses, 19th century church statuary, and a



A view of the exhibit “Christmas: Colors and Melodies” that was on display in Kyiv.

many-branched “didukh” to accompany detailed descriptions of how Christmas, the New Year and many lesser known winter holidays have historically been celebrated in various regions of Ukraine.

“The idea was ... to uphold the Ukrainian calendar, to show that holidays can be [celebrated] in a different manner,” Ms. Lykhach explained. “People have become disaccustomed to celebrating. ... In Kyiv or somewhere further south, they don’t even play Christmas songs as is normal throughout the world.”

A group of 10-year-olds from the

Specialized School of the Intellect in Kyiv came in to see firsthand the artifacts they study in their history and narodoznavstvo courses. Their teacher, Tatiana Bondarenko, said, “Unfortunately a lot [of the customs] have been forgotten. Therefore, the children only now are beginning to understand this.”

Each artifact is labeled with a date and a region. An information table holds books for sale, including the catalogue. Friendly exhibition guides are available to answer questions about specific works and lead occasional tours.

The exhibition room, designed by Kyiv architects Larissa Merkulova and Vadim Zaplatnikov, is draped in black cloth to contrast with the bright colors of the objects, which also include “kylyms,” intricately beaded and embroidered folk costumes, and handcrafted saddles and boots. “When we were thinking about the actual exhibit, it wasn’t only to show Christmas,” Ms. Lykhach explained. “We thought to simply have an exhibit about the colors and melodies of Ukrainian holidays in general.”

She continued, “We immediately conceived that this exhibit would travel all over Ukraine.” Further destinations include Crimea, Kharkiv, possibly Donetsk and other southern and eastern locations. “Koliory i Melodii” may even reach The Ukrainian Museum in New York and Chicago.

President Yushchenko hopes this exhibition will encourage the preservation of Ukraine’s cultural heritage and lead to discussions of how the attributes and symbolism of the Ukrainian holiday calendar can live on in the present. He sees these traditions as a force that could draw all Ukrainians, from residents of the center of Kyiv to the smallest villages, into one unified nation.

Since the exhibition first opened in Kyiv on December 29, 2005, on weekends it receives between 1,000 and 1,500 visitors daily. It was extended through January 28, and is sponsored by the Rodovid Gallery, Museum of Ivan Honchar and the international charitable fund “Ukraine 3000.”

## Ukrainian Catholic University greets Christmas visitors



Students of the Ukrainian Catholic University put on a traditional vertep (Christmas play) for visitors from eastern and southern Ukraine.

by Petro Didula

LVIV – As part of the Christmas Together event for January 2006, Lviv hosted approximately 7,000 guests from eastern and southern Ukraine. Of these, 560 high school and college students came to the city through the mediation of the organizing committee of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU). The young guests came from Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Kramatorsk, Odesa, the Poltava region, Symferopol and Kharkiv.

For the event’s second year, the number of families that received guests from the east into their homes, both from the UCU community and the city in general, decreased drastically. In 2006 there were approximately 60 participating families, while in January 2005, more than 300 families told UCU’s Christmas Together organizing committee of their desire to be hosts.

Consequently, this year only a small portion of the guests were able to greet Christmas in a family setting. So the vast majority of them tasted “kutia” within the walls of the university, with the participation of the UCU rector, the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, and approximately 60 staff and students of UCU.

“At the end of [2004] we experienced a great national uplift,” said Nadiia Rodnienkova, head of UCU’s Christmas Together organizing committee for 2006. “The end of 2005, on the contrary, passed with significant disillusionment. And this could not help but leave its mark on the Christmas Together event. But along with this,

we noticed this year that the practice of inviting guests from the east of Ukraine is becoming a tradition for Lviv. For example, the parish churches of St. Anna, the Most Holy Eucharist and Protection on their own initiative received guests this year.”

The majority of UCU’s guests arrived at Lviv’s main train station on the morning of January 6. Students and staff of the UCU greeted them in an organized manner and, thanks to the help of a local transport association, brought them to their lodgings. These included Holy Spirit Seminary in Rudno (a suburb of Lviv), and the dormitories of the Military Institute and the Iron-Cement Construction Factory. Lodging in families was organized by 10 local parish churches.

“The first day, some of the guests even expressed to the organizers of the event their open discontent that they were not to stay with families. But this attitude changed by the end,” said Ms. Rodnienkova. “The leader of a group from Yuzhnoukraiinsk came up to me with pretensions: Why wasn’t her group to lodge in a family? But already the next day she put a kolach [large, round loaf of bread] in my hands in gratitude. ‘Now I understand,’ said the woman, ‘how much you have done so that we would really experience this Christmas.’ At the end of the event, I didn’t hear any complaints from our guests about the living conditions. Good organizing of the event ‘washed away’ all the little inconveniences.”

The program for the participants of the event was very full. Within the walls of the UCU, Christmas Eve dinner was served to 560 people, including 60 people with special needs. In addition, breakfasts and dinners were organized for the guests at their places of lodging and lunches were offered at the UCU.

There were excursions through Lviv and to museums, to the neighboring towns of Krekhiv and Univ, visits to theaters, roundtables, meetings with groups of carolers and verteps (Christmas plays). Each guest received a sack with a book of carols and liturgical texts for Christmas, spiritual and historical literature, and a schedule of religious services at various churches in Lviv.

“This year I received guests from the Poltava region,” said Hryhorii Kozii, a resident of Lviv’s Riasne neighborhood. “But, if last year we ourselves kept our guests from the east of Ukraine busy, this year the guests pretty much only spent

the night at our house. The program for them was so full that there was nothing left for us to organize. Or maybe just to listen in the evenings to their enthralled accounts about Lviv and Christmas.”

Numerous organizations and businesses helped organize the event. The St. Volodymyr Fund organized excursions through Lviv and more than 30 organizations provided produce and necessary expenses.

Produce and even prepared dishes were brought for the guests from all over Lviv. Bread, varenyky, cookies and pastries, fish, mushrooms, wheat, fresh coffee, bottled water, disposable utensils and even mobile phone costs were taken care of by various generous local businesses. Local television and radio stations and a newspaper provided informational support.

“Our main goal was to initiate in human souls, in the souls of youth, the desire to live out their religious and national traditions,” said Myroslav Marynovych, vice-rector of the UCU. “In Ukraine these traditions are varied. We don’t want to impose the traditions of Halychyna alone on all Ukraine. Our aim is to call forth this interior work of the soul, directed at reviving local religious and national traditions. There is a possibility that soon Christmas Together will take place in Kharkiv, where they celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ according to Slobozhan traditions, and this time with the participation of guests from Halychyna.”

“It’s very good that such events exist,” said Khrystyna Iliina from Crimea. “They make people tolerant, kinder and more attentive to one another, regardless of the political situation in the country.”

“I never thought that I could celebrate Christmas in such a merry way!” said Daryna Tsupko from Kharkiv.

“I am grateful that we had the opportunity to encounter the fairy-tale wonder of Christmas,” said Aliona Horbatko from Mykolaiv. “Great organization, hospitable people, pleasant meetings. For us this was an unforgettable Christmas. We became more deeply acquainted with the traditions of Ukrainians.”

Further information about the UCU in English and Ukrainian is available on the university’s website at [www.ucu.edu.ua](http://www.ucu.edu.ua). Readers may also contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; phone, (773) 235-8462; e-mail, [ucef@ucef.org](mailto:ucef@ucef.org); website, [www.ucef.org](http://www.ucef.org). The phone number of the UCEF in Canada is (416) 239-2495.



## COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

### Ukrainians carol at Rockefeller Center's landmark Christmas tree



Olena Turkalo

NEW YORK – For only the second consecutive year, Rockefeller Center's landmark Christmas tree was left lit through Christmas according to the Julian (old-style) calendar. And, to celebrate the occasion, Ukrainians gathered on January 7 at Rockefeller Center for an evening of impromptu caroling by candlelight. Their singing of Ukrainian Christmas carols drew the attention of passers-by and once again underlined the strong presence of the Ukrainian community in New York City.



