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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Ukraine Business Forum focuses on attractive investment climate

by Matthew Dubas

NEW YORK — Ukraine's business leaders from diverse sectors converged at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here on December 6 at the Ukraine Business Forum to present what they argued is the attractive investment climate in Ukraine.

The UBF was organized by a steering committee co-chaired by Walter Zarycky, executive director of the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations and Adrian Karatnycky, president of The Orange Circle, though neither organization was formally involved with the forum.

Also attending the conference were Valeriy Kuchinsky, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, and Mykola Kyrychenko, consul general of Ukraine in New York.

Jorge Zukoski, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine, said, "Ukraine has a lot of potential," with its growth market, potential export to Europe and Russia, sophisticated consumers and a highly developed work force.

Mr. Zukoski commented that the "wait and see" approach to entering the Ukrainian markets is not the right attitude after the rise in opportunities that resulted from the Orange Revolution of 2004. This increase in opportunities and shift in attitude are marked by a difficulty to meet market demands, and an intensi-

fication of efforts to attract European investors, Mr. Zukoski said.

Areas of high activity in Ukraine, according to Mr. Zukoski, include agriculture, banking, commercial real estate, consumer goods and light manufacturing in areas of high technology. "Ukraine needs to move toward more technology rather than exports of steel and commodities, and needs to work with the private sector to be successful in the global marketplace," Mr. Zukoski commented.

The biggest obstacles for Ukraine, from Mr. Zukoski's experience, are the regionalism of eastern Ukraine's industrial background, the failure to collect value-added tax refunds that demonstrates Ukraine's lack of fiscal discipline and is a source of corruption, and the lack of a clear land allocation system that would foster development of commercial real estate.

Speaking of investing in Ukraine, Michael Marresse, director of J.P. Morgan, found that Ukraine has done well in the last two years, but there are challenges that Ukraine needs to address, including rising energy costs, energy security, rise in credit growth and banking practices open to market development.

As an example of Ukraine's potential, Mr. Marresse pointed to neighboring Poland, which has attracted 7.5 billion

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## Yushchenko reasserts his role in national politics in Ukraine

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — In recent weeks, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has reasserted his role in national politics, both in counter-balancing the coalition government and in setting the agenda for his own political party.

After committing himself to battling with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich over Borys Tarasyuk's status as minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Yushchenko took up another fight when he decided on December 12 to veto the 2007 budget passed by the coalition government.

"Let's respect the law, let's act appropriately towards the institution of presidency, and let's act appropriately towards the status of the government and its members," the president told reporters on December 14, speaking of his relations with Mr. Yanukovich.

Mr. Yushchenko also put his foot down in dealing with the stubborn leadership of the Our Ukraine People's Union (OUPU), attending a recent party session to personally ensure that Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha replaced Roman Bezsmertnyi as Political Council chair, at least temporarily.

Mr. Yushchenko is renowned for his hands-off, distanced approach to Ukrainian politics, which his critics



Iryna Cherepynska

President Viktor Yushchenko speaks at a Kyiv press conference on December 14.

describe as aloof and detached.

The Ukrainian president much prefers to tackle Ukraine's grand political and philosophical questions, such as its ultimate foreign policy course, and historical-cultural issues, such as Holodomor remembrance and Church unification, political observers said.

He has an antipathy for the nuts and bolts of forming policies and laws, pulling strings and maneuvering within government, as well as dealing with power struggles and personality conflicts within government and the OUPU, they said.

But, after several months on the sidelines, President Yushchenko recently found himself in positions forcing him to act.

The coalition government led by Prime Minister Yanukovich and the Party of the Regions had been leading an aggressive campaign of usurping control of the Ukrainian government.

After accepting the resignations of three Our Ukraine ministers of the Cabinet, the coalition government voted on December 1 to sack Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk and Minister of Internal Affairs Yuriy Lutsenko, an Orange Revolution hero.

Mr. Tarasyuk's sacking sounded a particular alarm with Mr. Yushchenko since the Foreign Affairs and Defense ministries remain the president's domain, even after the presidential limitations of the January 1 constitutional reforms.

At a December 14 press conference in Kyiv with foreign journalists, Mr. Yushchenko said he won't back down and allow anyone other than Mr. Tarasyuk to serve as foreign minister, having turned down attempts by Mr.

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## \$500,000 raised for Ukrainian Catholic University

by Andrew Nynka

DETROIT — During a three-city fall fund-raising effort that culminated with a luncheon here on December 3, support-



Andrew Nynka

Speaking in Chicago, the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, displays a book published by the Ukrainian Catholic University that won a national award in Ukraine.

ers of the Ukrainian Catholic University raised more than \$500,000 for the university, while officials from the school stressed the accomplishments of its students and faculty.

Those accomplishments were shared with the public by the rector of the school, the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, during stops in New York City and Chicago in November, and by Prof. Myroslaw Marynovych, the school's senior vice-rector, during his visit to the Ukrainian community of Warren, Mich., in December.

In New York, the third annual benefit for the university, held on November 5, gathered \$303,040, said Mykola Haliv, whose committee, New York Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University, organized the affair together with the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation.

The event in Chicago on November 12 raised \$120,000 in pledges and donations for the Ukrainian Catholic University, while the event in Warren, Mich., brought in at least \$80,000, said John Kurey, president of the Chicago-based UCEF.

Though donations continued to come in following the luncheons — in several cases, donations of \$20,000 or more came in well after the events — the affairs were about more than just raising money,

Mr. Kurey said. They were also an opportunity for people to learn about the university and to meet members of its faculty and staff.

In his trips to Chicago and New York City, the Rev. Gudziak stressed to hundreds of guests that the school intends to be a beacon for Ukraine's future leaders.

"We want to pledge before you here today that we will strive to be guiding moral lights in Ukraine," the Rev. Gudziak told a rapt crowd of 270 people at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Chicago on November 12.

"If this university is average, it will not be needed. It is our goal to produce unique individuals," said the Rev. Gudziak, the 46-year-old rector of the school.

In the Detroit area, Prof. Marynovych, a former political prisoner who spent what he described as a "life-changing" decade in the Soviet Gulag, told 250 guests about the school's mission and its work in Ukraine.

"Our goal is not just to exist," said Prof. Marynovych, whose stint under the Soviet yoke included an 18-day hunger strike because authorities would not give

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## ANALYSIS

## Georgia and Ukraine: Revolutions with similar roots, different legacies

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Two years ago, Kyiv's "Maidan Nezalezhnosti" (Independence Square) was filled with the sound of protesters chanting "Yushchenko!" and calling for a fresh, and fair, round of presidential elections.

It was a far cry from the laments that could be heard in the Ukrainian capital at the end of November during observances of the second anniversary of the Orange Revolution.

"Everything went in a way we didn't expect," journalist Hryhorii Vahapov told Reuters. "We thought the whole system would change, that all dubious figures would be purged from the political elite. This didn't happen."

Mr. Vahapov is one of the tens of thousands of Ukrainians who returned to the maidan night after night in bitter cold to protest falsified election results and launch then-opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko to the presidency. The electric atmosphere of the Orange Revolution captured the world's attention and was hailed by many as the final step needed to break free from Moscow's grasp and run with open arms toward the West.

Two years later, however, it is the revolution's villain – Viktor Yanukovich – who has risen to political primacy. He is now prime minister, backed by a ruling Parliament coalition led by his Party of the Regions.

Mr. Yushchenko, by contrast, has seen his star fall. He has parted company with his revolution ally, the charismatic Yulia Tymoshenko, and seen his Our Ukraine bloc – and its Western aspirations – retreat into the opposition.

The Ukrainian president appears unwilling to give up the fight. But his tone is sometimes less than triumphant. "Things aren't over yet," Mr. Yushchenko told Reuters. "If you value the democratic process, if you value the fact that the nation came of age and formed opinions over time on specific values, let's respect that. But for some reason, some people want everything here and now, this minute. I believe this is the wrong approach." Ukraine's muted two-year anniversary came one day before the three year anniversary of a second popular uprising – Georgia's Rose Revolution.

In 2003 opposition activists stormed the Georgian Parliament to demand the resignation of entrenched leader Eduard Shevardnadze and called for new elections to replace an earlier parliamentary vote widely criticized as rigged.

From Mr. Shevardnadze's ashes rose a new generation of young, Westward-looking officials – led by Mikheil Saakashvili, who took over as president in January 2004.

On the surface, Mr. Saakashvili has had greater success than his Ukrainian counterpart in maintaining a steady polit-

ical course. But the government is not without its detractors, and an Internal Affairs Ministry shake-up earlier this year called into question the integrity of the Georgian leadership.

However, local elections in October were seen as a critical affirmation of President Saakashvili's leadership. The ongoing standoff with Russia, moreover, may have infused Georgian society with a higher-than-usual sense of solidarity. This is a notable contrast from Ukraine, where Russia plays a highly divisive role.

Moscow retains an undeniable influence on both Georgia and Ukraine, and showed no regrets about Mr. Yushchenko's loss of stature. Both Tbilisi and Kyiv have raised Russian hackles by paving a hasty course toward Western integration.

Some analysts now see a long battle ahead as the two countries hang in the balance between a possessive Russia and an increasingly cautious Europe.

"As far as Western, or European, aspirations are concerned, I feel that both countries are on the right track, even though we see a degree of Euroskepticism," said Jakub Boratynski, a political expert with Poland's independent Stefan Batory Foundation, which works to support democracy building in Central and Eastern Europe.

"But I think this has a lot to do with the feeling that the EU [European Union] is giving inadequate encouragement. I think it's going to be a very long and painful process, but these countries will be moving toward the West," he said. "This process, however, will be periodically obstructed by Russia, which unfortunately, in the current political situation, sees this as a zero-sum game."

Adding to the mix of the colored revolutions is the spring 2005 Tulip Revolution in Kyrgyzstan, which saw the overthrow of the government of authoritarian leader Askar Akaev.

The Kyrgyz political climate remains far from settled, with the government opposition reforming along new political lines. But the fluidity permits a degree of political flexibility. Opposition protests earlier in November forced through constitutional changes that substantially reduce the president's powers.

While the long-term legacies of the colored revolutions may be hard to gauge, observers say there are short-term achievements of value.

The most notable example may come in Ukraine, although its results may be difficult for some Yushchenko supporters to swallow – the March 2006 parliamentary elections that brought Mr. Yanukovich and the Party of the Regions to power was generally deemed by observers to be the country's cleanest post-Soviet election. Even though supporters of the Orange Revolution are seeing their hopes of political change fade, Mr. Boratynski said the country's mass public uprising of two years ago still puts it far ahead of a country like Russia, where civic activism is weak at best.

"I think the legacy of the Orange Revolution is the Ukrainian people's feeling that they can choose their own government," Mr. Boratynski said. "This sounds pretty basic and banal, but I think the fundamental fact is that it marks a huge difference with, for instance, how the situation in Russia is developing

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Rada passes last WTO bill

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 13 repealed a ban on export of scrap nonferrous metal and alloy, alloy ferrous metal and on export of semiproducts of crude copper that will go into effect after Ukraine joins the World Trade Organization. According to the bill, the Parliament resolved to establish duty tariffs for export of this scrap and semiproducts in the amount of 30 percent and during the next five years to reduce it up to 15 percent. The bill is reportedly the last piece of legislation needed by Ukraine to bring its laws in line with WTO standards before joining this organization. Ukraine still needs to sign a bilateral trade accord with Kyrgyzstan in order to qualify for WTO entry. The process of Ukraine's integration into the WTO has been ongoing for more than 12 years. Sixteen official sessions of the working group for consideration of Ukraine's application for accession to the organization have been held. Some 70 percent of Ukrainian exports go to WTO countries. (Ukrinform, RFE/RL Newsline)

### Communists issue ultimatum

KYIV – The Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) has presented its partners in the ruling coalition, the Party of the Regions and the Socialist Party, with a "political ultimatum," the Ukrayinska Pravda website reported on December 9, quoting Leonid Hrach, head of the CPU's Crimean branch. According to Mr. Hrach, a meeting of the CPU Central Committee on December 9 concluded that the CPU's ruling coalition partners are not fulfilling coalition commitments as regards government appointments and other issues. In particular, Mr. Hrach mentioned the Socialists' recent support for a bill defining the 1932-1933 famine in Ukraine as genocide. Mr. Hrach warned that the CPU may leave the ruling coalition if its partners fail "to correct their mistakes." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Envoy comments on Famine law

KYIV – Ukraine's Ambassador to Russia Oleh Diomin said on December 9 that the law titled "On the 1932-1933 Famine in Ukraine" recently adopted by

the Ukrainian Parliament is not aimed at any specific country. Mr. Diomin was responding to questions from Russian journalists while addressing journalists, diplomats and scientists at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Moscow on Friday. According to the envoy, recognition of this tragedy by other countries will be a strictly humanitarian gesture. He stressed that the adoption of the law was the result of a long period of debate within Ukrainian society. He said the law was adopted at the initiative of President Viktor Yushchenko and the fact that the Verkhovna Rada adopted it demonstrates that the society understands the full scope of the tragedy and considers it a "genocide against the Ukrainian people." He said that the Famine issue is an issue of international importance and that several countries have already recognized the tragedy with memorial signs. He also said that Ukrainian-Russian dialogue on the cause and consequences of the Famine was being stepped up. (Ukrinform)

### Rada issues statement on Tarasyuk

KYIV – The press service of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on December 9 circulated a statement on the situation with regard to the dismissal of Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk. The statement explains the authority of the Verkhovna Rada and the Cabinet of Ministers as to the dismissal of executives, in compliance with the Constitution of Ukraine. The statement said that, in connection with the constitutional reform that took effect on January 1, the authority for forming the staff of the Cabinet of Ministers has passed from the president to the Verkhovna Rada. The Rada press service argued that the dismissal of Mr. Tarasyuk from the foreign affairs minister's post, following his report to the Parliament, was lawful and met all procedural demands. Thus, the Shevchenkivskyi District Court's ruling to suspend the Rada resolution on dismissal violated the Constitution, as the Rada resolution can be challenged only by the Constitutional Court of Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

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## Correction

In Dr. Myron Kuropas' review of "The Politics of Multiculturalism: A Ukrainian-Canadian Memoir," by Prof. Manoly Lupul (November 26), it was incorrectly noted that the book was published by the "Institute of Canadian Studies." In fact, the publisher is the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press. Persons wishing to purchase Dr. Lupul's book may do so online at [www.utoronto.ca/cius](http://www.utoronto.ca/cius).

## NEWS ANALYSIS: Zatulin is honored with Medal for the Rebirth of Ukraine

by Roman Solchanyk

When President George W. Bush awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, to "Mr. Slam Dunk" (former CIA Director George Tenet) a few years ago, I thought to myself – what a hoot. It can't get any "better" than this. Talk about the ultimate slap in the face of the reality-based community – you know, those annoying misfits who read stuff and are in possession of something called memory.