Lev Khmelkovsky

### 10 parish choirs perform in joint Christmas concert

PARMA, Ohio – On Sunday, December 11, 2005, St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral was the site for a Christmas concert sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox clergy.

Participating in the concert were parish choirs from 10 local Orthodox churches, including the 35-voice choir from St. Vladimir's Cathedral.

The very beautiful finale was sung by members from

all the choirs – 180 voices strong – singing traditional carols together in front of the iconostasis. The combined choir was directed by chairman of the concert and St. Vladimir's Cathedral choir director, Markian Komichak.

Following the concert, the participants and audience enjoyed a festive reception in the parish's cultural center prepared by the members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League.



Over 180 singers from 10 Orthodox parishes, sing the finale at the Christmas concert held at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio.

### Tryzub Sports Center hosts New Year's event

by Christine Rizanow

HORSHAM, Pa. – The Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center held a Mardi Gras-themed New Year's Eve celebration, and what a celebration it was! As the guests entered the foyer, they were captivated by the transformation of the main banquet room.

The walls were covered with seven 15-foot murals designed and painted in the spirit of Mardi Gras by Mykhailo Danilowych, an artist from Ukraine who currently resides in North Wales, Pa. These original murals, with very vibrant masquerade-like colors, created a mood for the rest of the transformation.

The ceiling was scattered with colorful opened umbrellas hanging upside down, creating a unique design for the festive celebration. Thousands of petite white lights added to the atmosphere.

The guests' tables were covered with gold, purple and green colored tablecloths; each chair was camouflaged with a floor-length chair cover. The centerpieces were created from top hats, in colors complementing the tablecloths and overstuffed with unique flowers. The finishing touch of the centerpieces was long twisted branches sprayed in various colors, one of which held a feather-covered Mardi Gras mask.

Live Latin guitar music was provided during the two hours of hors d'oeuvres and open bar, which consisted of various Martinis, exclusively selected red and white wines, and imported beer. Following the two hours of hors d'oeuvres, guests were invited to enjoy the Viennese sweets, coffee and tea. Champagne was provided for the midnight toast.

The band Fata Morgana entertained guests with many traditional Ukrainian melodies, along with many contemporary popular rock tunes.

At midnight, the New Year was celebrated with a full breakfast. The guests were then able to step out onto the deck to enjoy a fireworks display sponsored by Tryzub.

The Tryzub Fund-Raising and Events Committee thanked Elizabeth Kolomyec from LizKDesign for creating the Mardi Gras concept, bringing together the volunteers and supervising the process.



## St. Andrew Brotherhood holds annual meeting

by Ihor Sawon

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – The primary objective of St. Andrew Brotherhood is defined as the reunification of all parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. with Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate under the current leadership of Patriarch Filaret.

On Sunday, November 26, 2005, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church, South Bound Brook, N.J., held its annual meeting with the Very Rev. Yuriy Siwko, pastor and spiritual advisor to the brotherhood, attending and opening the meeting with a prayer.

The general membership of the brotherhood unanimously elected a new executive board, with the re-election of Ihor Sawon as president. The balance of the executive board consists of: Roman Hirniak, vice-president; Frank Beck, treasurer; Vitaliy Kurinnyy, Ukrainian secretary; Raymond Burns Jr., English secretary; and Volodymyr Hryhorenko and Wasyl Krasnobryzj, board members.

The Auditing Committee consists of: Oleksij Shevchenko, Anatoly Gorloff and Vinamin Nesenjuk, while the Advisory Committee consists of Victor Babanskyj, Wasyl Doroshenko and Michael Shulha.

A considerable amount of time was spent by members of the brotherhood discussing the recent announcement from the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey, concerning the elevation of Archimandrite Andriy (Peshko) from

Chicago to bishop and his assignment as an assistant to Metropolitan Constantine, primate of the UOC-U.S.A. Concerns of the brotherhood centered around the question of why Istanbul is appointing a bishop/assistant within the UOC-U.S.A. when the UOC-U.S.A. Constitution specifically vests this responsibility in the Sobor of the UOC-U.S.A.

Numerous questions were also raised concerning who the ultimate authority is on the elevation of bishops/metropolitans and whether the current action of the Ecumenical Patriarchate reaffirms the UOC-U.S.A. status as simply a "diocese" within the Church of Constantinople.

It was unanimously agreed by brotherhood members that we are currently not the "masters of our own house" and that all decision-making powers reside with a foreign Church located in Istanbul.

Further, considerable dismay was verbalized by the general membership to the news announcement from Istanbul referencing UOC-U.S.A. parishes as "belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate."

With the above news announcement from Istanbul, the newly re-elected president, Mr. Sawon, posed a question to the membership regarding what the brotherhood's aims and objectives should be in the future years.

After considerable discussion among the general brotherhood membership and input from the Very Rev. Siwko as to the status of the UOC-Canada and UAOC in Europe, the latter being under the spiritual leadership of Metropolitan

(Continued on page 19)

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# Major grant helps Ukraine's National Preserve of Chersonesos

by Taissa Bushnell

SEVASTOPOL, Ukraine – Thanks to a generous grant from the Packard Humanities Institute, the National Preserve of Tauric Chersonesos can finally house its most precious archaeological treasures in a modern facility that is equipped with appropriate environmental controls and suitable space to store artifacts.

Located on the shores of the Black

about the economic, religious and social character of Chersonesos in each period of its history.

Today the Chersonesos museum's collections house approximately 200,000 artifacts in 17 different spaces scattered throughout buildings of the 19th century, remnants of a former monastery. Unfortunately, the conditions in these stores are far from the standards required for the safe storage of valuable archaeological finds. Some stores are located in

and cultural heritage protection.

The Packard Humanities Institute (PHI) supports a limited number of archaeological projects – in Greece, Albania and Turkey. Chersonesos has been very fortunate indeed to be one of the sites on this short list. Since 1999, PHI has funded major preservation projects at Chersonesos administered by ICA, including the conservation of exposed archaeological structures (ancient residential buildings, churches,

Laboratory.” In fact, construction on the new building was completed just in time: when the ceiling in the museum's Ancient Hall began to crumble and leak last November, the many priceless artifacts on display were quickly moved to the Packard Laboratory for temporary storage.

## Teaching a new generation

With construction finished in October 2005, the moving-in phase is currently being organized by the museum's



A picture of the 19th century monastery bathhouse that was converted into the Packard Laboratory.



A photo of the Packard Laboratory after completion of construction.

Sea in Sevastopol, Ukraine, this archaeological preserve is one of Ukraine's most important historical and cultural heritage sites, but its rich collections are suffering in dilapidated storage facilities, a result of decades of inadequate funding.

## Treasures in unsuitable surroundings

Chersonesos, founded as an ancient Greek colony in the 5th century B.C., existed as a city until the 14th century, and the artifacts that have been generated as a result of 200 years of excavation reflect the daily life of its nearly 2,000 year existence. Prehistoric cooking vessels, Hellenistic painted grave monuments, Roman glassware and bronze sculpture, Byzantine floor mosaics and carved stone icons all provide clues

basements that flood periodically; in others, wooden shelving and cardboard boxes used to store artifacts invite insects. Because of a lack of appropriate funding, the Collections Department can do little more than monitor the temperature and humidity of the rooms on very simple instruments.

## Packard support helps save Chersonesos

Due in large part to the scientific publications and outreach work of the Institute of Classical Archaeology (ICA) of the University of Texas at Austin and its director, Prof. Joseph Coleman Carter, the unique history of Chersonesos and its modern-day plights have reached a wide audience in the West, interesting leading sponsors in the fields of archaeological

public buildings) which make up the open-air exhibit of the preserve, and the creation of a consistent program of conservation throughout the site which will conform to international standards.