### Better than "slam dunk"

But wait. Ukraine's political "elites" should never be underestimated. In early December, First Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mykola Azarov – who served as former President Leonid Kuchma's main tax-collector and, as some have claimed, Ukraine's extortionist-in-chief – awarded the Medal for the Rebirth of Ukraine (first order) to Konstantin Zatulin, a deputy of the Russian Parliament who earlier this year was declared persona non grata in Ukraine for inflaming inter-ethnic tensions and activities that were seen as posing a threat to the country's territorial integrity and inviolability. The activities in question involved his participation, as a citizen of a foreign country, in the anti-NATO protests in Crimea this summer.

Although the Rebirth of Ukraine award is not an official state honor, Mr. Zatulin nonetheless thanked the Ukrainian president and government for this distinction, which, it turns out, is linked to a little-known outfit called the Ukrainian Foundation for Cooperation, of which Mr. Azarov is the honorary president.

Participating in the award ceremony was the Russian ambassador in Kyiv and Russian members of a joint Ukrainian-Russian inter-parliamentary committee on cooperation, of which Mr. Zatulin is also a member. The ban on Mr. Zatulin's presence in Ukraine was temporarily lifted so that he could take part in the committee's deliberations in Kyiv.

Over the years, Mr. Zatulin has amassed a lengthy and impressive record of "accomplishments" in the area of facilitating Ukraine's rebirth and, more generally, Ukrainian-Russian relations, including promoting separatism in Crimea, for which he was banned from the peninsula in 1996, and leading the ultimately unsuccessful fight against Moscow's ratification of the Ukrainian-Russian "big treaty" signed in 1997.

This list can be extended. But my personal favorite in Mr. Zatulin's résumé under the heading "helping Ukraine get on its feet" is his article titled "The Moment of Truth Has Arrived in Relations Between Moscow and Kyiv," published in *Nazavisimaya Gazeta* in the spring of 1995. In that piece, Mr. Zatulin advanced the argument that a treaty with Ukraine was a terrible idea because it would recognize "the historically non-existent borders of an historically non-existent state."

A few years later, the Russian lawmaker – who described himself as an "admirer of empire" – co-authored a report together with another of Ukraine's friends, Andranik Migranyan, mapping out a strategy for a "single zone of Russian state-building" that called for the incorporation of all or parts of Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, without which,

according to the authors, Russia would disintegrate.

Mr. Zatulin made the following points in support of his argument: (1) Ukrainians as a single, developed nation do not exist and have never existed; (2) Ukraine is a "non-historical formation"; (3) "Ukrainianism" is a purely western Ukrainian phenomenon; (4) Ukrainian proto-statehood rests on a foundation of anti-Russian policies sponsored and financed by the West; (5) Ukraine's existence constitutes a "permanent challenge" to Russia; (6) the remedy for Ukrainian-Russian relations is "brutal therapy," which may require precipitating the collapse of the Ukrainian state.

Say what? An award for the Rebirth of Ukraine?

I guess I must have missed that memo about Mr. Zatulin's other supportive endeavors.

Under different circumstances, all of this could be written off as another production in the theater of the absurd that is contemporary Ukraine. For example, in what other country – particularly one that claims to be "European" and demands that it be recognized as such – is the minister of foreign affairs barred from taking part in a session of the Cabinet of Ministers by his colleagues?

### A disturbing pattern

The circumstances in Ukraine, however, are such that with every passing day seemingly isolated events appear to be coalescing into a pattern.

The vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs, Dmytro Tabachnyk, insists, mockingly and disparagingly, that it is impermissible for Ukraine's cultural policies to be formulated "only in the interests of the thin layer of the Ukrainian-speaking intelligentsia." In other words, the government is not prepared to entertain the notion that millions of Ukrainians in Ukraine might also have some interests in what passes for "cultural policy" in Ukraine.

The largest party in Parliament, with two exceptions, refuses to support a bill declaring the Great Famine of the early 1930s to be an act of genocide. The bill passes by a narrow margin of 233 votes – with 200 deputies expressing their displeasure by boycotting the vote – but only after, among other things, the phrase "Ukrainian nation" was replaced by "Ukrainian people." Must be something wrong with the word "nation."

And now, a prominent Russian lawmaker who is convinced that there is no Ukraine, but who serves on an official committee of cooperation with members from a supposedly non-existent country, is honored for contributions to the rebirth of that, uh, non-existent country.

### And still, calls to "consolidate"

In the meantime, the president of the country, in an interview with the BBC, urges all of Ukraine's political forces to "consolidate" for the good of the nation.

Huh? Did I miss yet another memo?

No matter, it may be too late. A consolidation has already occurred – but not the one that the president is hoping for. As the weekly *Dzerkalo Tyzhnia* recently pointed out, in a move that would otherwise go against the laws of nature, it would seem that the party of big business, industrial barons and oligarchs from the Donbas (Party of the Regions) has found a common platform with the party of the downtrodden proletariat, Soviet "internationalism" and restoration of the USSR (Communists) – namely, anti-national policies.

## Kyiv Mayor Chernovetskyi is subject of public's ire over utility price hikes

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – For the last two weeks, the Kyiv City Council has been mired in anarchy as its politicians bloodied each other in rampant brawling, at times shutting down elevators and barricading themselves in session halls.

At the heart of the political war is Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi's controversial proposal to raise the city's utility bill by 250 percent as of December 1, drawing outrage from thousands of Kyiv residents who say they can barely afford to pay current rates, let alone the steep new prices.

The drastic measure is necessary to save the city's overburdened, aged utilities system, Mr. Chernovetskyi said. Furthermore, enough Kyiv residents and businesses have adequate incomes to afford the hike, he said.

"People in Kyiv are living large but paying pennies," Mr. Chernovetskyi said. "I can't allow that."

The conflict over the sweeping utility price hikes is Mr. Chernovetskyi's biggest political test yet, after taking numerous other sweeping measures as mayor, such as increasing city parking fees, towing illegally parked cars to raise budget revenue, and banning alcohol and cigarette ads along Khreshchatyk.

While those measures mostly affected Kyiv's posh central districts, the plan to raise utility bills will affect everyone within city limits, including the average Kyiv resident, who earns between \$200 and \$400 a month, and the pensioner, who typically receives between \$100 and \$200 a month.

The current utility bill in Kyiv amounts to a monthly rate of about 6 cents per square foot of space, which includes payment for heat, water, natural gas and maintenance. Mr. Chernovetskyi's proposal hikes the rate to 21 cents per square foot per month as of December 1.

In order to offset the drastic increase's effect on the hundreds of thousands of pensioners and low-income residents, Mr. Chernovetskyi has pledged government subsidies. Both the national and city budgets will provide about \$140 million in aid, he said.

After President Viktor Yushchenko criticized the hike and suggested an increase of 240 percent instead, Mr. Chernovetskyi obliged, adding that the poorest residents would endure only a 200 percent increase.

Needless to say, opposition politicians have eagerly ridden the wave of public outrage, organizing several street protests in front of the Kyiv City Council that have drawn more than 10,000 Kyiv residents.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and its allies on the Kyiv City Council have resorted to extreme measures to prevent the price hikes from taking place, including blockades of the council podium to obstruct sessions.

Throughout the conflict, Tymoshenko Bloc City Deputy Mykhailo Brodskyi led



Cutty Sark Co.

### Embattled Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi.

a nasty propaganda campaign portraying Mr. Chernovetskyi's proposed hikes as a cynical scheme to enrich his business clan, which includes numerous family members and friends who also happen to be city deputies.

Among them are Mr. Chernovetskyi's 27-year-old son Stepan, who chairs the oversight council of the family business, Praveks Bank; and brother-in-law Anatolii Chub, who chairs the oversight councils for the city's utility companies, including Kyivvodokanal, Kyivhaz and Kyivenerhoholding.

Given Mr. Chernovetskyi's influence and contacts in the city-owned utilities, his opponents allege that the price hikes are merely a means of squeezing more money from city residents and then laundering the funds into private bank accounts.

The anti-Chernovetskyi coalition, which also includes the Our Ukraine and Vitalii Klitschko blocs, has called for a citywide referendum on Mr. Chernovetskyi's dismissal and is already gathering signatures.

"Utility rates established for Kyiv residents aren't only increasing, but are increasing without conscience," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "They are increasing because a company has been created, Kyivenerhoholding, in a corrupt way in which [its shareholders] are collecting their tribute from Kyivans."

The fight over utility price hikes turned violent during the December 7 City Council session, when opposition deputies blocked the council podium and rang sirens throughout the session as the mayor tried to conduct a discussion on the utility price hikes.

Opposition forces called for gradual price increases, no more than 80 percent in the first phase. Ms. Tymoshenko said

(Continued on page 12)

## From the outgoing editor-in-chief of Svoboda

It is with great sadness that I accepted the news on November 30 that the UNA Executive Committee had decided to combine into one the two positions of editors-in-chief of the UNA's publications, *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*. Nonetheless, the financial difficulties that the UNA faces have been enduring. Therefore, as I leave, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank my colleagues at both newspapers, our community, and, most of all, *Svoboda's* loyal readers, for their support for the past six years.

It has been an honor to have been the editor-in-chief of *Svoboda*. Thank you.

– Irene Jarosewich, December 1, 2006

Roman Solchanyk, Ph.D., is an international affairs analyst in Santa Monica, Calif., and author of the forthcoming book *"The New Eastern Europe: Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova."*

# Triennial international conference of Plast concludes in Kyiv

by Larissa Babij

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – In the 15 years since Ukrainian independence, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization has grown in prominence and membership to become among Ukraine's most influential youth organizations.

Currently, Plast has more than 10,000 members throughout Ukraine, compared to 5,000 members in the diaspora. Since 2003, 30 new local chapters have been created, mostly in central, eastern and southern Ukraine.

said in summarizing Plast's mission.

Plast's most important current challenge is becoming Ukraine's representative to the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), the primary international scouting organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, he said.

Currently, Ukraine's representative is a Yalta-based organization, Pioneer Organizations Association of Kyiv (SPOK), which is loosely based on the Soviet-era Pioneers and is nowhere near the size, organization or influence of Plast.

Dr. Romankiw compared Plast's



Chief Scout Lubomyr Romankiw swears in the newly elected members of the supreme Plast Bulava. Symon Kohut

"Plast is growing and gaining strength," said Chief Scout Lubomyr Romankiw, who hails from the United States. "It has won enough popularity in many Ukrainian cities that it is no longer in danger of falling apart."

More than 150 delegates from nine countries gathered in Kyiv between November 1 and 5 for the triennial Conference of Ukrainian Plast Organizations (KUPO), the third such world gathering held in Ukraine.

"We educate children to become future leaders who will later go out and work in the community," Dr. Romankiw

potential WOSM membership to Ukraine's membership in the United Nations; he underlined that Ukraine's youth would benefit from international relations and exposure.

After the Soviet Union's, disintegration SPOK director Dr. Oleksander Bondar was able to gain influence with WOSM and convince its leadership that he represented the majority of scouts in Ukraine.

He currently serves as WOSM's Eurasia regional office director.

To resolve the conflict, SPOK and Plast will most probably form a



Bohdan Solopchuk

Chief Scout Lubomyr Romankiw and outgoing chair of the supreme Plast Bulava Slava Rubel keep an eye on one of the many meetings during KUPO.

Ukrainian scouting federation that would allow scouts from both organizations to participate in WOSM, said Kostiantyn Yakovchuk-Besarab, the new president of Plast's Executive Council in Ukraine.

Despite the lack of WOSM recognition, Ukrainian Plast scouts have participated every four years as guests at its international jamborees, where they demonstrated skills on par with those of their international colleagues.

"Plast is at a level that it can compete with the most advanced scouts in the world," Dr. Romankiw said. "We deserve ... to travel to jamborees as participants – not as guests."

Financing continues to be a problem for Plast in Ukraine, Dr. Romankiw said. Lacking the necessary funds from the members themselves, the Ukrainian organization has relied on contributions from the Ukrainian diaspora.

However, fewer members of the younger generations of Ukrainian Americans feel the obligation to continue this trend, Dr. Romankiw noted. "We hope that Ukraine will slowly proceed toward self-financing," he said.

He suggested that Ukrainian scouts follow American scouts' example of selling fund-raising items such as cookies, or find other pragmatic ways to raise money for their organization.

Ukrainian government funding for Plast is limited. For the past two years, Plast has received the maximum amount of federal funding, \$70,000, given to any one organization executing a specific project from the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports. These Plast projects were outdoor summer youth camps, programs for artistically gifted children, or international programs.

However, administrative, rental and travel expenses must come from other sources.

Former Minister of Family, Youth and Sports Yurii Pavlenko attended KUPO's opening ceremony and congratulated Plast for actively participating in national education programs for children.

He presented Ukraine's Plast National Council chair, Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn, with a national Medal of Distinction for his service to Ukraine and Plast.

Recognition of Plast's positive contributions is growing in Ukrainian society and among government leaders. Plast is the only organization in Ukraine with a clearly delineated, effective system for educating its youth, according to an evaluation performed by the Institute of Problems in Education at the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine.

"All [the educational methods] used by Plast are very innovative and could be useful to Ukrainian schools and other

organizations as well," Mr. Yakovchuk-Besarab said.

More than five dissertations about Plast's character-building methods have been defended in the past few years, said Serhii Letenko, director of Plast's press service. "We want our organization to be the model for conducting curative outdoor camps," he said.

Nearly 7,000 scouts attended over 100 camps for several weeks this summer; they revolved around involving various themes, including arts, sports and leadership.

More than 37,000 Ukrainian youth have attended such outdoor camps, where participants are housed in tents since 1990.

Plast in Ukraine holds several national events every year, including the "Children's Dreams" festival for pre-teens, the Spartakiada sports competition, and the Orlykiada – an intellectual competition for teenage scouts which this year was held during KUPO.

Ukrainian Plast members are active also in charity. With the help of sponsors, scouts donate clothes, candy and gifts to children in orphanages on St. Nicholas Feast Day in December, Mr. Yakovchuk-Besarab said. This autumn, Plast scouts collected donations to finance a surgically equipped ambulance for the Kyiv Children's Cardiology Center.

They also maintain a longtime international scouting tradition of bringing the Peacelight of Bethlehem to Ukraine – a torch lit from the continuously burning oil lamp in Bethlehem that is passed from Austria, through Poland, to Ukrainian children spending Christmas in hospitals.

Exchange programs have been in place for four years to allow Plast's Ukrainian scoutmasters to participate in U.S. summer camps, said Marta Kuzmowycz, president of Plast's U.S. National Command.

Among the decisions reached during KUPO, American Volodymyr Bazarko will serve as chair of the Supreme Plast Bulava, the organization's international body.

During the Plast Congress, emotions flared when delegates debated the relationship of political activism and Plast activities. The congress concluded that adult members of Plast may be politically active and support a particular party, but they cannot simultaneously hold leadership positions in both Plast and a political institution. Plast as an organization must remain strictly apolitical, it was decided.