Another project is the digitization of the holdings of the scientific library and archive as a result of which thousands of fragile documents, including archaeological field reports from the 19th century and maps, plans and photographs of Chersonesos will be scanned and available on the web for worldwide accessibility. However, by far the largest contribution by PHI has been the much-needed facility for the storage and study of finds, a building that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine has promised will officially be called the “Packard

Collections Department and ICA. The two basement floors have been designated to house the epigraphical collection of the museum and other large stone monuments.

The ground floor provides a spacious and bright area for the study of the different kinds of artifacts unearthed during excavation: ceramics, bone, glass, metal. It is also a convenient location for conferences and large group meetings, in fact the only large venue available today at the museum. Conservators are preparing an attractive open storage display of Hellenistic painted grave monuments for the ground floor.

On the gallery floor, eight work stations are being installed where participants of the joint excavations of ICA and the Chersonesos museum will have access to desktop computers, scanners, printers, digital cameras for the processing of finds and geographical data from the excavation site. Nowhere in Chersonesos is there such a unified area both for the temporary storage of finds and copious space to lay them all out for study.

Specialists who come from all over the world to work on the joint excavation in all its various fields – ceramics, physical anthropology, zooarchaeology, paleobotany, metallurgy – will now have a common study area which will facilitate the exchange of information during the excavation season.

This interdisciplinary approach to the study of ancient life provides a broad view of what daily existence in Chersonesos was like, and is a main tenet of Dr. Carter and ICA. It is this multi-faceted method of analysis that Dr. Carter hopes will take root in the next generation of Ukrainian archaeologists: he invites about 15 students from different Ukrainian universities – The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Taras Shevchenko National University, Tauric National University in Symferopol – to take part in the joint excavations at Chersonesos. The kind of collaborative work conducted in the



Preparation of stelai display on the ground floor of the laboratory.

(Continued on page 13)



## Major grant...

(Continued from page 12)

Packard Laboratory with students working alongside leading experts in their fields is truly a U.S.-Ukraine success story and will serve as an example for future cooperation in archaeology in Ukraine.

### A new approach

The Packard Laboratory will be equipped with reliable heating and air conditioning units not only for comfortable working conditions, but also for the guaranteed controlled environments required for the proper care of archaeological collections. Environmental sensors have been installed to monitor the microclimates on the two basement floors of the building where artifacts will be stored to ensure stable temperature and humidity.

A specialist in collections care from the Museum of London was invited in the summer of 2005 to install the devices and to train the Chersonesos collections staff in their proper use. Plans are in place to install such devices in each of the 17 stores next summer.

"Now, instead of physically visiting every store to check temperature and humidity readings on primitive thermostats, we will be able to monitor all the environments from our office," said Elena

Kochetkova of the Collections Department. The sensors send the data hourly through radio signals to a base station hooked up to a computer there. The data is finally processed into easy-to-read graphics. Only in the Packard Laboratory, however, will it be possible to change the environment if necessary, thanks to the heating and air-conditioning units.

The steps being taken in the Packard Laboratory to ensure the safe storage of the archaeological heritage of Chersonesos are indications of a new understanding of cultural heritage management on the part of the Chersonesos museum.

The general director of the National Preserve of Tauric Chersonesos, Leonid Marchenko, noted that the Packard Laboratory sets a standard for the rest of the buildings on the preserve in its architectural style and level of accommodation for collections care. "All our stores are located in buildings which are well over a hundred years old. This will be the first building on the preserve to be designed with both the comfort of people working inside and the safety of stored artifacts in mind. Its construction had to adhere to strict national requirements because of its location on an archaeological preserve, so we chose to reconstruct a former monastery bathhouse to preserve its footprint and not damage other archaeologically sensitive areas." "In the course of construction, however, we did have to



President Viktor Yushchenko visits the site of the joint excavation of ICA and the Chersonesos Preserve in August 2005.

expand the foundations somewhat and we hit archaeological structures – a street perhaps dating to the 4th century B.C. and abutting rooms of the 10th-13th centuries – but these were subsequently incorporated into the design and saved," Mr. Marchenko said. "Visitors can view them through specially designed windows inserted into the lower walls."

"In view of our aspirations to join the UNESCO World Heritage List, we are especially grateful to Dr. Packard and Dr. Carter for enabling us to start meeting international standards in collections care. This is by far the largest charitable donation given to any museum in Ukraine" he underscored.

### The next big project

Recent visits to Chersonesos by President Yushchenko have accelerated plans for the creation of an archaeological park in the chora, or ancient agricultural territory, of Chersonesos. [The President has initiated an international non-profit organization called "Friends of Chersonesos" ("Druzi Khersonesu") to help support the future development of

the Preserve; Dr. Carter and the author have been invited to represent the fund in the U.S.] Chersonesos and Metaponto in southern Italy are the best examples of rural life in the ancient world to survive to the present day. ICA, which focuses its research on the study of these ancient chorai, is involved in the planning of one of the areas designated to become a park. The Packard Humanities Institute has also expressed an interest in sponsoring this, the first archaeological park of the ancient Greek countryside in the world, which will preserve an important component of Ukraine's archaeological heritage and make Chersonesos a leading world heritage site for the use, study, and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Taissa Bushnell, formerly of New Jersey, directs "Pidtrymka Chersonesu," a non-profit organization in Sevastopol that supports and monitors the heritage preservation activities of the Institute of Classical Archaeology of the University of Texas (Austin) at Chersonesos. She may be reached at [taissa@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:taissa@mail.utexas.edu). For information readers may log on to [www.utexas.edu/ica/research](http://www.utexas.edu/ica/research).



Installation of desks for work stations on the gallery floor of the Packard Laboratory.

## BOOK NOTES

### New philatelic handbook focuses on Carpatho-Ukraine

*"Handbook of Carpatho-Ukrainian Philately"* by Jay Carrigan and Inger Kuzych. Ukrainian Philatelic Resources, P.O. Box 3, Springfield VA 22150. ii + 74 pages. Price \$10 postpaid to the United States, \$12 postpaid to Canada or overseas surface, \$18 overseas air.

The latest release from Ukrainian Philatelic Resources is "Handbook of Carpatho-Ukrainian Philately." This publication is the most comprehensive English-language treatment ever of this obscure yet fascinating area of philately.

Because of its tumultuous past, Carpatho-Ukraine is an area that is avidly collected by Eastern European specialists, including, but not limited to, Ukrainian, Czech, Slovak and Hungarian philatelists.

Three main chapters in this profusely illustrated book cover all facets of Carpatho-Ukrainian collecting. Chapter 1 introduces the region Carpatho-Ukraine, how it came to attain independence, and its stamps of 1939 and 1945. Also presented is information on Carpatho-Ukrainian postal rates, water-

marks on stamps and local issues.

The second chapter is a comprehensive catalogue of Carpatho-Ukrainian stamps that includes all major varieties of the 110 stamps issued by this short-lived entity, as well as their prices. Supplementing this chapter is an appendix of unissued stamps: a listing of overprinted Hungarian revenue stamps that were prepared but never went into circulation.

Chapter 3 deals with Carpatho-Ukrainian postal stationery, and is the most complete such listing ever compiled. Included are all of the various stationery products prepared in March of 1939 for Carpatho-Ukraine's first-ever stamp issue, the famous 3-koruny blue. In 1945, when Carpatho-Ukraine again

regained its independence, no less than 22 distinct Hungarian postal card types were overprinted into Carpatho-Ukrainian stationery. Quality control, however, was not that stringent, so many varieties were created; they are all carefully described and

priced in this book.

A fourth "bonus" chapter concludes the handbook. It covers the 1941 provisional postal cards overprinted in the town of Kolomyia – just outside of Carpatho-Ukraine proper. Other than the Carpatho-Ukrainian issues detailed in the first three chapters, these overprinted Soviet postal cards were the only other Ukrainian-produced postal items from World War II.

The authors of the handbook are both well-known philatelists. Jay Carrigan is a respected national philatelic judge specializing in World War II-era postal releases. Inger Kuzych is the president of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic society and a prolific author and researcher. This is his third Ukrainian philatelic handbook.

The pages of "Handbook of Carpatho-Ukrainian Philately" first appeared in the journal *Ukrainian Philatelist* in the fall of 2005. They have been repackaged into this special publication to make them available to a wider audience.





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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Russian citizens initiated by the Foreign  
Ministry," Mr. Filipchuk added. The  
Russian Foreign Ministry said Mr.  
Frolov's deportation was "not consistent  
with the traditional relations of friendship  
and cooperation between our countries."  
(RFE/RL Newsline)

#### Poles list Yushchenko among top pols

WARSAW – According to an opinion  
poll by the All-National Center for Public  
Opinion Studies, respondents view ex-  
President Aleksander Kwasniewski as  
2005's No. 1 politician (18 percent).  
President Lech Kaczinski is the runner-up (8  
percent) and is followed by Prime Minister  
Karzimirz Marcinkiewicz and Donald  
Tusk, leader of the party Civil Platform. The  
poll also named U.S. President George W.  
Bush 2005's most popular foreign politician,  
ahead of German Chancellor Angela  
Merkel, British Prime Minister Tony Blair,  
Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and  
Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

#### PM warns of gas cuts to industry

KYIV – Prime Minister Yuriy  
Yekhanurov on January 26 announced that  
the government will reduce gas supplies to  
industrial facilities if they ignore its order  
to reduce gas consumption, Interfax-  
Ukraine reported. "If they do not under-  
stand spoken language, we will use normal  
administrative methods. The government  
still controls the tap," Mr. Yekhanurov told  
journalists in Kyiv. Mr. Yekhanurov's  
warning came against the backdrop of  
repeated charges from Gazprom that  
Ukraine siphons off Russian transit gas  
bound for Europe. Mr. Yekhanurov also  
declared that Ukraine, which is currently  
consuming 427 million cubic meters of gas  
per day, will reduce consumption by 15  
percent within the next 24 hours. And  
Naftohaz Ukrayiny head Oleksii Ivchenko  
said on Channel 5 on January 26 that  
Ukraine in January will exceed the limit of  
Russian gas contracted for this month.  
Meanwhile, Gazprom spokesman Sergei  
Kupriyanov said the same day that Ukraine  
has already consumed its entire January  
quota of Russian gas. (RFE/RL Newsline)

#### Cold reaction to coalition offer

KYIV – Socialist Party leader  
Oleksander Moroz said during an online  
news conference hosted by the Ukrayinska  
Pravda website on January 25 that it is  
inexpedient for his party to support the  
pro-presidential Our Ukraine bloc before  
the March 26 parliamentary elections. Mr.  
Moroz was commenting on Our Ukraine's  
recent offer to Orange Revolution support-  
ers to strike such a deal. Mykola Tomenko  
of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which also  
was approached by Our Ukraine with the  
coalition proposal, said the document  
includes "inadmissible principles for form-  
ing a coalition of democratic forces."  
According to Mr. Tomenko, the text of the  
proposal devotes just one and a half pages  
to "abstract democratic values" and as  
many as 10 pages to the distribution of  
government jobs among coalition partici-  
pants after the elections. "The distribution  
of jobs two months before the elections is  
a gross violation of the principles of the  
expression of the people's will, as well as a  
return to the Kuchma-era practice of  
appointing government personnel, when

jobs were distributed by an alliance of oli-  
garchic groups and clans," the Yulia  
Tymoshenko Bloc said in a statement.  
(RFE/RL Newsline)

#### Ukrainian Polish leader dies

WARSAW – The chairman of the  
Association of Ukrainians in Poland, an  
ardent supporter of Ukrainian-Polish rec-  
onciliation, Myron Kertychak, died on  
January 26. Mr. Kertychak, 51, chaired  
the Association of Ukrainians in Poland  
for 16 years. Under his leadership festi-  
vals of Ukrainian culture began to be  
held in Poland. (Ukrinform)

#### Heroes of Kruty remembered

KYIV – Eighty-eight years ago, on  
January 29, 1918, some 400 Kyiv college  
students bravely fought against a Red Army  
contingent more than 10 times stronger near  
the railroad station of Kruty in Chernihiv  
region. Some 300 young men perished in  
the battle near Kruty. Twenty-seven of them  
were buried at Askold's Tomb in Kyiv.  
During the Soviet era the burial place was  
leveled and only in 1991, due to efforts of  
members of the Union of Ukrainian Youth,  
a cross with crown of thorns was erected  
there. On January 21 President Viktor  
Yushchenko signed a resolution honoring  
the memory of the Kruty heroes in connec-  
tion with the 88th anniversary of their hero-  
ism in defense of the fledgling Ukrainian  
National Republic. (Ukrinform)

#### Ukraine to host soccer finals

KYIV – The Executive Committee of the  
Union of European Football Associations  
(UEFA) has chosen the Ukrainian cities of  
Donetsk and Mariupol to host the European  
under-19 soccer championship's final tour-  
naments. Ukraine's young soccer team will  
take part in the 2009 final tournaments  
without taking part in elimination matches.  
(Ukrinform)

#### Delta Air Lines to fly to Kyiv

ATLANTA – Delta Air Lines has  
received the final U.S. government  
approval required to add 11 new routes  
between the U.S. and destinations across  
Europe – including Ukraine – and the  
Middle East this summer. Delta plans to  
offer customers non-stop flights five days  
per week between New York's John F.  
Kennedy International Airport and Boryspil  
International Airport in Kyiv beginning on  
June 5, subject to Ukrainian government  
approval. "Kiev [sic] will be the latest des-  
tination in Delta's expansion into the key  
business and leisure markets of Eastern  
Europe," said Bob Cortelyou, Delta's vice-  
president of network planning. "Delta will  
be the only U.S. carrier to serve Kiev, and  
business travelers on both sides of the  
Atlantic, as well as friends and family of  
Ukrainian heritage in the United States,  
will look forward to this new non-stop  
service between New York-JFK and  
Kiev." (Primezone, Action Ukraine Report)

#### Tymoshenko is "Person of the Year"

KYIV – The weekly Korrespondent  
has named Yulia Tymoshenko "Person of  
the Year 2005." According to Editor  
Vitalii Sych, the title was awarded to Ms.  
Tymoshenko for "her irresistible energy,  
vigorous drive for changes and spectacu-  
lar popularity growth." In the magazine's  
opinion, Ms. Tymoshenko is the most

(Continued on page 15)

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

likely candidate for prime minister after the March parliamentary elections. Assuming this office will make her most influential person in Ukraine, in keeping with the constitutional amendments that took effect on January 1. (Ukrinform)

### Boryspil to get new passenger terminal

KYIV – According to Aleksandr Shishkov, CEO of Boryspil International Airport near Kyiv, in 2008-2009 a new passenger terminal will be built at the airport. The project will be financed through 30-year loans from a Japanese bank. The D Terminal (the future facility's name) will be capable of accepting and servicing 200 passengers per hour. Boryspil Airport's managers are also contemplating construction of new aprons and taxiways along the No. 1 runway. (Ukrinform)

### Decree on fair, transparent elections

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on January 24 signed a decree on ensuring democratic, fair and transparent 2006 elections. He instructed the Cabinet of Ministers and local authorities to create equal conditions for participation of all political parties and blocs in the elections and to prevent officials from using their authority and resources for supporting political forces or candidates. Mr. Yushchenko's decree prohibited any manifestations of administrative pressure

while preparing for and holding the parliamentary elections, interference in the process of free voting, influencing or deceiving voters, applying economic or any other forms of discrimination toward the mass media, and any other unlawful interference in activities of election commissions and court proceedings that may emerge during the elections. The government and the Central Election Commission have been directed to ensure proper conditions for the activities of official observers from foreign states and international organizations, to provide electoral commissions with relevant premises for their work and to prepare full and true lists of voters and the lists' specification if need be. (Ukrinform)