The congress also discussed defining Plast's unifying focus amidst international differences, and to what degree variations in general policies could be allowed in various countries in order to accommodate regional idiosyncrasies.

## OSCE cites need for cooperation in battle against human trafficking

VIENNA – The 56 participating states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) need to cooperate within and across borders to intensify their efforts to combat human trafficking for purposes of labor exploitation, concluded participants at a high-level meeting that ended on November 17.

Eva Biaudet, the OSCE special representative on combating trafficking in human beings, called on all OSCE states to ratify the Palermo Protocol, which requires governments to prevent trafficking, prosecute offenders and protect victims. About a dozen OSCE countries have yet to ratify the document.

"Protecting victims' rights makes a crucial contribution to the prosecution of perpetrators," she said. "Both aspects are needed to effectively fight trafficking in all its forms."

To respond to trafficking for labor exploitation, actors such as labor inspectorates, immigration services, police, prosecutors and NGOs must cooperate, speakers at the meeting said. They also emphasized the need to always protect the human rights of victims.

"Addressing exploitation should be the departing point of our interventions," Ms. Biaudet said. "Law enforcers need concrete guidance to become sensitized to the detection of situations of exploitation. They need guidance to be able to apply the law, punish perpetrators and provide legal redress for the victims."

"But this alone is not enough. OSCE participating states should also tackle xenophobia and racism, which create an environment where trafficking for labor exploitation can take place," she added.

OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut said the meeting illustrated how the organization can contribute by building cooperation in a complex, cross-cutting issue.

"The OSCE is here acting as a network generator between states and a range of other relevant actors in order to mobilize innovative thinking and the will to act by all concerned," he explained.

The Vienna meeting brought together government anti-trafficking coordinators, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, law enforcement agents, labor inspectors and experts in the field.



# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## OUN leader from Ukraine pays a visit to the UNA



PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Andrij Hajdamacha, leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (Revolutionary) paid a visit to the headquarters of the Ukrainian National Association during his recent visit to the United States for the 60th anniversary of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine (ODFFU). Seen above during his December 1 visit to the UNA are (from left): UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj, Mr. Hajdamacha, UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich and UNA Second Vice-President Michael Koziupa. Mr. Koziupa, who accompanied Mr. Hajdamacha to the UNA offices, also is president of the ODFFU.

## An explanation regarding UNA Christmas cards

This is an explanation to all the supporters who over the years have purchased the Ukrainian National Association's Christmas cards, which financially support the Ukrainian National Foundation.

As a major fund-raiser for the foundation, this project brings in between \$30,000 and \$50,000 annually. Due to the large volume of mail – over 140,000 cards – which the UNA does not have the internal capability to handle, the UNA decided to utilize a professional mailing service. We contracted a company to

expedite this mailing process.

Unfortunately, the company did not mail the cards out in a timely fashion. The good news is that the cards are in the mail and you will receive them shortly. We apologize for this inconvenience and ask that you continue to be generous in your support.

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

– Oksana Trytjak  
UNA national organizer

## Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

**Do you have a young UNA'er,  
or potential young UNA'er in your family?**

Call the UNA Home Office, 973-292-9800, to find out how to enroll.

## National Fraternal Congress receives award for its Join Hands Day program

OAK BROOK, Ill. –The National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) has been named to the 2007 Associations Advance America Honor Roll, a national awards competition sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and The Center for Association Leadership in Washington.

The NFCA received the award for Join Hands Day, which is sponsored by America's fraternal benefit societies. Held on the first Saturday in May, Join Hands Day is the fraternal national day of service when youths and adults work together to plan and implement projects that benefit their local communities. Join Hands Day gives Americans the opportunity to reach out to people they don't know, to connect generations and to develop new relationships. Join Hands Day also is the only day on the national seasons of service calendar that targets and develops youth/adult relationships through neighborhood volunteering.

Now in its 17th year, the prestigious Associations Advance America (AAA) Awards program recognizes associations that propel America forward – with innovative projects in education, skills training, standards setting, business and social innovation, knowledge creation, citizenship, and community service. Although association activities have a powerful impact on everyday life, they often go unnoticed by the general public.

"NFCA's program Join Hands Day truly embodies the spirit of the

Associations Advance America campaign. It is an honor and an inspiration to showcase this activity as an example of the many contributions associations are making to advance American society," said AAA Committee Chair Charles A. McGrath, managing partner, client services, at Bostrom Corp.

For more information on Join Hands Day, readers may log on to [www.joinhandsday.org](http://www.joinhandsday.org) or contact the Join Hands Day Action Center at 630-522-6322, ext. 116, or [actioncenter@joinhandsday.org](mailto:actioncenter@joinhandsday.org).

The 120-year-old NFCA unites 75 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The association represents 10 million fraternalists in 36,000 local chapters, making it one of America's largest member-volunteer networks. Fraternal benefit societies provide their members with leadership, social, educational, spiritual, patriotic, scholarship, financial and volunteer-service opportunities.

Combined, the NFCA's member-societies maintain more than \$324 billion of life insurance-in-force and, in 2005 alone, contributed almost \$400 million to charitable and fraternal programs, and volunteered 93 million hours for community-service projects. These statistics demonstrate the commitment that fraternalists make to those in need and exemplify the true meaning of the NFCA signature phrase: "Joining Hands, Touching Lives." For more information, visit the NFCA website at [www.nfcenet.org](http://www.nfcenet.org).

## Young UNA'ers



Anastasia (age 8) and John (age 12) Karyczak are the latest UNA Coverdell Education Savings Account owners in Buffalo, N.Y. Their parents, John and Svetlana Karyczak, established Coverdells for their children because of the 5.5 percent tax-free earnings rate. John would like to attend Canisius College, while his sister, Anastasia, is still undecided. Because their parents will never have to pay taxes on the interest earned, next year the interest credited by the UNA will also be earning interest for the young Karyczaks. Thus, the savings for college add up much more quickly. Tax law permits a contribution of up to \$2,000 per year to a Coverdell Education Savings Account. It is worth noting that the UNA never charges any account maintenance or service fees, so every penny of a member's deposit starts earning interest right away! Anastasia and John are members of UNA Branch 360 in Buffalo, N.Y.

– Judie Hawryluk, secretary of UNA Branch 360  
and chairwoman of the Buffalo UNA District.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Mr. Yanukovich goes to Washington

Clearly, the U.S. visit of Ukraine's prime minister, Viktor Yanukovich, was meant to be a charm offensive, as the erstwhile bad guy of the Orange Revolution sought to remake his image. On display in Washington, where he addressed a capacity crowd at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and later in New York City, where the prime minister addressed the business community, was the kinder, gentler and more polished Viktor Yanukovich. Why, he even spoke the official state language (though struggling at times).

At the CSIS he spoke of how Ukraine is committed to political and economic reform, has a fiscally responsible government, is a reliable partner on the international scene and is investor-friendly. Yes, there are issues to be resolved, the prime minister admitted, but Ukraine's leaders, though their "tactical approaches" differ, have "a common vision."

Even before the prime minister had returned to Ukraine, his spinmeisters were busy sending out news releases hailing the great success of his U.S. visit.

However, Mr. Yanukovich's visit was less than the triumph they depicted. First of all, the visit was low-keyed by the Bush administration. Meetings with Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice were closed to the press – not even the customary photo opportunity was provided. Then, when photos were sought for publication in this newspaper, well, the State Department's photographer was out sick, and the Office of the Vice-President couldn't get us a photo on deadline. (Not to be dissuaded, we insisted that we would take a photo whenever it was available; apparently not yet...)

Questioned during the State Department's press briefing about the lack of news coverage and a photo, spokesman Sean McCormack answered somewhat less than convincingly, "there's no slight that's intended and we're absolutely ready to work with him as well as his government." So much so apparently, that two bilateral agreements signed during the prime minister's visit were signed by lower-level bureaucrats.

And then there were the embarrassing glitches that simply must be mentioned. Distribution of the text of the prime minister's speech at CSIS – his most significant appearance – was badly mishandled. First, the Embassy of Ukraine transmitted the wrong version, and then another wrong version was given out in New York at the Ukraine Business Forum. Both incorrect versions turned out to be significantly different from the speech actually delivered at what most considered to be the key event on Mr. Yanukovich's itinerary. (We've got the right version – thanks to our alert colleague who attended the event and the CSIS website – on pages 9-10 of this issue.)

And then there was the unfortunate error in the official English-language press release sent by the Press Office of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. "Today nobody has doubts that Ukraine stands in the way of democratic changes ..., Prime Minister of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich stated in his comments to journalists in Washington summing up the meeting with the United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice." [The English language was horrible throughout the release, but that lead phrase certainly was a doozy.] Ouch.

In the end, however, it is not Mr. Yanukovich's words in Washington that will convince the U.S. that he and his government are on the right track. Rather, it is his deeds. That, Mr. Yanukovich, is how you build a track record.

Dec.  
21  
1991

### Turning the pages back...

This week marks the 15th anniversary of the Helsinki Commission's report on the historic December 1, 1991, referendum on independence and presidential election, in which Ukraine's citizens overwhelmingly voted for independence

and chose Leonid Kravchuk as president. Significantly, the report by three of the 60 official election observers, Orest Deychakiwsky, Michael Ochs and John Finerty, was possibly the only one issued publicly by a U.S. government entity.

The Helsinki Commission staffers, who were stationed in polling centers in Kyiv, Lviv and Kaniv, reported that the elections were mostly free of malicious intent to defraud and that scattered reports of violations were not significant to the election outcome. In the final count by the Central Election Commission, 90.32 percent of the eligible voters supported the August 24 declaration of independence, with 7.6 percent against and 2.1 percent of the ballots marked as invalid.

Recognizing the critical importance of Ukraine, many Western analysts expressed surprise that Ukraine's emergence from the Soviet Union was remarkably orderly. From this point on, Ukraine would face many challenges as it moved toward democracy, stability, free markets and good relations with its neighbors, noted the Helsinki Commission (Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe).

Prior to the referendum, there was growing momentum for U.S. recognition of Ukraine. A Senate resolution to this effect was passed on November 22, 1991, and President George Bush told Ukrainian American leaders that steps would be taken to salute Ukrainian independence. However, he said recognition would be conditional on satisfactory implementation of arms control agreements, debt repayment, human rights and economic reforms.

The Helsinki Commission's report noted that developing strong relations with Ukraine would help stabilize the region and would serve as a model for U.S. relations with Russia. These relations would help Ukraine make the transition away from centralized rule and shake the foundations of socialist economics. The U.S. would also be a vital source of advice, expertise and technical assistance on issues ranging from military security to price formation and the development of democratic institutions.

In the report's final assessment, it was noted that U.S. recognition of Ukraine would signal a coincidence of basic principles between these two countries, as well as an acknowledgment of political realities.

Source: "A Report by the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe," by Orest Deychakiwsky, Michael Ochs and John Finerty, December 21, 1991.

## CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER

### "A special invitation for us to enjoy God's peace..."

*Pastoral message of the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy of the U.S.A. to our clergy, hieromonks and brothers, religious sisters, seminarians and beloved faithful.*

Christ is born!

The Nativity scene is anything but noisy and cluttered. Mary and Joseph care for the newborn King, Jesus, in a humble stable. It is a peaceful and serene scene that calls forth peace and stillness within each of us.

Mary, the Mother of God, and her husband, Joseph, humbly accept their role in the plan of God for the salvation of humanity. There is no protest or setting of conditions on their part. They merely accept God's invitation given to them by an angel.

The shepherds peacefully come to visit our Lord and Savior, having heard the news of Jesus' birth announced by an angel. There is no hesitation on their part, and no big debate as to what they should do. They peacefully respond to the angel's announcement and proceed to Bethlehem to see Jesus.

The kings study and follow the stars, and their observation of the unusual star over Bethlehem leads them to come and pay homage to the newborn King, Jesus. In their journey, they also become messengers of God for the invitation to conversion of Herod's heart. Yet, earthly power does not want to submit to the power of God, and Herod quickly tries to destroy the Christ-Child, Jesus. Herod spoils the peacefulness of the Nativity, and forces Joseph and Mary with Jesus to flee the calm of Bethlehem. To be silent and to obediently listen to the will of God in our life is a challenge for us today and also an invitation.

It is a challenge for us to hear God's presence among us today. We need to cultivate within us a golden silence so as to hear God's whispers to us. Mary gives us the example of being silent and by cherishing all these things within her heart. Mary gives us the example of humility in her acceptance of God's will for her. Joseph, contrary to his own personal desires, hears the message of God through an angel to take Mary as his wife and to nourish the Christ-Child, Jesus, without fear. He listens to the voice of God and humbly obeys. Joseph was able to hear the voice of God because he was a prayerful man and listened to God's whispers in his life.

Being silent, listening and following God's whispers in our life also offers a special invitation for us to enjoy God's peace, a peace that the world around us cannot offer in its busy-ness and clamor. It is an invitation to feel within our heart and within our whole being a level of joy and happiness that is beyond comprehension, because God gives it. God is the source of our contentment and happiness. God is with us, and desires our peace and joy in Him.

Listening to God's whispers in our life, and trusting in His will for us, also strengthens us to cope with the Herods of the world. The shepherds and kings came to give homage to the newborn King, Jesus. Herod gave homage with empty words and the vengeful action to try to destroy the Christ-Child, Jesus. We are surrounded with Herods in our world around us. They are exemplified by



"Orange Madonna of Sumsk" by Daria Hulak-Kulchytsky, as reproduced on a Christmas card.

people who would try and destroy all forms of religious meaning from daily life, particularly in the public domain. They strive to remove Jesus and all reference to God in our daily public life. Walking with God in our humble silence and obedience helps us to hear God's voice in how we are to react to such Herods of the world within our life. God instructed Joseph through an angel in his dreams as to how to respond to Herod's threat. God is among us and will whisper to us how we are to respond to the Herods of today. Listening to the whispers of God in our life will also prevent us from taking on characteristics of Herod in our own life.

Our prayer for you on this Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is that we enter into that blessed realm of silence exemplified by Mary, the Mother of God, so that we may hear and cherish God's whispers within our heart. We pray that God's peace and joy, a peace and joy that surpasses all human understanding, overcome us and direct us to humbly and generously respond to God's will within our life. Let us grow in our trust in Him, casting away all fears and doubt, and enabling each of us to generously and willingly respond to God's desire for us.

God grant to you and to your loved ones, and to our brothers and sisters in our beloved Ukraine and scattered throughout the world, good health, joy and contentment. A Blessed Christmas!

Christ is born! Praise Him!