### Verkhovna Rada fires two ministers

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on January 19 voted to dismiss Justice Minister Serhii Holovaty and Fuel and Energy Minister Ivan Plachkov, Ukrainian media reported. Simultaneously, the Parliament passed a no-confidence vote in Naftohaz Ukrayiny chief Oleksii Ivchenko. The relevant resolution was backed by 245 deputies, primarily from the Party of the Regions, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party – United and two factions supporting Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn. On January 10 the Verkhovna Rada had dismissed the entire Cabinet of Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov, blaming it for concluding what the deputies saw as a disadvanta-

geous deal with Russia on gas supplies to Ukraine in 2006. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### President challenges Cabinet's dismissal

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has requested that the Constitutional Court consider the legality of the dismissal of Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov's Cabinet by the Parliament on January 10, the presidential press service's website reported on January 19. The 18-seat Constitutional Court is not operational at present because the Verkhovna Rada has not nominated its quota of judges and refused to take an oath of allegiance from several new judges nominated by President Yushchenko and the Congress of Judges of Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### NSDC backs president's position

KYIV – The National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) on January 18 urged the Verkhovna Rada to annul its January 10 no-confidence motion in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov, thus supporting an earlier demand by President Viktor Yushchenko. The NSDC also responded to Mr. Yushchenko's calls to hold a referendum on constitutional reforms passed in 2004 by advising him to set up a special commission to analyze the reforms that were adopted by the Verkhovna Rada as a compromise to overcome a presidential-election deadlock. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Obolon's new trademark: Shevchenko

KYIV – Andriy Shevchenko, striker on the Ukrainian national soccer team, who plays for Italy's Milan, will personify the Obolon brewery's new trademark, Obolon President Oleksander Slobodian told journalists in Kyiv on January 16. He said a contract to this effect was logical; it will pro-

mote the brewery's products on Ukraine's domestic and foreign markets and will be helpful in popularizing the "game of millions." Mr. Slobodian said the names of the 200 most active participants in an Obolon-sponsored interactive game will be released; they will be entitled to free tickets to the 2006 World Cup Soccer finals in Germany and will support the Ukrainian national team competing there. In late 2005 the closed-type joint-stock company Obolon became the chief sponsor of the Ukrainian national and juvenile soccer teams for 2006-2007. Cooperation with the Ukrainian National Football (Soccer) Federation opens new opportunities for promoting the Ukrainian brewery's products both domestically and abroad. Obolon has long been known for its sponsorship of sports. (Ukrinform)

### Ukrainian "shampanske" shipped to Spain

KYIV – The Kyiv winery Stolychnyi has shipped an early batch of its "shampanske" to Spain, in line with the winery's contract with the Smack supermarket chain. The batch is composed of such champagne brands as the Soviet Sparkling White Semi-Sweet, White Semi-Dry, Red Semi-Sweet. According to the winery's public relations, Soviet champagne brands are supposed to be sold in all of Spain's regions. In 2004 the Kyiv winery signed a cooperation agreement with the company Gary Magan & Co Ltd., which sells Stolychnyi champagne brands in Britain, basically in London. The Stolychnyi winery supplies the Soviet Sparkling Semi-Sweet, the Soviet Sparkling Semi-Dry and the Ukrainian Red Brut. Soviet Champagne ("Sovietskoye Shampanskoye") is traditionally popular in Europe, particularly in Germany. The Stolychnyi Kyiv Champagne Winery has been exporting its sparkling wine to Germany for many years. (Ukrinform)



## HELEN HRECHAK née Dobushak

92, of Irvington, NJ, died on January 30, 2006.

Born in West Orange, NJ, she worked for Aetna Life Insurance Co. for over 25 years.

In 1951 she married Kost Hrechak. She was a member of St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Ukrainian community in Newark, NJ. Upon her retirement in 1958, she devoted her time to being a caring and loving wife and mother. Her hobbies included typing and baking. Over the past year she spent a great amount of time in Irvington General Hospital where she received special care under Dr. Apigo and was one of the hospital's last patients before its closing on January 31, 2006.

Helen is survived by her son, Dr. Andrew. Her immediate family in the United States includes a niece, Dr. Orysia Karapinka (Pittsburgh, PA); two nephews, Dr. Geroge Karapinka (Morgantown, WV) and Dr. Walter Dobushak (Kerhonkson, NY). In addition there are several closer and distant relatives in the United States, Canada and Ukraine.

The funeral was held on Friday, February 3 at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Newark, NJ, with burial at St. Andrew's Cemetery in South Bound Brook, NJ.



## In loving memory of LUBA SOLCHANYK- KOPYCHUK

who passed away on January 14, 2006  
in St. Petersburg, FL.

She is survived by her son Yaropolk Kopychuk, her nephew Roman Solchanyk, brother Bohdan Solchanyk and sister-in-law Stefania Solchanyk.

Luba Kopychuk was born and lived in Staryi Sambir, Ukraine until emigrating through Salzburg, Austria as a political refugee to the U.S. in 1948. She resided in Irvington, N.J. until 1982 when she moved to St. Petersburg, FL with caring brothers Myroslaw Solchanyk, Bohdan Solchanyk and Stefania Solchanyk.



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нар. 18 січня 1918 р. в Брошневі, коло Долини, Західня Україна.

ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбулися в церкві св. Михаїла в Нью-Гейвені,  
Конн. Тіло Покійної поховане на цвинтарі Іст Сайд Вудбридж, Конн.

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## In loving memory of MYROSLAW SOLCZANYK

who passed away on August 18, 2005, in St.  
Petersburg, FL.

He was born in Staryi Sambir, Ukraine on May 24, 1912.

He emigrated as a political refugee through Salzburg, Austria to the U.S. in 1948.

Myroslaw Solczanyk served as a deacon in St. John the Baptist Church in Newark, N.J. until 1982 when he moved to St. Petersburg, FL. He served as head deacon in the St. Petersburg parish.

He is survived by his nephews Roman Solchanyk and Yaropolk Kopychuk, brother Bohdan Solchanyk and sister-in-law Stefania Solchanyk.



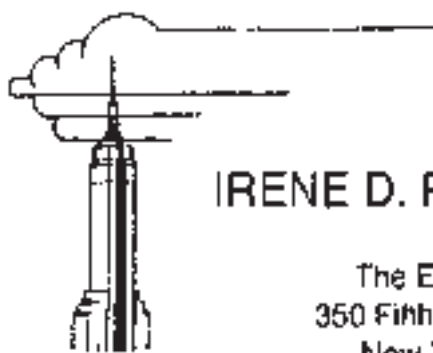
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**Yushchenko's...**

(Continued from page 2)

should give its views regarding constitutional changes" (president.gov.ua).

Earlier Mr. Yushchenko had said that the changes "were an anti-constitutional action, hidden from the people" (Financial Times, January 13). Since spring 2005 there have been periodic threats by President Yushchenko, his staff, and then-prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko to hold a referendum on the reforms (Ukrayinska Pravda, May 8, 2005).

Over the summer threats to hold a referendum faded, and Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko told Kommersant-Daily (September 26, 2005) that Mr. Yushchenko had come around to accepting constitutional reforms.

This apparent shift of presidential opinion failed to reduce fears that Mr. Yushchenko would call a referendum. Parliament has deliberately stalled the swearing in of Constitutional Court judges for this very reason. Currently the court does not have the quorum necessary to function, thus President Yushchenko is unable to appeal to the Constitutional Court over the legality of the December 2004 constitutional changes.

Mr. Yushchenko's threats to hold a referendum are unlikely to materialize for at least five reasons.

- First, Mr. Yushchenko did not agree to the constitutional reforms under duress. The changes were proposed during the December 2004 roundtable negotiations, a time when over a million Orange supporters had filled the streets of Kyiv. During those days, Mr. Yushchenko also had the support of the military, the intelligence services and elements of the Internal Affairs Ministry, while both President Kuchma and then-prime minister Viktor Yanukovich were increasingly powerless.