**Most Rev. Stefan Soroka**  
Metropolitan of the Ukrainian  
Catholic Church in the U.S.A.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia  
for Ukrainians

**Most Rev. Robert M. Moskal**  
Bishop of the St. Josaphat Eparchy  
in Parma

**Most Rev. Richard Seminack**  
Bishop of the St. Nicholas Eparchy  
in Chicago

**Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM**  
Bishop of the Eparchy of Stamford

**Most Rev. John Bura**  
Auxiliary bishop of the Archeparchy  
of Philadelphia

## COMMENTARY

## The Ukrainian language in Ukraine

by Oleh Wolowyna

The status of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine has received a great deal of attention lately. Many articles and op-ed pieces have been written in Ukraine, as well as in Russia and other countries. Official declarations by Ukrainian and Russian spokespersons have been amply publicized, and all kinds of rationalizations have been proposed to justify the different positions on the subject.

This polemic has become entangled in all kinds of rationalizations, sidetracked by arguments that are tangential at best, and it seems that people have lost sight of some basic principles regarding this issue. It's time to go back to basics and get rid of all the extraneous arguments that confuse the issue.

Let us start with some principles that should be self-evident:

- Ukraine is an independent country and, like any independent country, should have an official language (either *de jure* or *de facto*).
- The Ukrainian language is an integral part of Ukrainian culture and an essential component of Ukraine as an independent country.
- Without Ukrainian as its official language there is no justification for Ukraine to exist as an independent country.
- The Ukrainian government and the people of Ukraine need to decide if they want an independent Ukraine or not, and the status of the Ukrainian language follows logically from the above principles.

Given the historical context of Ukraine, examples of countries with more than one official language (Canada, for example), or countries with official languages that are not an integral part of their culture (Ireland or Switzerland, for example) are totally irrelevant.

It would be unrealistic, of course, to ignore the historical reality of the consequences of centuries of Russification policy in Ukraine. One also needs to consider the fact that the current Russian government and the majority of Russians find independent Ukraine unacceptable and are doing everything in their power to bring Ukraine back as part of the Russian Empire. The elimination of the Ukrainian language is part of this policy.

There is a very simple answer to the continuous provocations by the Russian government regarding the "persecution" of the Russian minority and its language in Ukraine: the Ukrainian government will guarantee the Russian minority in Ukraine the same rights as the Russian government guarantees the Ukrainian minority in Russia.

Given these historical realities, it is important to distinguish between goals and tactics. The ultimate, uncompromising goal is that Ukrainian is the language of Ukraine and that all official and most public discourse in the country should be in Ukrainian. One should make allowances for persons who do not speak Ukrainian to be able to communicate in their mother tongue, but this should be a matter of temporary convenience, not a permanent right.

A good example of this tactic is how different states and municipalities in the United States deal with Hispanic immigrants. For practical reasons, the immigrants are given the opportunity to conduct official business in Spanish, but the

official policy is that their children will become Americans and English speakers, with the personal option of maintaining their Hispanic culture, including the Spanish language – in other words, Americans first and Hispanics second. And this applies to all ethnic groups in the U.S.A.

People who insist that Russian should be an official language in Ukraine can be classified into three groups: a) Russian nationalists who overtly or covertly are trying to sabotage Ukraine as an independent country and marginalize its culture; b) Russified Ukrainians who feel more comfortable speaking Russian and think that Ukraine should be subservient to Russia; c) people who think that Russian is a superior language than Ukrainian, admire Russian culture and consider Ukrainian culture inferior, and bend backwards not to offend the "big brother."

The issue boils down to self-respect as a nation and a people, and to our historical legacy of the Ukrainian inferiority complex. By not understanding the fact that the Ukrainian language is an integral part of our culture and that it is inseparable from Ukraine as an independent nation, those who promote the Russian language over Ukrainian insult the Ukrainian people's dignity as persons and as citizens of Ukraine. If this is not clearly understood and acted upon, Ukraine might as well close shop and beg "big brother" to accept Ukrainians again as their "little brothers."

What should the diaspora's policy be in this matter? First, it is about time that we stop being apologetic and defensive about this issue. Our position should be firm and unequivocal: Ukraine will not be a truly independent nation without Ukrainian as its only official language. The final decision on this belongs to the Ukrainian people and the governments they elect, of course. However, the diaspora has the right and duty not only to make its position clear to the Ukrainian government and people, but also take concrete measures consistent with this position.

Some illustrative examples:

- Before donating money, equipment or time to any Ukrainian institution, find out about their policies regarding the Ukrainian language. We should provide assistance only to those institutions that have a clear policy of use and/or support of the Ukrainian language. For example, provide assistance to schools in eastern Ukraine that teach exclusively in Ukrainian and need help with textbooks, teaching materials, training of teachers, etc.
- When dealing with government officials in Ukraine who speak in Russian, tell them that you do not understand Russian (which happens to be a fact for those of us who were not exposed to the Russian language). If they insist on speaking Russian, ask for a Ukrainian-speaking official.
- The airline Aerosvit exploits the name "Ukraine" for marketing purposes. However, when I flew on Aerosvit last May to Kyiv and asked for Ukrainian newspapers they did not have any; all the newspapers were in Russian. Make it clear to them that if they do not carry Ukrainian newspapers, we will not use the airline and will publicize this fact.

We should make it clear that, in our opinion, Ukraine without the Ukrainian language is a contradiction of terms, and that an independent Ukraine where a

## Double Exposure

by Khristina Lew

## Sympathy for the devil

Viktor Yanukovich returned to the United States as Ukraine's prime minister for a second time on December 3-6. Gone was the man who feigned a mortal wound when struck by an egg on the campaign trail in the fall of 2004. Or the man who for many prompted what came to be known as the Orange Revolution.

This year's Viktor, who was appointed as prime minister by President Viktor Yushchenko in August after the Orange forces couldn't unite into a majority, is downright genteel. He says all the things the West wants to hear, like that Ukraine is rapidly preparing for WTO entry by passing all but two laws related to accession. That corruption in Ukraine is "a sickness that must be treated." That Ukraine's gas storage facilities are full, and Europe will have all the natural gas it needs this winter.

This year's Viktor speaks only in the Ukrainian language, as does his staff, including his press secretary Denys Ivanenko – no small feat given that most of the press corps traveling with the prime minister spoke only in Russian.

It would seem that the U.S. government was unconvinced of Mr. Yanukovich's intentions, keeping meetings between the Ukrainian prime minister and Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice closed to the press. In fact, Dr. Rice went to such lengths to distance herself from Mr. Yanukovich that no official photograph was taken of the two by the State Department. When *The Weekly* inquired why there was no photo, the editor was told that the State Department photographer was sick.

The chill did not carry over to unofficial Washington – staffers, NGOs, Beltway bandits – who packed a standing-room only auditorium at the Center for Strategic and International Studies to hear the prime minister speak.

There Mr. Yanukovich actually wrapped himself in the mantle of the Orange Revolution, claiming that "everyone has had one's own *maidan*, and it brought about a powerful purification process for the Ukrainian society."

There were some among the Ukrainian community in the U.S. who did not buy Mr. Yanukovich's "purification" and actively boycotted his visit to Washington. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America declared that they would not attend a meeting with the

prime minister at Ukraine's Embassy to the United States on December 4; the organization sent via courier an open letter to Mr. Yanukovich outlining issues of concern to its membership.

Representatives of other Ukrainian American organizations like the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and the Ukrainian National Association (which belongs to both the UCCA and the UACC umbrella organizations) also did not attend a reception in the prime minister's honor at the Embassy on December 4, although there certainly were members of the diaspora there (my favorite wore an orange blazer and her husband wore a red-and-white tie). The reception was packed – again, with staffers, NGOs and lobbyists – and it seems a shame that those who didn't attend hadn't embraced the old devil-that-you-know adage.

Lest my readers think I've completely gone over to the "Dark Side," I will point out that Mr. Yanukovich took swipes at his opponents during his CSIS address. In a veiled reference to former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Mr. Yanukovich said that his government has "excluded the word 'reprivatization' from our political vocabulary" and vowed to make privatization an "instrument for market restructuring and capitalization of the economy."

He also said Ukraine has yet to resolve the "final redistribution of power among the branches of government" after the constitutional reform of 2005, and invoked the "wisdom and tolerance" of America's Founding Fathers when he said, "They had mastered their will to subordinate all the minor differences and personal ambitions for the sake of the ideals of democracy and freedom. For every complicated issue they were able to find the golden middle – the compromise that has passed successfully the test of over 200 years." I think we know who he had in mind when he uttered those words.

Tensions over control of Ukraine's foreign policy were an undercurrent during his Washington stay, and when Mr. Yanukovich responded to a reporter's request for his reaction to the presidential decree defying Parliament's vote to remove Borys Tarasyuk as minister of foreign affairs, the veneer cracked. The prime minister clearly had President Yushchenko in mind when he said, "When the Ukrainian Parliament makes a decision, its decisions are to be respected and honored. It underscores that this person is irresponsible." (Mr. Ivanenko had to later clarify that the prime minister was referring to Mr. Tarasyuk, and not to Mr. Yushchenko).

So, things are not always as they seem, especially when it comes to Ukrainian politics. We'll see what 2007 brings.



Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich talks to reporters in Washington on December 4.

Oleh Wolowyna, Ph.D., is a demographer and president of *Informed Decisions Inc.* based in Chapel Hill, N.C.

(Continued on page 42)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Time for a woman to be president

Dear Editor:

In 15 years of independence, Ukraine has had three male presidents. The first two were raised with Marxist-Leninist ideology, and an internationalist and at times even fascistic doctrine, so Ukrainians could not expect them to successfully construct a true Ukrainian nation-state. Fortunately, that ideology has been tossed aside, and we hope and pray that it shall not return.

In a few years the people of Ukraine will have a chance to vote for a new president. Ukrainians must choose a woman president, because after 15 years of male rule, not a single man has stood out for his ability to declare that Ukraine is a country with a distinct and separate language, culture and traditions.

The woman Ukraine needs is Yulia Tymoshenko, an ardent supporter of a strong, independent Ukraine that cherishes its own language and culture. Certainly not a puppet of Moscow, she is capable of building a Ukrainian nation that is free of Russia's influence. Ms. Tymoshenko is in touch with the people and can put forth the wishes of the Ukrainian citizenry.

I have worked with the Orphan Aid Society for 15 years, and in my travels throughout Ukraine I have spoken with many of the locals. From what I have heard and observed, the majority trust not a single man who is currently in power. Hopefully, the people will wake up and choose a woman to be their next president. After all, there are more women than men in Ukraine.

**Myron Lusyshyn**  
Phoenix, Ariz.

### Ukrainian theme strangely missing

Dear Editor:

I read the article headlined "Ukrainian Christmas tale to debut in New York in January" (November 19, 2006) with great interest. I was delighted to hear about Ethnocentricity's sponsorship of "First Star: A Winter's Tale," which will feature Ukrainian Christmas traditions at the Danny Kaye Playhouse in January 2007.

The glowing descriptions in The Ukrainian Weekly article described "First Star," with artistic director Andrij Cybyk, as a production with "high-leaping Kozaks ... reflecting the beauty of Ukrainian traditions, music, song and dance." The article included an appeal from Mr. Cybyk to the Ukrainian community for financial support in this important endeavor.

My enthusiasm for this project led me to the Danny Kaye Playhouse and Ethnocentricity websites to seek more details. I was dismayed to find that the production is advertised on both sites as "An original holiday celebration of music and dance based on Slavic themes telling the story of a little girl's fantastic journey into the roots of her culture" and "a Slavic holiday theme ... which people of Eastern European descent will relate to." There was no mention on either website of Ukrainian traditions, Ukrainian costumes, Ukrainian dance, music or song. The advertising was completely silent on the Ukrainian cultural theme, and washed the production in generic Slavic and Eastern European terms.

According to your article, the Ethnocentricity Corporation was formed with the purpose of "assisting artists of all ethnic origins who wish to express their work in music, dance and art that unifies their cultural heritage with their American upbringing." Kudos to Mr. Cybyk and Ethnocentricity for bringing Ukraine to the American stage. I do encourage Ukrainians to support "First Star."

In addition, I respectfully suggest to Mr. Cybyk to revisit "First Star's" advertising strategy to give credit where credit is due. If the production is a Ukrainian production, then advertise it as such – I'll be happy to send my Ukrainian dollars in support.

**Natalia Lysyj Rieland**  
Edina, Minn.

### Russians continue their interference

Dear Editor:

Recent events in Ukraine indicate continuing interference in Ukraine's affairs by Russians. History shows this interference in many varieties. The burning of a Ukrainian prison (1,400 died) in Kharkiv in the 1940s, for example, means nothing to the Russians. Many of their crimes remain unpunished.

Russian atrocities, aggression and deceit must be exposed by Ukrainian nationalist groups not only in Ukraine but also in the rest of the world. Now, can you imagine the Russians having a \$250 million "slush fund" to buy out and bribe Ukrainian politicians?

Ukrainian journalists in Canada and Ukraine must interview leaders of the Pora Party, Svoboda Party, etc., get the facts, and educate the electorate prior to and between elections.

Finally, Ukrainian Canadians can help by contributing financially to their favorite Ukrainian political party.

**Ed Storzuk**  
St. George, Manitoba

### Myron Kuropas is a true patriot

Dear Editor:

Myron Kuropas' column of October 29 generated feedback, and some of it was not very pretty.

I would like to commend Dr. Kuropas for clearly laying out facts. A patriot deals with reality and Dr. Kuropas is a true patriot in my opinion. While I am not an American, I carry in my heart a profound love and respect for America and for the Constitution on which the nation is founded. Likewise, I admire those patriotic Americans who, over the generations, took the Constitution to heart as they built their lives, provided for their families, and defended liberty both at home and abroad.

I am fortunate to be married to a Ukrainian, and from her have I learned the intensity of feeling that people of Ukrainian heritage have for liberty. From this perspective, I find it baffling to see people of Ukrainian heritage in North America, as well as those resident in Ukraine, close their eyes to the very real dangers of Islamic militancy/fascism. I would posit that their voices would call a different tune if it was Ukraine under immediate attack by militant Islam.

As Dr. Kuropas knows, yet so many

others seem to ignore, freedom is not free.

In the Ukrainian community in Canada there is a similar rush away from reality to fully embrace the concept of "entitlement" in a liberal-left secular state, rather than towards the concept of "an opportunity for excellence and responsibility" as found in a conservative, Christian nation.

God bless America!

**Alexander James Black**  
Mississauga, Ontario

### More dignified language is needed

Dear Editor:

Re: Zenon Zawada's report on the Our Ukraine People's Union congress (November 26). Having the privilege of being on the front page requires more controlled and dignified language. Descriptions like "confectionary magnate Petro Poroshenko (or anybody else) do not belong to serious reporting: can you imagine The New York Times or any other newspaper writing "Ketchup magnate (Sen.) John Heinz"? Why should it be OK in The Ukrainian Weekly?

Also, I found the headline "Congress shows Yushchenko has lost control over 'Our Ukraine Peoples Union'" presumptuous and disrespectful.

**Andrij Paschuk**  
New York

### About omissions of "Orthodox"

Dear Editor:

As an Orthodox Ukrainian, and a retired librarian of theological seminaries, I would like to point out to your editorial staff that as long as I can remember, your columnists and commentators often omit the word "Orthodox" where it's appropriate. Such omissions mutilate Ukrainian history and rob readers of knowledge about their heritage.

Below are two examples, published in your October 1 issue.

In his column, "The rest of the story," Myron Kuropas starts his second paragraph with "The first Ukrainian priest to come to the United States was Father Ahapius Honcharenko ..." Who else but an Orthodox priest could attend the Kyiv Theological Seminary in the mid-19th century? Just a few paragraphs later, he describes the arrival of the first Catholic priest almost 20 years later. Why do so many journalists feign ignorance when it comes to anything Orthodox?

Dr. Kuropas' information about Father Honcharenko is also not entirely accurate. He was indeed arrested and slated to be sent to Siberia for his anti-tsarist writings. He was, however, saved and sent in a coffin to London, not by Greeks, but by Ukrainian "dissidents" residing in Athens. The surname of one of them was Honchar, and this is how Father Ahapius became Honcharenko.

Father Ahapius did arrive in the U.S. in 1865. He stayed in New York only one year. He already had a vision of his mission, not only for America, but also for Ukraine, in San Francisco. Father Ahapius was a humble Orthodox priest, and it is shameful that his contribution towards the purchase of Alaska is rarely cited. Below are two short excerpts on the subject.

The first one is by Irvin E. Thompson,

from the October 14, 1914, issue of The Epworth Herald: "Honcharenko's connection with Alaska and its purchase is very interesting. ... Honcharenko did much to call the attention of the government to the value of Alaska and has a letter signed by Secretary Seward in regard to the matter ... His service has been so great that the government ought to pension him in recognition of his labors."

The second is an excerpt from the editorial page of the Hayward Journal, May 12, 1916, from an article titled "Exile laid at rest": "... Not only did Honcharenko strive to aid his own countrymen ... Although it is not generally known, Honcharenko proved an important factor in the development of this country. Largely through his advice and encouragement it is said did the United States come into possession of Alaska."

In the same issue of The Ukrainian Weekly on page 10, in the article by Daria Darewych titled "Bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka launches new CD of classical songs by Stetsenko," the word "Orthodox" is once again blatantly omitted. Father Kyrylo Stetsenko was an Orthodox priest, choir director and a composer of liturgical works for the revived Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church of the 1920s. Would any other professional music reviewer strip a composer of his spiritual inspiration?

These omissions are not only offensive to me as an Orthodox Ukrainian, but should be offensive to all who know the history of Ukraine and cherish their rich cultural heritage.

**Halyna Hrushetsky**  
Westchester, Ill.

### A thank-you for readers' support

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank readers of The Ukrainian Weekly for their generous support of my new not-for-profit organization, Ethnocentricity, and our mission to help ethnic artists in these contemporary times. The positive response to our initial project, "First Star: A Winter's Tale," a music-and-dance production with a Ukrainian theme, has been extremely heartening. I am very happy to be part of a community that supports its artists and believes in presenting its artistic heritage on a large scale and in an innovative way.

Due to a lack of funds and, more importantly, time, Ethnocentricity's board of directors, our designers and I have decided to postpone our presentation of "First Star," originally scheduled for January 2007 to January 2008. We believe that our community deserves a show on a large scale. If we cannot present it as we envision it, on the scale of a Ukrainian Riverdance, it is better to continue building until we have a finished product that we can all be proud of.

We will continue our fund-raising efforts throughout 2007 and will present more preview performances to illustrate our production. If any organization is interested in hosting or viewing a preview, we suggest you contact Ethnocentricity at 646-281-8160 or admin@ethnocentricity.org.

As artistic director of "First Star," I am very grateful for your generous support and I will continue to build a show that will help our culture's beauty and traditions shine on the world stage.

**Andrij Cybyk**  
New York

# Prime minister's speech at CSIS: What path for Ukraine?

*Following is the text of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's speech on December 4 at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The transcript appears on the CSIS website and was prepared by the Federal News Service.*

Dear ladies and gentlemen, it's a special pleasure for me to start my working visit to the United States with this meeting.

I'd like to thank the Center for Strategic and International Studies for the opportunity to speak at this renowned think-tank, and particularly to such a distinguished, competent, and most importantly, interested audience.

I hope that our discussion will be frank and to the point – all the more so that the actions of my government are transparent. We do not use double standards and dubious deals that for some reasons cannot be discussed publicly. We have but one truth for internal use, as well as for exports, as they say. In Kyiv, whether in Moscow, in Washington or in Brussels, we speak the language of the national Ukrainian interests.

Naturally, it is physically impossible for me to tell you details about all of our priorities and the first results of my government's work within the minutes that I have – and perhaps I don't have to, as the world has become so open now and our actions are so transparent that the experts and public at large can have complete access to the information. Therefore, allow me to concentrate on a number of priorities and most widely discussed issues.

Five years ago Ambassador of the United States Carlos Pascual and Ambassador Steven Pifer, who are present here, made a great contribution to the development of relations between the United States and Ukraine. So, five years ago they published a profound article called "The Struggle of Ukraine for its Decisive Place in History." Incidentally, many arguments that they suggested would still be valid today.

The diplomats wrote that, ironically, it is obviously easier to predict the following 25 years than the next 10 years. It's difficult to imagine a country as great as Ukraine, with its history and culture, having such natural resources and manpower, and not being a part of Europe at the same time. The question is, what path is Ukraine going to select in order to reach that objective – an easy way or a difficult one?

Half of the period of unpredictability is behind us already, and our government is going to work at least for the next five years, I hope, and these years will be predictable and stable. Therefore, this concludes the period of uncertainty about Ukraine.

I fully realize that the next five years will not be easy, because many reforms that should have been introduced in the first years of independence are still waiting for their turn to come. But despite all that, and in any situation, we will not abandon the path we have chosen – the path of democratic market transformations.

There can never be too much democracy in Ukraine, just as there cannot be too much freedom. Therefore, let me start one of the most important subjects for us now: the energy sector.

Ukraine will not have a stable economic development, and Damocles' sword will always hang over the country's economic reforms if we fail to introduce energy-saving technologies, diversify sources of power supply and switch over to the world prices for energy resources. We are determined to get rid of our dubious world leadership in ener-

gy consumption.

Energy intensive enterprises must implement energy-saving technologies on a very tight schedule. For this purpose, the government is now creating substantial financial incentives. We also intend to upgrade electric power infrastructure, including gas and oil pipelines, heat, electric power plants, etc. By our calculations, these measures alone will save up to 10 percent of annual power consumption in Ukraine.

In order to get rid of our critical dependency on natural gas supply, we're going to develop our own alternative energy-generating facilities. We'll increase production of coal and develop the nuclear energy industry in a responsible manner.

We have succeeded in providing Ukraine with sufficient quantities of natural gas for the low prices by resuming our dialogue, first and foremost, with Russia. The price for gas for 2007 will be \$130 (U.S.) upon entering our territory. It's one of the best prices all over Europe, incidentally. And, as we have been often criticized, I would like to emphasize that the subject of our negotiations was exclusively energy supplies. We didn't have any political bargaining with Russia.

Speculations about a possible change of ownership of the Ukrainian gas transportation system are false, too. I have said that clearly quite often, and I will say it again. This issue – the issue of the Ukrainian gas transportation system will not be subject to any discussion. This is the position of the president, the key political forces in the Parliament and the government. We have a common principled position, and it will not change.

We are interested in constructing supplementary transportation routes for energy resources from the Caspian region from Russia, across the territory of Ukraine. Taking into account the immense scale of the project, we would welcome the establishment of an international gas transportation consortium, with involvement of foreign partners.

The government of Ukraine is currently working on a number of projects to explore hydrocarbon reserves, jointly with our close and faraway neighbors. We have raised this issue with Russia and are currently conducting negotiations with Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. Besides, we're trying to restore the status that we lost in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Ukraine will be a reliable partner in transporting energy resources to Europe.

Today, gas – Ukrainian gas storage facilities are filled. And I can assure you that European consumers will have the necessary amount of natural gas this winter.

The energy policy of Ukraine will be in line with world standards, including diversification of the sources of supplies. In economics, one of the top priorities for my government is to modernize our economy, increase its competitiveness and attractiveness for investors. We clearly understand that Ukraine should encourage a considerable growth of foreign investments.

Ukraine's accession to the WTO will be a strong positive signal that foreign investors and the international community will receive in the nearest future. We have had long talks, long discussions, about the need to resolve the issue of Ukraine's accession to the WTO. But it was our government, the government that was in place in 2002-2004, made that powerful final dash. We developed a realistic timeline, and our cooperation with the Verkhovna Rada and its parliamentary majority concerning the adoption of

the required laws, and we comply with it. We've practically completed this work. The Parliament has only two of the 20 required bills that remain to be adopted in the final reading, and we have no doubts that it will be done soon.

I believe that everyone will benefit from Ukraine's accession to the WTO. Ukrainian exporters will be able to strengthen their international positions. Healthy competition will prevail in our

procedures. We realize this cannot be achieved through the sales of only a number of assets or small blocks of shares that do not attract the investors. Our goal is not so much to make privatization a source of budget revenues, but rather, we want to turn it to an instrument for market restructuring and capitalization of the economy. This approach is the basis for our privatization program for 2007 through 2009.



**Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich exits the State Department after a meeting with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the signing of two bilateral agreements on December 4.**

market. At the same time, we intend to protect our internal market, in full compliance with GATT-WTO rules and procedures. We expect our accession to the WTO to result in improved economic indicators, such as foreign investments, GDP growth, price stabilization and job creation.

An essential part of our economic policy is fiscal discipline and responsibility. We plan to further decrease the budget deficit to the level of 2.5 percent of the GDP for the year 2007. It's a comforting thought that this important indicator is better in Ukraine than many European nations – than in some of the EU member-nations.

By the end of 2007, we also plan to reduce the national debt to 16 percent of GDP. And, in this respect, I'd like to say a few words about the draft state budget for the next year. It's clear that the budget of any country can be improved without limits. All you need is resources. However, in view of our current situation, I have every reason to claim that the adoption of the state budget for 2007 will usher in a new stage of development for my country.

For the first time throughout the years of independence, we will move away from the expenditure consumption principle, and will encourage the investment and innovation component. Foreign investors should find the Ukrainian stock market an attractive one. We must openly admit that it is yet underdeveloped. The government is currently designing a number of measures that will provide a powerful boost to stock market development, and thus to the economy in general. We view this as an important priority in our economic policy development.

At the same time, we stand for absolute respect for private property rights. And we have excluded the word "reprivatization" from our political vocabulary for good. Moreover, I intend to significantly improve the privatization

In general, I'd like to say that we understand very well that Ukrainian properties are undervalued. This is one of the key objectives for my government – to value it completely in the nearest future. And this is what the stock market will do. My government will give adequate attention to the development of small and medium business. This is a way for us to solve a triple task, namely, formation of the middle class, that I'm sure will promote political and social stability in the society; increased involvement of the population that will contribute large-scale investments directly to the economic development, rather than deposit them with the banks, as is the case now; acceleration of the innovative development of the economy, where private entrepreneur initiative is a powerful incentive.

In the nearest future, we will find solutions to a number of old problems, including the improvement of the permit system, licensing and regulatory policies. In other words, the government will significantly reduce the state interference with private business activities. We have already submitted a draft law to that effect to the Parliament. The government is now finalizing five more drafts. This will create clear, transparent and comprehensible rules for doing business in Ukraine.

I think that the implementation of the strategy we have chosen will allow us to maintain quite a high rate of GDP growth for the coming five years – up to 6 or 7 percent annually. At the same time, we are going to implement a series of effective measures to curb inflation. We understand very well that national and foreign investors will feel at ease in Ukraine only when we have an effective transparent and independent judiciary system.

I'm sure that this is one of the most

(Continued on page 10)

## Prime minister's...

(Continued from page 9)

important problems that we have in Ukraine today. And let me assure you that my government will do everything possible in order to provide fair justice in Ukraine. That's why it is very important for us to have judicial reform as soon as possible.

Among the other important priorities, my government is fighting corruption. I understand that this is an area where we have to achieve a breakthrough, but my government is resolute about this. We have already made the first steps. And I'd like to tell you that today the government will sign an agreement, and this – I'm very happy to say this – with the Millennium Challenge Corporation about starting a threshold program for Ukraine. The government has also initiated, has submitted to the president and the National Security Council, the idea to discuss the issue of corruption as a top priority at the December meeting of the National Security Council, because it's only through combined effort of the branches of power we'll be able to achieve important results.

The next issue – next important element – is the democratic development in Ukraine. All the necessary conditions for democratic development are present in Ukraine today: freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, free and unobstructed access to information, freedom to express one's own opinion that differs from the position of the majority.

I was in opposition not long ago, and I know from my own experience how important it is to adhere to those fundamental rights and freedoms. In general, a competitive political environment has been created in Ukraine, which has been characterized by independent mass media; an efficient system of checks and balances where the president, the governmental majority – the Verkhovna Rada – are part of different political forces with a strong opposition; and a strong constitutional court, whose role is important as never before.

We have all the necessary conditions for a gradual democratic development in Ukraine, which is a clear priority for my government. The duty of the authorities

is to support and consolidate the vital achievements that the people have gained. Almost all remember the maidan. Everyone has had one's own maidan, and it brought about a powerful purification process for the Ukrainian society.

The remaining issues that generate certain tensions in society and have to dissolve include, first and foremost, the final redistribution of powers among the branches of government of Ukraine that result from the transition to the parliamentary presidential system. Our view is that state institutions are to function effectively, so as to avoid unnecessary conflict and/or duplication.

It's not a simple process for any nation, and especially for such a young democracy as Ukraine. However, complicated as the problems might be, we manage to solve them without needless social distress and excessive polarization of society. And this is symbolic, because in the long run all of us in the government – the Verkhovna Rada and the president – have but one aim: to improve people's life.

I must admit, though, that we still lack wisdom and tolerance, such as the ones that the Founding Fathers of the United States had. They had mastered their will to subordinate all the minor differences and personal ambitions for the sake of the ideals of democracy and freedom. For every complicated issue they were able to find the golden middle – the compromise that has passed successfully the test of over 200 years. We are learning from you.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, it is sad that transition problems affect such an important and delicate area as foreign policy. We have yet to learn to speak with one voice. Ukrainian leaders should be working hand-in-hand in the international arena to improve the country's image, especially considering the fact that we do not have anything to argue about.

It is in foreign policy where there is a common vision, a compromise. Everyone recognizes our European choice as the key foreign policy priority. Everyone also understands the importance of developing our strategic partnership with the United States and a special partnership with NATO especially.

And I have not yet met politicians who



Khristina Lew

**Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich meets with outgoing Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (right) at the Capitol on December 5.**

would be opposed to developing friendly relations with Russia. I believe I have no disagreements with the president of Ukraine concerning strategic prospects of the country for the next 20 to 25 years. Our tactical approaches can be the issue. I have always maintained that our actions at the international level should be based on the principles of pragmatism, realism and equilibrium. We should not take upon ourselves more than we can deliver, and this is my personal principle. The economic, financial and energy factors cannot be ignored either.