- Second, unlike the Tymoshenko bloc, Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc always supported constitutional reforms.

**An institution...**

(Continued from page 8)

default rate on its loans. Who would want to do damage to an institution that does so much for so many.

According to Dr. Kekish, what better dividend could the community expect than the staging of "Lisova Pisnia" by Lidia Krushelnitsky's Ukrainian Stage Ensemble which they supported? And yet, the credit union still paid over \$11 million in dividends in the year 2005 and enjoyed over \$8 million in net earnings. This will certainly ensure its stability and its continuing service to the community. It is no wonder then that Dr. Kekish and Self Reliance New York has obtained direct praise from President Viktor Yushchenko himself, as well as from Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and numerous other U.S. and Ukrainian institutions over the years.

Self Reliance NY FCU maintains three branches: Kerhonkson, N.Y.; Uniondale, Long Island; and Astoria, Queens. When asked about the growth potential and particularly about the Fourth Wave of Ukrainian immigrants becoming future members, depositors and clients, Dr. Kekish replied that this is one of his priorities.

At present, this group still has certain issues with which its members must contend. They have a fear of depositing their monies in U.S. banks in general and Ukrainian credit unions in particular due to an inherent concern with secrecy issues. Many Fourth Wave immigrants are still "illegals" and they use banks and private companies only to send their very

Our Ukraine differed from the centrist Kuchma camp and the political left (the Communists and Socialists) only on timing. Our Ukraine insisted they should come into effect after the March 2006 elections, while the Kuchma camp and the left supported their introduction after the 2004 elections.

- Third, Mr. Yushchenko did not avail himself of the president's extensive powers contained in the Constitution that was in effect until the end of 2005. Why call a referendum to restore powers he had squandered?

- Fourth, if Mr. Yushchenko had agreed on the constitutional reforms merely as a tactical ruse to overcome the December 2004 presidential crisis, he could have scheduled a referendum immediately after coming to power in January 2005. Ms. Tymoshenko, then prime minister, would have wholeheartedly supported such a move at a time when the opposition was still in disarray. But since being removed as prime minister in September 2005, Ms. Tymoshenko has moved toward support for constitutional reforms.

- Fifth, Mr. Yushchenko cannot risk alienating the Socialists by calling a referendum, as he will need them in any coalition in the 2006 Parliament. The Socialists will abandon Mr. Yushchenko if he goes ahead with a constitutional referendum.

These five arguments suggest that a constitutional referendum would only be called if the March elections go badly for President Yushchenko. Like Mr. Kuchma in 1996, Mr. Yushchenko would seek a referendum because he did not like the political configuration of the new Parliament.

By threatening to hold a referendum on constitutional reforms, Mr. Yushchenko is misplacing his energy. Instead, he needs to focus on winning the 2006 elections, re-uniting the Orange camp (that he himself divided by firing Ms. Tymoshenko in September 2005), and creating a pro-reform and pro-presidential parliamentary majority in the newly elected Verkhovna Rada.

hard earned money back to Ukraine. The overall amount thus transferred is hard to calculate, but the figures run into the tens, if not hundreds, of millions of dollars.

Another problem that has been observed, but never studied in depth, is the fact that many of the legal Fourth Wavers tend to spend their money rather than save it. This mirrors a tendency observed among other immigrants from the former USSR. A study of this phenomenon, or rather this tendency, would certainly make for interesting reading as it would help us to understand why the various waves of Ukrainian immigration differ so much from each other.

The only note of disappointment that this writer encountered in this otherwise enthusiastic and informative interview was the underlying fact that many Ukrainians still do not treat bankers, sales professionals, and businesspeople in general with the same respect and deference as they do doctors, lawyers, writers, painters, etc. This is regardless of how much the former groups do for the communities. My own studies have shown that this is a trait rather specific to Ukrainians and dates back as far as the 15th and 16th centuries. While Ukrainians were great traders and bankers during the formative years of the Kyivan Rus' empire during the 10th to 13th centuries, somehow it became unfashionable to deal with money and money matters in later years.

Perhaps institutions like Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, and all they are doing for our society, will change this perception.



## Crimea lighthouse...

(Continued from page 2)

Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko said both sides, in order to clarify the whole controversy, need to take a clear-cut stock of facilities that are used by the Russians. "We have to make a proper inventory, finally. We assume that the Russian side is also interested in this and we hope we will meet no obstacles in this regard. Otherwise, Russia will be obviously violating its obligations," he said.

Kyiv began to publicize its demand for making a "proper inventory" of Black Sea Fleet facilities in December 2005, after Moscow signaled its intention to increase its price for gas supplies to Ukraine in 2006. Some Ukrainian politicians suggested that Kyiv could use the rent for the lease of naval installations to Russia as a bargaining chip in talks on the price of Russian gas.

Under the 1997 agreement, Russia's fleet is to remain in Crimea until 2017 for a lease rent equal to \$98 million annually. Ukraine does not receive this payment in cash – the rent is just entered in the books as an item reducing Ukraine's state debt to Russia.

Some Ukrainian media speculated last year that the rent Russia nominally pays to Ukraine for the deployment of the Black Sea Fleet in Crimea is just a fraction of the sum that the fleet's commanders purportedly charge for subleasing the land and facilities they use to private businesses, including tourist agencies. Crimea is a coveted recreation place for the whole post-Soviet area, and every hectare of land there is of great value.

The fleet reportedly uses 18,000 hectares of land in Crimea. The Student Brotherhood, a Ukrainian organization that staged several pickets in Crimea earlier in January against what it sees as an unlawful use of Ukrainian land and facilities

ties by the Russian navy, estimates that the country's budget could gain as much as \$3 billion annually if Ukraine took over the controversial possessions from Russia.

In short, there is popular feeling in Ukraine that the country suffers economic losses because of its current arrangement with Russia regarding the Black Sea Fleet. The row over the Yalta lighthouse has apparent political implications as well. It is not clear whether the takeover of the Yalta lighthouse was inspired from Kyiv or was just a local initiative.

Some cynics have mischievously said that the takeover was staged exclusively by the Yalta port authorities. They say the authorities could not tolerate any longer the fact that the Black Sea Fleet was reluctant to share profits from its supposed commercial activities with them.

But it seems that the Russian Ukrainian diplomatic quarrel and the publicity around it is now playing into the hands of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, who has not taken any steps to quell the developing conflict.

Mr. Yushchenko's political position has become very shaky in the wake of a controversial gas deal with Russia on January 4, under which Ukraine is obliged to pay nearly twice as much for Russian gas supplies in 2006 as it did last year. Mr. Yushchenko's erstwhile ally, Yulia Tymoshenko, even went as far as to accuse the government of betraying national interests in the gas deal.

Therefore, one can hardly expect President Yushchenko to show "weakness" toward Russia once again and back down on the lighthouse takeover in the ongoing campaign for the March 26 parliamentary elections.

As many times in Ukraine's 15 years of independence, the country's relations with Russia have become a hot issue that may have a considerable impact on the array of political forces after the elections.

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# Erection of steel under way for new parish and cultural center

WHIPPANY, N.J. – St. John the Baptist Parish in Whippany, N.J., and the local Ukrainian community received a welcome Christmas present this past December: the start of building steel erection for the new Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey.

“Construction will continue aggressively through the winter,” stated Orest Kucyna, project construction chairman. “Despite heavy rains in the fall and a mild winter that are causing very muddy and difficult site conditions, we are making substantial progress. Our contractor continues to push forward and plans to complete construction by the fall of this year.”

Once construction is completed, the center will become the focal point of Ukrainian activity in Morris County and surrounding areas. The center will be the new home for the St. John the Baptist Parish and for Ukrainian community groups such as Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Plast-Pryiat, Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), Ukrainian Heritage and Language School

of Morris County, Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, Self Reliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, Iskra Dance Ensemble, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Sitch Sports Club and others.