Finally, as we make foreign policy decisions, we have to think about preserving the country's unity. The only significant and controversial problem concerns Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration or else practical implementation of the NATO membership issue. It's hardly surprising, as the stereotypes of the Cold War live too long. A great number of our people still fear that our accession to NATO would be directed against Russia, would harm our friendly relations.

As a result, only one in five Ukrainians is ready to support filing a membership application today to the alliance, and one cannot fail to take the situation into account. That is the reason why I proposed a pragmatic approach at the September meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Committee in Brussels. And I suggested the following: continuation of the intensified dialogue with the alliance; expansion of our cooperation, first and foremost in peacekeeping; depoliticizing the subject of NATO-Ukraine relations; carrying out, or rather, launching a wide-scale information campaign that will allow society to calmly examine the situation without excessive stress and make a responsible decision.

We greatly appreciate NATO's constructive and well-balanced approach to its future cooperation with Ukraine. President Bush said it best in his speech at the Riga summit. He said that Ukraine can join NATO when it is ready and if it decides to do so. At the same time, I want to leave no doubt: Ukraine remains a reliable and essential partner for the alliance. We have proved it repeatedly in practice. When the suggestion was made to establish the Anti-Terrorist Coalition, we made the decision about where our place should be. And our contribution to that important mission was substantial.

I believe that the other foreign policy issues are much less controversial – perhaps with the exception of my attitude toward our relations with Russia, that for some reason attracts increased attention. Let me say that I view Russia in a much broader way than just a mar-

ket for our products and a supplier of energy resources. And I'm doing this because of a whole number of factors – historic factors, cultural, family-related and geopolitical ones. We have to develop our relations in all the areas, but we have to behave as equal partners and base our policies upon our own national interests and priorities – primarily economic ones – and this is very important for Ukraine.

As regards implementation of Ukraine's key strategic objectives – that is, accession to the European Union – we have decided to introduce a pragmatic element into our policies. My government has a realistic assessment of today's situation. We believe that pushing the membership issue and heating up the debate cannot resolve the stalemate and will only lead to mutual disappointment and reinforced Euroskepticism. That's why we believe that it's important in the nearest future to concentrate on some specific actions. The most important real step is to start negotiations on the establishment of the free trade area with the European Union after Ukraine joins the WTO. We believe that a deep and comprehensive free trade area as the first step of our integration with Europe should be the basis for the new agreement with European Union.

Other areas of Ukraine's cooperation with the European Union comprise the energy sector, development of transport corridors, free movement of persons, and the fight against illegal migration and crime. Ukraine wants to consolidate its position as a leader in integration processes taking place in the Black Sea-Baltic region. We will also work on strengthening our role as a key factor for ensuring European stability.

At the end of the day, we intend to cut down dramatically the disproportion between, as the first president of Ukraine, Mykhailo Hrushevsky, put it, what we actually are and what we should be.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, Martin Luther King famously said, "I have a dream." Ukrainian politicians have their dreams, too, as do politicians all over the world, I guess. My government not only dreams, it acts. That's why I hope that Ukraine will come close to negotiating its accession to the European Union with me as its prime minister. Maybe we will start the negotiations. It will not happen today or tomorrow, but I believe it will happen. And, in any case, Ukraine will have the highest economic growth rate figures in Europe in the nearest future, and Ukrainians will finally get decent standards of life and work. They have definitely earned that.

Thank you for your attention.

## OSCE calls for more professionalism in parliaments and political parties

*Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe*

VIENNA – Lack of trust in politicians, the need for increased professionalism in the work of parliaments and political parties, responsibilities of the opposition and the increased participation of women were discussed at a meeting organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to focus on democratic institution-building that ended in Vienna on November 3.

"There is no perfect democracy and democracy is by definition always unfinished business. But certain features of democracy such as representation of the public by elected officials are common to all democracies," said Ambassador Christian Strohal, director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which organized the two-day meeting together with the OSCE Belgian Chairmanship.

Ivan Krastev, program director for political research at the Center for Liberal Strategies in Sofia, Bulgaria, and executive director of the International Commission on the Balkans, said that there was a crisis of political representation in many parts of

the OSCE region, adding that the public, while believing in democracy, did not have trust in politicians.

Participants also discussed the need for political parties to increase their internal democracy to reach out to their rank and file members and to their constituencies. Alessandro Palanza, deputy secretary general of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, said the parliamentary opposition, while not governing, had a role in ensuring that Parliament functions smoothly in order to provide a platform to voice the views of those it represented.

British MP Bruce George, former president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, focused on the lack of trust in and respect for politicians. "We must do more to establish and enhance representative legislatures. It is hard work and takes more than the work of a handful of consultants for a few days."

He also called for increased professionalism in the work of parliaments if they were to truly represent the electorate. "One of the few groups not requiring a degree or training before taking on the job are parliamentarians. They do learn quickly, but if they are to do their job well, they need a support structure."

# U.S.-Ukraine Foundation hosts Ministry of Foreign Affairs delegation

WASHINGTON – As part of the Project to Assist Ukraine's Civil Service Reform, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation hosted delegates from Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on November 12-17 to discuss ways to improve Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry operations by using the best practices based on the United States experience.

The delegates from Ukraine were Yuriy Yarmilko, deputy director of personnel management at the Foreign Affairs Ministry; and Dmytro Senik, third secretary of the Personnel Department at the ministry.

During the week, the delegates met with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); Avue Technologies; Ambassador Anthony Quainton, former director general of the Foreign Service; Myra Shiple, director of the Center for Human Resources Management for the National Academy of Public Administration; George Nesterchuk, the project's technical consultant; Jack Heller, the project's senior advisor; and Nadia McConnell, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation president.

Issues discussed included the Foreign Affairs Ministry's recruitment and selection of applicants, training of the workforce, placement of employees in the right job at the right time, performance management, strategic planning, and the use of information technology to better support decision making.

Commenting on the quality of the meetings, Mr. Yarmilko stated: "The visit was very useful. Our meetings gave us an opportunity to get acquainted with a tried and tested system of personnel management: the selection, rotation and evaluation of employees. It is without a doubt that some of this expertise may be used in the foreign service of Ukraine. We believe that this project is beneficial for both of our sides. We would like to thank the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and its president, Nadia McConnell, for organizing this trip and supporting a project to implement modern methods of personnel management in Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

This was the third delegation from Ukraine over the past five months as part of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's Project to Assist Ukraine's Civil Service

Reform. The project is designed to assist Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and civil service in improving their personnel management systems. The 18-month program is funded by the Fund for Democracy and Development, using funds derived from a monetization program at the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Nesterchuk commented: "I am very pleased with the discussions and consultations this week because we were able to examine in detail the specifics of some significant administrative reforms. I believe we are now ready to proceed with the next phase of the project,

which is to provide support for implementation of agreed to reforms."

What is next for the project? "Shortly the foundation will consult with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on an implementation plan to phase in their proposed changes and to facilitate acceptance of the proposed reforms," Mr. Nesterchuk explained.

For further program information from the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, readers may contact Marta Matselioukh at [martam@usukraine.org](mailto:martam@usukraine.org) or 202-223-2228 or visit [http://www.usukraine.org/foreign\\_affairs.shtml](http://www.usukraine.org/foreign_affairs.shtml).



At the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's Office (from left) are: Marta Matselioukh, project coordinator; Dmytro Senik, third secretary of the Personnel Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; Yuriy Yarmilko, deputy director of personnel management at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; Ambassador Anthony Quainton, former director general of the Foreign Service; Jack Heller, project senior advisor; George Nesterchuk, project technical consultant.



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## Yushchenko reasserts...

(Continued from page 1)

Yanukovych to replace him.

"There's a court decision about the Verkhovna Rada's illegal decision," the president said. "The conditions are reset on a legal position. Period."

Beyond defending the Ukrainian presidency and its constitutionally endowed powers, Mr. Yushchenko's resolve over Mr. Tarasyuk revealed that keeping Ukraine on its Euro-Atlantic integration course is a critical priority for him.

He reaffirmed that commitment during a recent visit to Estonia, stating that he opposed a national referendum to decide whether Ukraine should pursue membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In his view, NATO membership is a foreign policy goal well entrenched in Ukrainian foreign policy.

"Our nation's goal is full membership in these organizations [NATO and the European Union], and no Ukrainian political force has as its goal revising this course," Mr. Yushchenko told reporters in Tallinn on December 12.

Mr. Yushchenko's statement has been the strongest stance yet against the NATO referendum.

As foreign affairs minister, Mr. Tarasyuk never openly opposed the referendum, stating only that it should be no sooner than 2008.

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor has expressed support for a NATO referendum in Ukraine.

Mr. Yushchenko's strong statement came days after the parliamentary coalition government called on Central Election Commission Chair Yaroslav Davydovych to report to the Verkhovna Rada, suspecting he may be intentionally stalling the NATO referendum on the president's behalf.

After the Party of the Regions demonstrated its preference for a quick NATO referendum, largely because Ukrainian

voters are likely to reject the military alliance, Mr. Yushchenko saw the need to establish a clear and firm opposition.

Only 17 to 20 percent of Ukrainians support NATO membership, according to recent polls.

The Ukrainian president also asserted his presidential power to veto the 2007 budget passed by the coalition government, arguing that it didn't offer adequate pension and minimum wage increases and requesting the Cabinet to find \$2 billion in financing for these areas.

Specifically, he pointed out that the budget allocated a mere \$5 a month increase in pensions, raising the monthly minimum to \$81.

Meanwhile, the budget's projected minimum wage of \$90 a month by December 2007 meant the real minimum wage (factoring inflation and increased taxes) would actually decrease in 2007, after rising 40 percent in 2005 and 20 percent in 2006.

"For the first time in recent years in Ukraine, a real decline could occur in the minimum wage, which is the basis for calculating the working wage of 10 million working citizens, particularly government employees such as doctors, teachers and workers in the cultural sphere."

The president's third main complaint was about a proposed change in oil export taxation that could cost millions of dollars in needed revenue.

The veto drew the ire of Prime Minister Yanukovych, who told a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers that the president's request to find additional funds wasn't realistic.

At a December 13 Cabinet meeting, Mr. Yanukovych instructed First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov to search for compromises, then added, "but I practically don't see any."

"They hope that we have enough patience while they tell people fairy tales," Mr. Yanukovych said of his opponents. "I warned that I will work and speak little. That will be our style. And

there shouldn't be any populism here."

He warned that timely social payments may not arrive in January because of budget disagreements.

"Who needs this?" Mr. Yanukovych asked rhetorically. "Those who don't like the fact that they're not in power? And what did they do when they were in power?"

Hours later, the Cabinet of Ministers issued an acrid statement that didn't attack the president, but accused budget critics of leading a disinformation campaign of brazen lies that incited Mr. Yushchenko to issue his veto.

In accordance with the 2007 budget passed by the Verkhovna Rada, the minimum wage increases 12.5 percent in 2007, from \$80 a month to \$90 a month, compared to a 14 percent increase in 2006, from \$70 a month to \$80 a month.

Funding for health care increases \$860 million in 2007, funding for education increases \$1.12 billion, and funding for science increases \$109 million, the statement said.

"The government is counting on Ukraine's president to actively support the course to increase our citizens' wealth and not to fall under the influence of adventurist politicians, who are calling on him to break off the budget process for the first time in Ukraine's history and create chaos in our country," the statement said.

"Adventurist politicians" was a likely reference to Parliamentary Opposition Leader Yulia Tymoshenko. The reference "create chaos" was a likely allusion to the unlikely possibility the president may dismiss Parliament.

Mr. Yanukovych said he plans to meet with Mr. Yushchenko this week and expects the president will sign off on the 2007 budget.

Mr. Yushchenko had better results in reasserting himself with the OUPU, the political party over which he serves as honorary chair.

Though it's widely acknowledged that the OUPU would cease to exist without Mr. Yushchenko as its figurehead, its

leaders tightened their grip on the party's reins in recent months, even ignoring the president's counsel.

Most recently, Acting Political Council Chair Bezsmertnyi and his influential circle of businessmen ignored Mr. Yushchenko's advice to change party leadership and fought off attempts by OUPU delegates to do so during a November congress. Afterwards, a popular politician, Mykola Katerynchuk, quit the party in disgust.

Clearly disappointed with Mr. Bezsmertnyi, Mr. Yushchenko decided to attend a closed-door December 7 session of the OUPU Political Council to select or confirm chairs to lead the party.

Mr. Yushchenko nominated a fresh face, Presidential Secretariat Chair Baloha, to replace Mr. Bezsmertnyi as Political Council chair until the party's next congress in March 2007.

After three failed votes, the president's nomination of the 43-year-old former mayor of Mukachiv was finally approved.

Delegates voted to elect Mr. Bezsmertnyi to chair the party's executive committee, taking Mr. Katerynchuk's former position.

The OUPU is undergoing an organizational period, Mr. Yushchenko told the delegates. The March congress will decide the new leadership and will mark a new stage in the party's activity, he said.

"New players can bring new energy," the president said.

The president's sudden burst of leadership took the party's obstinate old guard by surprise, and millionaire businessman Oleksander Tretiakov was reportedly so frustrated that he quit the Political Council, according to *Ukrayina Moloda*, a daily national newspaper.

However, political experts said the presence of both Mr. Baloha and Mr. Bezsmertnyi in the OUPU leadership signaled that the president had reached some form of compromise with the Bezsmertnyi circle, which includes Mr. Tretiakov.

## Kyiv Mayor...

(Continued from page 3)

anything more than a 100 percent increase is excessive and suspicious.

Tensions mounted and by mid-afternoon a vicious brawl erupted that not only involved deputies, but also a gang of muscular security guards in heavy boots hired by the mayor.

Not by coincidence, the live broadcast of the council session on municipal television was interrupted.

When the dust cleared, Tymoshenko Bloc City Deputy Viktor Naumko was lying unconscious on the council floor. He was later hospitalized and diagnosed with a brain concussion. Another Tymoshenko Bloc deputy, Oleksander Bryhynets, received a deep bloody wound across his lower back.

"I was struck and grabbed by the hair," Mr. Bryhynets said. "When you are grabbed by the hair and pulled downwards so that it's not visible by cameras, then you can't remember much of what happened around you. You're trying not to fall on the ground so they don't begin kicking you."

The council session ended with the pro-Chernovetskyi majority forming a commission to investigate the validity of the utility price hikes.

The days-long conflict reached its boiling on point December 12, when Ms. Tymoshenko herself arrived with an entourage of parliamentary deputies. Ukraine's national deputies have access to the Kyiv City Council session hall, where they too can speak.

Tymoshenko Bloc politicians did more than speak, however, beginning the

morning session by blocking the council tribune, sparking yet another session replete with brawls.

"We told the mayor and his corrupt majority that we won't allow him to steal from Kyiv residents," said Ms. Tymoshenko.

Among those present was former world heavyweight boxing champion and City Deputy Vitalii Klitschko, who stated that he avoids fighting in the Kyiv City Council as a matter of principle, despite his exceptional skills.

In the afternoon, Mr. Chernovetskyi and Ms. Tymoshenko held back-to-back press conferences, attacking and accusing each other of corruption and exploiting the conflict for their own personal gain.

They traded barbs as Ms. Tymoshenko concluded her remarks and Mr. Chernovetskyi approached the microphones to begin his.

"You and (Pavlo) Lazarenko constantly stole before my eyes," Mr. Chernovetskyi shouted at her. "You sent the (Security Service of Ukraine) against me and took the entire gas business from A to Z. If you want to say that I steal, then you're the thief!"

He criticized her for raiding the Kyiv City Council without warning, alleging a publicity stunt. "Never come and start a revolution without negotiations," Mr. Chernovetskyi said.

To avoid Ms. Tymoshenko during the City Council's evening session, Mr. Chernovetskyi and deputies of the majority coalition met in an alternate session hall in the City Council building. To prevent her from interfering, the deputies barricaded the doors with large furniture and shut down all the elevators to the 10th floor.

Whether intending to scare voters or to

forecast the future, Ms. Tymoshenko warned that the utility price hikes are a sinister scheme by Mr. Chernovetskyi and his business clan to force tens of thousands of Kyiv residents into debt.

Large utility debts will provide the means for the city to confiscate apartments, thereby providing further million-dollar profits for real estate speculators, Ms. Tymoshenko warned.

She vowed to keep fighting. "We won't end our blockade of the Kyiv City Council because to leave it to this kleptomaniac would be wrong for Kyiv residents," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

Throughout his tenure as mayor, Mr. Chernovetskyi has clung to his mandate as a national deputy in the Verkhovna Rada, despite the law that forbids members of the Ukrainian Parliament from moonlighting in other positions.

Opponents allege it's the deputy's immunity from prosecution that Mr. Chernovetskyi is clinging to.

Before becoming Kyiv's mayor, Mr. Chernovetskyi was an Our Ukraine national deputy in the Verkhovna Rada for nine years.

After the Soviet Union's collapse, the Kharkiv native built his million-dollar fortune in banking, having helped launch one of Ukraine's largest banks, Praveks Bank.

He was an underdog challenging incumbent Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko, but managed to eke out a victory through unique campaign tactics. Among his key maneuvers was an alliance with Sunday Adelaja, a Nigerian-born pastor who has built up Kyiv's largest evangelical church and provided Mr. Chernovetskyi with a critical mass of support.

Leading up the 2004 mayoral elections, Chernovetskyi supporters went

door-to-door in Kyiv's neighborhoods, giving free food packages to the elderly and poor.

The well-timed generosity gave Mr. Chernovetskyi the added edge to overcome a stunned and visibly bitter Mr. Omelchenko, who has recently called on Kyiv residents not to pay the higher utility rates.

Throughout the Orange Revolution, Mr. Chernovetskyi stood on the maidan stage alongside Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko.

Two years later, Mr. Yushchenko scolded Mr. Chernovetskyi, while he warred with Ms. Tymoshenko.

"Undoubtedly, I couldn't allow a sharp worsening in the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of Kyiv residents," Mr. Yushchenko said. "Experts say that there are resources not taken into account while calculating final utility rates."

The mayor responded that the president was merely playing politics and pandering to voters.

Like Mr. Yushchenko, however, Mr. Chernovetskyi promised far more than he was able to deliver and faces corruption accusations.

It's unclear whether the drive to dismiss Mr. Chernovetskyi will succeed, but Mr. Brodskyi is confident enough that he left the Tymoshenko Bloc faction to form a separate council faction, Volia, to press forward with a dismissal referendum.

Polls indicate that Mr. Chernovetskyi has cause for concern.

About 90 percent of Kyiv residents oppose the price hike, 57 percent said they won't pay those bills, and 69 percent said they are ready to vote for Mr. Chernovetskyi's resignation, according to a poll cited by 1+1 TV news.

## Ukrainian architect designs Pennsylvania memorial to 9/11

LOWER MAKEFIELD, Pa. – Over 2,500 people came to Memorial Park on September 30 for the dedication of the Garden of Reflection, the Pennsylvania memorial for the 9/11 victims designed by Ukrainian architect Liuba Poczynok Lashchuk.

Attendees included Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick, (R-Pa.), representatives of various religious denominations and the families of the victims.

In the spring of 2002, the Lower Makefield Township in Bucks County began gathering input for a memorial. It was then that the local 9/11 Families Committee composed of Ellen Saracini, Grace Godshalk, Tara Bane and Fiona Havlish, chose the \$1.4 million design of Ms. Lashchuk.

Ms. Lashchuk's design, made with input from the community, has a tear-shaped entrance that displays fragments of the ruins of the World Trade Center and the 2,973 names of victims etched on glass panels along a



A view of the World Trade Center Fragments Presentation against the backdrop of the fountains.



Fountains surrounded by a rail holding glass panels with the names of the Bucks County victims.

"Walk of Remembrance" that takes the observer around a twin fountain that represents the twin towers of the WTC. The fountain is surrounded by a memorial rail engraved with the names of the 17 victims from Bucks County at the heart of the memorial. Along the illuminated path are 17 maple trees representing the Bucks County victims.

It is a garden indeed, but a very special one, "because in its midst stand stark reminders of the magnitude of that tremendous day that shook our nation and shattered so many lives," Ms. Lashchuk said.

At the dedication, Ms. Lashchuk explained that the 42 lights that line the path symbolize "the children from Pennsylvania who lost a parent that day and who in the midst of sorrow light up our lives and are a source of hope. Life moves on."

At the dedication ceremony, Lawrence Newman, president of the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company rang a bell 17 times for the Bucks County victims and once for the rest.

During the week prior to the dedication, another name was added to the list of victims. Barbara Shaw was a resident of Bensalem in Bucks County for over 30 years before she moved to Morris Township, N.J., where she resided at the time of her death.

"It is a beautiful tribute to all those that we lost," said Ms. Bane, whose husband, Michael, of Yardley, was one of the 17 victims from Bucks County.

Congressman Fitzpatrick said the garden would also be evidence of the positives that came from this nation's darkest day. "Today we see the tangible hope for a bright future," Mr. Fitzpatrick told the crowd. "This is a very special place."

Ms. Lashchuk was born of Ukrainian parents in Czechoslovakia and was raised in Venezuela, where she earned a degree in architecture and planning from the Universidad Central in Caracas. During her studies, the new landscape vocabulary of figurative art of Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx influenced her work.

After graduation Ms. Lashchuk worked at the Offices of William Lescaze, Architects, in Manhattan. Later she started her private practice in Bucks County, Pa., where she currently resides.

For more information about her 9/11 project, readers may log on to [www.9-11memorialgarden.org](http://www.9-11memorialgarden.org).

*The article above was based on information submitted by Maria Ivanna Lobay and a news story from the Bucks County Courier Times written by Brian Sheid.*

## \$500,000 raised...

(Continued from page 1)

him a Bible. "It is to live for something greater, for a greater mission."

Prof. Marynovych was recently recognized for living that mission. He received the Order for Courage (first degree) from Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, and the equestrian cross of the Order for Service in the name of Polish President Lech Kaczynski from General Consul of the Republic of Poland in Ukraine Wieslaw Osuchowski for his work in the Ukrainian Helsinki Group.

The university also introduced the Detroit community to Roman Zavytsky, a 31-year-old graduate of the university who is now completing work on a doctorate in theology from England's Oxford University.

A graduate of the Lviv Theological Academy (now the Ukrainian Catholic University) in 1999, Mr. Zavytsky can speak or read a variety of languages, including Latin, Greek, Old Church Slavonic and Hebrew, to name a few. His academic advisor at Oxford University is Dr. Rowan Williams, the archbishop of Canterbury, primate of the Church of England and leader of the Anglican communion.

"It is with great honor that I stand before you here today, that I can thank you for your generosity and for understanding the mission we have at the university," Mr. Zavytsky said in Warren.

UCU officials have stressed that, as the university grows, it will hire professors such as Mr. Zavytsky, who have left the school to finish doctoral degrees but are intent on returning to the school to teach.

Among all of the students from UCU who leave Ukraine for higher studies, 95 percent return to Ukraine, Mr. Zavytsky said. "Why do they return?" he asked rhetorically. They return "because they have a deep understanding of that mission which has been placed on us."

Many of the organizations and individuals who made donations to the university during the three events said several factors contributed to their decision to donate or pledge money to the school: faith in the university's mission, a student body composed of people such as Mr. Zavytsky and a deep trust that their donations are being used wisely.

"I just know that what they're doing is very important," said Anisa Sawyckij-Mycak, who, together with her brother Dr. Jurij Sawyckij, donated \$20,000 during the luncheon in New York at the Ukrainian National Home.

That donation established the Zynovij and Teodozia Sawyckij Endowed Book Fund in memory of their parents, Zynovij and Teodozia Sawyckij, Mrs. Sawyckij-Mycak said.

"They're not just building education," Mrs. Sawyckij-Mycak said of the university. "They're building an intelligent and

decent Ukrainian person."

In New York City a pledge from an anonymous Ukrainian family helped push the day's outcome to record success. That pledge of \$100,000 will fund the teaching, research and publication of the story of the resistance and resilience of Ukrainians in the former Soviet Union, Mr. Kurey said.

Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union made two donations to the school, \$50,000 on May 30, and then an additional \$25,000 on November 3.

In Chicago, Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union made a donation of \$15,000, the Heritage Foundation gave \$25,000, and the UA Group LLC, a Fourth-Wave Ukrainian immigrant organization, gave \$10,000. In addition, Bishop Innocent Lotocky, OSBM, announced a gift of \$25,000 from the Cardinal Slipyj Church in Ukraine Trust Fund.

The fall fund-raising effort, now in its third year, has become a lifeline for the school. The money has paid a large portion of the university's operating budget, which is currently over \$1.5 million, said Mr. Kurey, the UCEF president.

"They have really been a source of life for the university," Mr. Kurey said of the fund-raising events, adding that all of the foundation's expenses are covered by non-Ukrainians.

"That means that every single dollar that is given goes directly to the universi-

ty," Mr. Kurey underscored.

The school – the only Catholic university in all of the former Soviet Union, according to the Rev. Gudziak – is committed to developing a reputation in Ukraine for being unparalleled in its pursuit of academic excellence.

"UCU will never be big, and I hope that's not a disappointment to you," the Rev. Gudziak said in Chicago. "But it is and will be unique. From Poland to Vladivostok, there is no other Catholic university in all of the former Soviet Union," the rector said.

However, the university does not get funding from the state, the Rev. Gudziak said, and it will continue to succeed only if it can sustain itself in the future.

"All of us have problems, and we can all talk about our various financial problems, or problems with our families, friends, co-workers. Or we can take hold of that rock that is faith and move forward to build something great," the Rev. Gudziak said at the conclusion of the event in New York City.

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.

## Peter and Doris Kule create endowment to fund Ukrainian diaspora studies

by Jars Balan

EDMONTON, Alberta – Well-known philanthropists, Drs. Peter and Doris Kule, have given a lead donation to create an endowment at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies in support of the Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Initiative.

This project will be under the auspices of the Ukrainian Canadian Program at CIUS and will be headed by Dr. Serge Cipko, a historian who has devoted much time to researching and studying Ukrainians living abroad. Dr. Cipko's book on Ukrainians in Argentina is going to be issued by CIUS Press in 2007.

The Kules hope that their \$100,000 donation will encourage others to contribute towards this important area.

The Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Endowment for the Study of the Ukrainian Diaspora will be used for research, publishing and other scholarly and educational activities specifically dealing with the Ukrainian diaspora.

The Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Initiative will provide an international dimension to the work of the Ukrainian Canadian Program by enabling comparative analyses to be made of the evolution of Ukrainian communities outside of Canada. In recent years there has been a



**Drs. Peter and Doris Kule (seated) at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies with (standing, from left) Dr. Zenon Kohut, Jars Balan and Dr. Serge Cipko, who will head a new diaspora studies project.**

## Renowned folklorist Klymasz visits University of Alberta

EDMONTON, Alberta – The Kule Center for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore at the University of Alberta hosted Dr. Robert Bohdan Klymasz, renowned Ukrainian Canadian folklorist, on October 26 and 27.

Dr. Klymasz took the opportunity to offer a public lecture as well as spend time with the center's many graduate students, providing his invaluable insight into their individual research projects.

"This man is a living legend in the field of Ukrainian and Canadian folklore. It is because of his vision and work that we are all able to do the work we do today," said Nadya Foty, M.A. graduate and archivist at the Bohdan Medwidsky Archives at the University of Alberta.

During his talk in Edmonton, Dr. Klymasz drew attention to the importance of Ukrainians on the Canadian scene. "Ukrainian Canadian folklore is alive and well," he said.

Over the hundred years since the arrival of the pioneers, Ukrainian tradition has readily absorbed mainstream

culture and songs originally sung in English have acquired Ukrainian lyrics and come to be seen as Ukrainian. Meanwhile, Ukrainian items such as the pysanka, or Easter egg, have lost their ritual meaning and come to symbolize Canada, especially the Canada of the Prairies, Dr. Klymasz related. Certain Ukrainian ethnic foods are now prepared by all cultures. In short, the Ukrainians are a vital part of Canada and Ukrainian Canadian folklore, though quite different from the lore brought from the Ukrainian homeland, is vibrant and ever-changing.

Dr. Klymasz, a pioneer in Ukrainian Canadian folklore scholarship, worked at the Museum of Civilization, formerly the Museum of Man, in Ottawa. Under the auspices of the museum, he ran important collecting expeditions, many to the Prairie provinces, which recorded Ukrainian Canadian songs, beliefs, rituals and vernacular architecture. The expeditions yielded exhibits at the museum and a series of publications that laid the foundation for Ukrainian Canadian folklore scholarship.



**Dr. Robert Klymasz (right) with Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky, director of the Kule Center for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore.**

ous donations to: the Ukrainian Research and Development Center at Grant MacEwan College; the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at St. Paul University in Ottawa; and to support Ukrainian folklore studies at the University of Alberta, where the Canadian Center for Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography was recently renamed the Peter and Doris Kule Center for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore.

According to the Ukrainian World Congress (<http://ukrainianworldcongress.org/>), there are approximately 20 million people of Ukrainian origin living outside the borders of Ukraine. Indeed, as Ukraine's own population, which currently stands at 47 million, has been declining over the past decade or so, the Ukrainian diaspora has correspondingly enlarged because of large-scale emigration. Countries that before 1991 received little Ukrainian immigration, such as, Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece, are today major centers of Ukrainian settlement.