Plans have also been set for a major fund-raising event during which a 2006 Lexus ES330 will be raffled. The Cabaret Night will be held on April 1 at the Birchwood Manor in Whippany, N.J. In addition to the car raffle, the evening will include dinner and entertainment featuring the Spalenyi Theater Group from Chicago and vocalist Olya Fryz.

For additional information, readers may log on to [www.uaccnj.org](http://www.uaccnj.org).

Questions may be directed to the event planning committee via phone, 973-285-5006, or e-mail, [cabhalibej@optonline.net](mailto:cabhalibej@optonline.net).

Proceeds from the Cabaret Night and car raffle will benefit the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey Building Fund. Donations also are welcome and can be mailed to the following interim address: UACCNJ, 7 South Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981.



A view of the construction site in Whippany, N.J., of the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey.

## St. Andrew...

(Continued from page 11)

Constantine, the membership unanimously passed a resolution outlining the main objective of the St. Andrew Brotherhood for the coming years.

The resolution reads as follows:

“The Brotherhood of St. Andrew Memorial Church recognizes its primary objective to be the re-unification of all Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in the United States and in Ukraine with our

Mother Church in Ukraine, under the omofor of the Kyivan Patriarchate, currently under the leadership of His Holiness Patriarch Filaret, thereby establishing one ‘Pomisna’ Church which remains forever true to the patriotic ideals and vision of Patriarch Mstyslav.”

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to reviewing last year’s accomplishments and outlining plans for implementing the above resolution in 2006.

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

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

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OUT AND ABOUT

February 11 Troy, MI	Ukrainian Engineers' Winter Ball and presentation of debutantes, 248-646-6933	March 4 Windham-Hunter, NY	Carpathian Ski Club's annual ski/snowboard races 518-263-4866
February 11 Tarrytown, NY	SUM Debutante Ball 845-647-7230	March 25-April 1 Crested Butte Ski Resort, CO	Spring Scientific Conference and Ski Vacation, Ukrainian Medical Association of North America 800-550-4334
February 16 Washington	Conference on "De-Stalinization: The First Fifty Years After Khrushchev's Secret Speech," George Washington University, 202-994-6342	ONGOING New York, NY	"The Tree of Life, The Sun, The Goddess: Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art," The Ukrainian Museum 212-228-0110
February 18 Toronto, ON	Mardi Gras Zabava, St. Vladimir Institute www.ukiestudents.org		
February 18 Chicago, IL	70th Anniversary Reunion Dance, St. Nicholas Cathedral School, 773-384-7243		
February 18 Philadelphia PA	Engineers' Banquet and Ball with presentation of debutantes, 215-635-7134		
February 25 East Rutherford, NJ	Chervona Kalyna Debutante Ball 201-391-2581		
February 25 Marina Del Ray, CA	Ball and presentation of debutantes, California Association to Aid Ukraine, 818-774-9378		

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The Ukrainian Weekly Reader Survey

By completing the questionnaire below, you could win a free weekend at Soyuzivka!

- 1. How often/thoroughly do you read The Ukrainian Weekly?  
a. Weekly \_\_\_\_\_ Cover to cover \_\_\_\_\_ Partially \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Cover to cover \_\_\_\_\_ Partially \_\_\_\_\_  
c. 3-4 times per year \_\_\_\_\_ Cover to cover \_\_\_\_\_ Partially \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. How do you receive The Weekly?  
a. I/someone in my household subscribes \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Read friend's or neighbor's copy \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Obtain free copy \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Read excerpts online \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. What do you think is a FAIR price for an annual subscription to The Weekly? (please consider the quality, content and cultural aspects of the publication).  
a. \$25/year \_\_\_\_\_ b. \$30/year \_\_\_\_\_ c. \$35/year \_\_\_\_\_  
d. \$40/year \_\_\_\_\_ e. \$45/year \_\_\_\_\_ f. \$55/year \_\_\_\_\_  
g. Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. In ADDITION to news about Ukraine and news about Ukrainian events in the diaspora, what other features or articles you would like to see in The Weekly on a regular basis?

	More	Less	Same
Business news from Ukraine			
Ukrainian businesses in the U.S. and Canada			
Sports in Ukraine			
Sports in the U.S. where Ukrainians are involved			
Columnists, commentary			
Community events calendar			
Reviews of (Ukrainian) restaurants			
Art/music/book reviews			
Religion/Church affairs			
Education news			
Children's corner ("UKELODEON")			
Political cartoons			
Historical and geographical information about Ukraine			
Cultural heritage, including traditions			
Recipes			
Famous Ukrainian people in the U.S. and Canada			
UNA information: members, products, benefits			
Legal issues (e.g., immigration, Social Security, etc.)			
Personal finance			
Puzzles			
Paid birth, engagement, wedding announcements			
Classified ads			

- 5. Would you pay more for a subscription if The Weekly were to be published:  
a. with some color pages Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
i. If "yes," what ADDITIONAL amount would you be willing to pay?  
1. \$10/year \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \$20/year \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \$30/year \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. as a weekly magazine in full color Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
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1. \$10/year \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \$30/year \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. Are you currently a member of the Ukrainian National Association?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you subscribe to Svoboda? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

General comments and suggestions for our publications: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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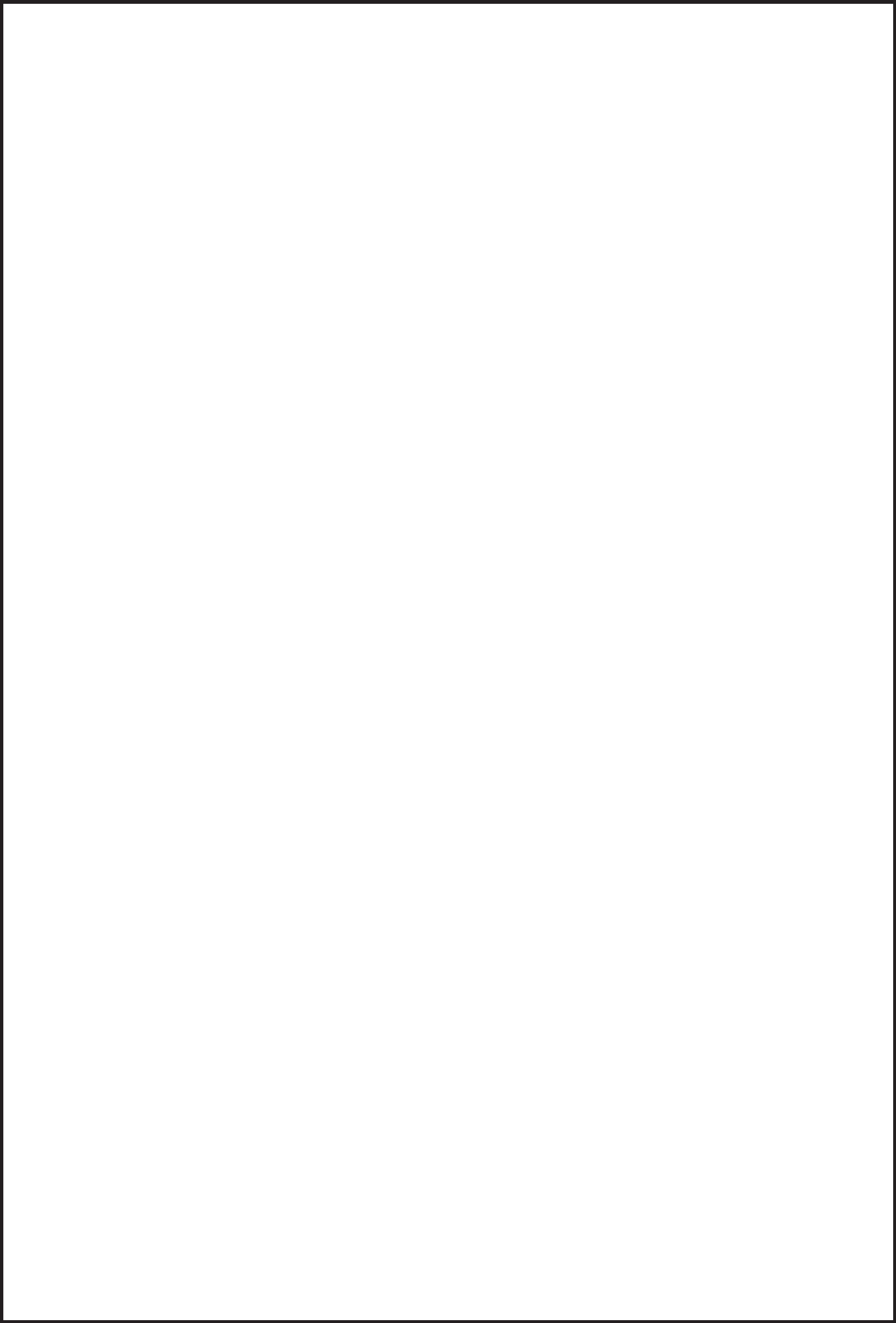
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We are grateful for your participation. To thank you for taking the time to complete this survey, your name and address will be placed in a random drawing for a free weekend at Soyuzivka during 2006 (except on the Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends, and subject to room availability).

- Administration of UNA Publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly







## Minneapolis community holds traditional St. Nicholas program



Seen during the St. Nicholas program in Minneapolis are: (front, from left) Lesya Hutsal, St. Nicholas, Wolodymyr Smitiuk, Julianna Pawluk, Aleksa Tataryn, Mika Pedro; (second row) Leeza Pawluk, Taras Tataryn, Sophia Hutsal, Taurus Pawlak; (back row) Father Michael Stelmach, Dmytro Hutsal and Dmytro Tataryn.

by Dr. Michael J. Kozak

MINNEAPOLIS – In the Ukrainian rite, St. Nicholas is one of the most popular saints. Many churches were erected in his honor in Ukraine and other countries where the Ukrainian people settled. His icon is almost always included in the iconostasis and his name is frequently mentioned in various religious services.

St. Nicholas is considered a protector of children and the poor. Although over 1,500 years have passed since his death, because of his charitable work and generosity, he continues to live in the hearts of millions of people in both the Eastern and Western Churches.

In Ukraine, before the Communist takeover, the feast day of St. Nicholas was celebrated by attending church services, with sleigh rides around the village, entertainment of relatives and friends, and giving gifts to children or loved ones. Gifts often were given during a special play, in which the principal role was played by St. Nicholas.

At St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Parish, where Father Canon Michael Stelmach is pastor, a St. Nicholas observance was held in the school auditorium on Sunday, December 18, 2005, after the divine liturgy.

At the nicely covered tables, members of the audience enjoyed coffee and sweets prepared by the mothers of some of the performers – Christine Pedro, Denice Tataryn and Sandra Pawluk.

Thanks to the school director, Dmytro Tataryn, his wife, Helen, the teachers and the parents, a program was presented by the students of the Saturday School of Ukrainian Studies. It was directed by Lesya Hutsal and Natalia Showdra, who dedicated much effort and time to make this event a success.

The following students participated in a program of songs and recitations: Julianna Pawluk, Leeza Pawluk, Taurus Pawluk, Mika Pedro, Aleksa Tataryn, Taras Tataryn, Sopia Hutsal, Christina Potichko, Dmytro Hutsal and Wolodymyr Smitiuk. The president of the Men's Club, Stanley Miskiw, was the liaison to St. Nicholas.

At the closing of the program, all children, the participants of the program and those in the audience received gifts from St. Nicholas.

Then, Dr. Walter Anastas, on behalf of the local Ukrainian credit union, presented a \$500 check to the school; one parishioner, Lesia Parekh, added \$100. This gesture was received with great appreciation and applause.

Father Michael expressed his thanks and

appreciation to financial supporters, teachers, parents and the audience for showing their interest in the school whose aim is to preserve and promote the Ukrainian identity, faith and cultural heritage.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

February 10-12, 2006  
Valentine's Day Weekend  
Five-Course Dinner

February 17-20, 2006  
Family Winter Weekend

February 18, 2006  
Pub Night with music featuring  
Zukie & Friend

February 24, 2006  
KAFAS Banquet, Kerhonkson Accord  
First Aid Squad Installation  
Banquet

March 10-12, 2006  
Plast Kurin "Khmelnychenky" and  
"Chornomortsi" Annual Winter  
Rada

March 31 - April 2, 2006  
Plast Kurin "Chornomorski Khvyli"  
Annual Rada

April 16, 2006  
Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day  
Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.

April 22, 2006  
Alpha Kappa Sorority Formal  
Dinner Banquet

April 23, 2006  
Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day  
Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.

April 28, 2006  
Ellenville High School Junior Prom

April 28-30, 2006  
UNWLA Branch 95 Spa Weekend

To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140  
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Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, February 17

VENICE, Fla.: The Ukrainian Club of Southwest Florida, based in North Port, presents "Art Ukraine 2006" – an exhibit of Ukrainian icons and other art forms – at the Venice Art Center, 390 Nokomis Ave. S. Comprising the exhibit, in addition to icons, will be the following Ukrainian folk art forms: bead work ("gerdany"), ceramics, Easter eggs ("pysanky"), embroidery and wood carvings. Lectures on the exhibited art forms will be presented during the exhibition; and, there will also be live performances of Ukrainian music. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The exhibition opens Friday, February 17, and will be on view through Tuesday, March 7. For additional information contact Club President Daria Tomashosky, (941) 426-2542, or "Art Ukraine 2006" Committee Co-Chairs Christyna Bodnar Sheldon, (941) 460-9890, or Klara Szpiczka, (941) 423-6590.

Saturday, February 18

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a literary evening featuring Mykola Ryabchuk, writer, literary critic and deputy editor-in-chief of the literary review Krytyka (Kyiv) and prominent political and cultural commentator. The evening's program will also feature the poetry of Natalia Bilotserkivets from her collection "Hotel Central," as well as the prose of Mr. Ryabchuk. The event will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

Saturday, February 25

NEW YORK: The "Music at the Institute" chamber music series invites the public to a concert by "Laryssa Krupa and

Friends." The program will feature pianist Ms. Krupa, flutist Barbara Siesel, violinist Marta Krechkovsky, violist Borys Deviatov and cellist Wanda Glowacka performing Mozart's Quartet for Flute, Violin, Viola and Cello in D Major, K. 285; Johann Nepomuk Hummel's Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano (on the Ukrainian theme "Yikhav Kozak za Dunai") and Brahms' Piano Quartet in C Minor, Op. 60. The concert will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. at 8 p.m. A reception will follow the performance. Donation: \$30; UIA members and seniors, \$25; students, \$20. For additional information and reservations call (212) 288-8660 or visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

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 please send a check to the CAAU treasurer, Marta Myktyyn-Hill, 1219 Via Arroyo, Ventura, CA 93003. Accommodations are available at the hotel. For preferred rates please 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.

Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!

As in the past, The Ukrainian Weekly is planning to publish a special section devoted to the Ukrainian community's debutantes. The 2006 debutante ball section will be published in March. The deadline for submission of stories and photos is March 6.



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KLK Annual  
Ski Races

Please join us at the KLK Annual Ski Races  
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Where: Windham Mountain, Windham, NY  
Registration: 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. at the Ski Lodge

Lift ticket and races: adult, \$50; junior, \$45  
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The Dinner and Awards Ceremony will take place at the Hunter  
Mountain Ski Lodge at 6:30 p.m.  
Adults, \$45; children (under 12) \$20,



For additional information  
please contact:

Severin Palydowycz  
(518) 263-4866  
or  
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SEE YOU AT THE RACES!