The work of the Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Initiative will reflect these new trends and realities as it balances research on long-established Ukrainian communities with studies of emerging areas of Ukrainian settlement. The initiative intends to develop a network of scholars and to form partnerships with programs and centers in Canada and abroad, including the growing number of Ukrainian diaspora studies institutes in Ukraine. In order to help realize these objectives, one of the planned projects of the initiative is to organize an international scholarly conference on the Ukrainian diaspora.

significant growth in diaspora studies at universities around the world, stimulated largely through the impact of globalization and the shrinking of the planet through modern travel and communications. So, expanding the horizons of the Ukrainian Canadian Program is both timely and appropriate.

The Kules have previously given gener-

## Ukrainian scholars program is launched at Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. – During a recent visit to Ukraine to receive an honorary degree, the dean of Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, Robert Steele, announced a new joint program to encourage scholarship and professional development among faculty at Ukrainian agricultural universities.

Beginning in 2007, the Woskob International Research in Agriculture, or WIRA, program – made possible by an endowment from real estate developers Helen and Alex Woskob of State College, Pa., – will bring as many as four Ukrainian scholars to Penn State each year during the fall semester to study educational methods, take and co-teach courses, establish links with Penn State researchers and promote study-abroad opportunities for undergraduate students.

"It's very fitting that the Ukrainian word 'wira' [vira] means 'trust,'" Mr. Steele said. "We hope that the partnerships made possible by the Woskobs' generosity will enhance agricultural research, education and productivity in Ukraine and encourage global understanding, collaboration and friendship among faculty members and students at participating universities."

The announcement came during ceremonies at Lviv State Agricultural University near Lviv, where Mr. Steele received an honorary doctorate. The College of Agricultural Sciences has a longstanding relationship with Lviv in co-sponsoring student and faculty exchange programs.

"The similarities between Penn State and LSU are striking," Mr. Steele noted. "Penn State celebrated its sesquicentennial in 2005, and Lviv [State

Agricultural University] is marking its 150th anniversary this year. Both institutions are dedicated to generating scientific knowledge that can be put to practical use and to training new generations of researchers and educators." Also coincidentally, "Lviv" translates to "lion" in English, Mr. Steele noted, pointing out Penn State's "Nittany Lion" mascot.

The honorary doctorate was Mr. Steele's second from a Ukrainian university in a little more than a year. He was similarly recognized by National Agrarian University in Kyiv in September 2005.

The WIRA scholars program will be open to full-time faculty members at all Ukrainian agricultural universities.

Natives of Ukraine, the Woskobs are founders and co-owners of State College, Pa.-based A.W. and Sons Enterprises. Since 1963 they have developed numerous real estate projects in Centre County, including housing for thousands of Penn State students.

The Woskobs have a long history of support for higher education. In 1992, they established the Ukrainian Agricultural Exchange Program, enabling collaboration between the College of Agricultural Sciences and the Ukrainian Agricultural Academy. They have been involved in the university's Ukrainian Studies Program and have served on the advisory board of the Center for Ukrainian Agriculture.

More information on the Woskob International Research in Agriculture program is available by calling the College of Agricultural Sciences Office of International Programs at 814-863-0249 or by logging on to <http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/international/Default.html>.

# Ukrainian Diaspora History Chair established at National University of Ostroh Academy

by Petro Kraliuk

OSTROH, Ukraine – The Chair of the History of the Ukrainian Diaspora was established on October 12 during a special inaugural ceremony at the National University of Ostroh Academy. The chair, with its focus on immigration and the diaspora, is the first in Ukraine as well as

In Ukraine, according to Rector Pasichnyk, this first Chair of the History of the Ukrainian Diaspora is destined to become a force behind developing and directing a crucial area in Ukrainian historiography: the history of Ukrainian immigration and the Ukrainian diaspora.

Dr. Pasichnyk presented to the newly established chair a work of art of deep

Diaspora can continue to build.

He thanked Rector Pasichnyk and Institute Director Alla Atamanenko for their notable contributions to the development in Ukraine of university-level research on the topic of the diaspora, as well as for their role in bringing to fruition the establishment of the first Chair of the History of the Ukrainian Diaspora.

Dr. Wynar conveyed special congratulatory greetings and expressions of support from the World Scholarly Council of the Ukrainian World Congress, the Presidium of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A., the presidium of the Ukrainian Historical Association, the presidium of the Ukrainian American Association of University Professors, the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Europe and the editorial board of Ukrainian Historian.

Dr. Atamanenko was appointed as the chief administrator of the newly created chair. In her opening remarks she discussed her conviction that the chair will eventually become an important center for initiating, developing and introducing into the academic curricula of Ukrainian universities courses that examine Ukrainian immigration, various aspects of organized community life in the diaspora, as well as the extensive cooperative network that has developed among Ukrainian communities scattered across the world.

Since Ukrainian immigration constitutes an important part of the history of the Ukrainian people, Prof. Atamanenko said she feels it is imperative for students at Ukrainian universities to learn how the diaspora succeeded in not only maintain-

ing its Ukrainian identity and preserving its culture and language, but also how its many generations have enriched this culture by introducing new and unique concepts and ideas that continue to keep the communities vibrant and not stagnant.

According to Dr. Atamanenko, accurate information about the intellectual and cultural heritage established by Ukrainian diaspora communities, as well as their contribution to world culture, must be incorporated into the Ukrainian higher educational system in order to counteract the misinformation and ignorance which, unfortunately, still exists among a significant proportion of the Ukrainian population. Dr. Atamanenko stated that an important goal would be to develop strong connections and relationships with scholars, both within and outside Ukraine, who are leading experts on Ukrainian diaspora history.

She also reported that one of the goals for 2007 is to organize a special research-methodological seminar for academic faculty at Ukrainian universities that will focus on developing sound courses on the topic of the Ukrainian diaspora which could be incorporated into the curricula of universities throughout the different Ukrainian regions. It is Dr. Atamanenko's conviction that both the institute and the chair will serve as a magnet for attracting scholars and students interested in the history of the Ukrainian diaspora from across Ukraine, as well as from other parts of the world, to the National University of Ostroh Academy, thus making the Academy an important crossroads for learning and research.

(Continued on page 39)



During the presentation of the Coat-of-Arms of Ukraine to the newly established Chair of the History of the Ukrainian Diaspora (from left) are: Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, rector of the National University of Ostroh Academy; Dr. Lubomyr Wynar, president of the Ukrainian Historical Association and honorary professor of the chair; and Dr. Alla Atamanenko, director of the Institute of Ukrainian Diaspora Studies and the chair administrator.

the world, and its establishment realizes one of the goals of the Institute of Ukrainian Diaspora Studies.

The institute, created in January 2002 on the unanimous recommendation of the Research Council of the National University of Ostroh Academy, can already boast of significant accomplishments in the relatively short time since its establishment.

It has published a number of scholarly works and monographs from the diaspora; sponsored two international conferences on the diaspora at Ostroh Academy; and established and developed a rich library collection consisting of materials published in the diaspora which attracts researchers interested in examining the various aspects of the history of the Ukrainian immigration and life in the diaspora from different regions of Ukraine.

Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, rector of the National University of Ostroh Academy, welcomed the many guests and participants who gathered for this special event and officially proclaimed the establishment of the Chair of the History of the Ukrainian Diaspora.

In his opening remarks he noted the significant contribution to world culture and economy made by Ukrainians who, due to various mitigating factors, were forced to leave the motherland and seek their future in foreign lands.

He stressed the importance and the necessity of educating university students, the future intellectual elite of Ukraine, about the history of the Ukrainian emigration, the causes behind the various waves of emigration, the experience of the immigrants, the establishment of multi-institutional communities by the immigrants within the receiving countries, and especially about the vast and rich intellectual and cultural heritage created in the diaspora by many unique individuals and organizations. Prof. Pasichnyk acknowledged the significant role played by the Ukrainian Historical Association and Dr. Lubomyr Wynar in not only promoting the idea of creating both the institute and the chair, but in actively working toward their actual establishment.

*Dr. Petro Kraliuk is professor and vice-rector of the National University of Ostroh Academy.*

significance – the Coat of Arms of Ukraine created in amber.

The well-known historian and ethnic studies specialist Dr. Wynar was named honorary professor and honorary director of the Chair of the History of the Ukrainian Diaspora. Prof. Wynar presently heads the World Scholarly Council of the Ukrainian World Congress, is president of both the Ukrainian American Association of University Professors and Ukrainian Historical Association, editor of the journal Ukrainian Historian, and head of the Historical Section of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A.

In addition to being acknowledged by his peers as a leading activist within the scholarly community both within the diaspora and in Ukraine, Prof. Wynar is also recognized for his contributions to American ethnic and immigration studies. He founded and for many years directed the Center for the Study of Ethnic Publications and Cultural Institutions in the United States at Kent State University in Ohio, initiated and for 15 years edited Ethnic Forum: Journal of Ethnic Studies and Bibliography, and served as president of the Inter-Collegiate Council of Ethnic Studies in Ohio which coordinated the development of ethnic curriculum and conferences at Ohio universities and colleges.

Prof. Wynar introduced a number of graduate-level courses focusing on American immigrant and ethnic communities, as well as on the contributions made to American society by ethnic publications and cultural institutions. In Ukraine, Prof. Wynar was instrumental in organizing three international congresses of Ukrainian historians, as well as two major conferences on the Ukrainian diaspora sponsored by the Institute of Ukrainian Diaspora Studies at Ostroh Academy.

In his acceptance speech, Prof. Wynar dwelt upon the uniqueness of this chair, noting that its creation will promote even greater cooperation and interaction with Ukrainians and Ukrainian institutions from the diaspora. He further pointed out that the quality of scholarly achievement at the institute will serve as a solid foundation upon which the future work of the Chair of the History of the Ukrainian

## Ukrainian scientist lectures on NASA missions to comets



WASHINGTON – Dr. Ludmilla Kolokolova, an associate scientist at the University of Maryland, describes the results of recent NASA exploratory missions to the earth's neighboring comets during a scientific presentation at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington on December 9. Her lecture on the "Search for the Origin of the Solar System: Missions to Comets and Pluto," was the first in a series being planned by the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, The Washington Group of Ukrainian Professionals, the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S., the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Embassy. Dr. Kolokolova, whose scientific interests cover the physics of cosmic dust and small bodies in the solar system, began her scientific career at the Ukrainian Academy of Science Astronomical Observatory in Ukraine. Since 1997 she has been working in the United States, first at the University of Florida and now at the University of Maryland, where most recently she has been analyzing data from NASA's Deep Impact mission to the Comet Tempel 1 in July of last year in the quest to learn more about the nature of comets, how they formed and evolved and if they had any role in the emergence of life on Earth.

– Yaro Bihun

## SUM organizes third annual Youth Leadership Seminar in D.C.

by Lida Mykytyn

WASHINGTON – The imposing historic Georgetown mansion that is home to the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington was the backdrop and set the tone for the third annual Youth Leadership Seminar, organized by the Ukrainian American Youth Association (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SUM) and held on November 11-12.

A few select high school juniors and seniors from across the United States, who have proven their leadership potential and dedication within the ranks of SUM, were invited to participate in this scholarship-based seminar. These participants were selected based on their nomination and support by their local SUM branch, a very competitive screening process, and approval by the organizing committee.

The seminar focused on leadership, marketing and public relations, project management and motivation in

non-profit organizations. Speakers included Bohdan Shevchik, Genya Kuzmowycz-Blahy, Oleksa Breslawec, Ihor Naumenko and the Rev. Bohdan Danylo. These speakers equipped the participants with theories that would form the base the participants would then transform into practice, not only at the seminar, but back in their communities upon their return.

During the two-day seminar the participants were exposed to thought-provoking discussions, challenging teamwork exercises, lectures by prominent community figures and even a moonlight tour of the nation's capital, including its many architectural and historic landmarks.

The goal of the seminar was two-fold: to equip the future leaders of SUM and the Ukrainian community with an understanding of true leadership, and to help them personally evolve and grow.

Part of the seminar's itinerary was a tour of the Ukrainian Embassy, which has historic meaning to both



Bohdan Shevchik speaks on project management.



Viktor Nikitiuk (center), head of the Ukrainian government's Department for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, with participants of the Youth Leadership Seminar.

the American government from the times of George Washington as well as to the Ukrainian government. The participants had the opportunity to meet with a representative of the Ukrainian government, Viktor Nikitiuk, head of the Department for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation in Ukraine.

Sunday, November 12, proved to be as enriching as the previous day. The entire group traveled to Washington's Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family to attend morning liturgy. After this excursion, the group was back at the Ukrainian Embassy, where the session focused on extending and applying the principles of leadership and organization learned the previous day. The participants were charged with organizing a project from concept-building through execution. This hands-on workshop, crafted by Lida Mykytyn, Ms. Kuzmowycz-Blahy and Marta Matselioukh, crystallized the individual facets of concept-building, target marketing, public relations, organizing logistics, budgeting and financing, program development, project management,

(Continued on page 44)

## CCRDF holds conference in Kyiv devoted to infant cardiac care

CCRDF

KYIV – The Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF) and the Pediatric Cardio-Vascular Center of Kyiv organized the National Neonatal Forum titled "Treatment of Cardiac Birth Defects." The forum took place on October 27-28 at the Pediatric Cardio-Vascular Center of Excellence for Cardiac Surgery – a newly expanded facility located within Kyiv's OHMADYT (Regional Pediatric Clinical Hospital) complex.

Based on the success of this forum and the First National Neonatal Forum held in April 2004, CCRDF President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky expressed his intention to turn the conference into an annual event. "It is vital for Ukrainian physicians to perfect the methods of treating cardiac birth defects," he explained.

Each year between 5,000 and 6,000 children in Ukraine are born with congenital heart defects, making cardiovascular illness the leading cause of infant mortality in Ukraine. Accomplishments in modern pediatric cardiac surgery have made it possible to ensure that these patients live long and healthy lives; up to 95 percent of neonates who receive surgical operations during the early stages of their cardiac disease survive into adulthood.

However, approximately 2,000 infants born with congenital heart defects do not have access to the life-saving surgery and either die within their first months of life or become life-long cardiac invalids. According to a comprehensive research

study conducted by Dr. Illya Yemets, head of the Pediatric Cardio-Vascular Center and chief cardiac surgeon of Ukraine, without the initial diagnosis of congenital heart defects and timely surgical correction, 50 percent die within their first month of life and 30 percent of infants die before their first year. For this reason, there is an urgent need to focus on improving the early diagnosis of congenital heart defects.

On October 27 the National Neonatal Forum, sanctioned by Ukraine's Ministry of Health, was officially opened by Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Y. Haydayev, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Sheila Gwaltney, and CCRDF

President Matkiwsky.

More than 320 neonatologists, pediatric anesthesiologists, pediatricians, pediatric cardiologists, cardiac surgeons and specialists of ultrasound diagnostics from all the regions of Ukraine participated in the conference. They gathered to discuss the status of the medical and surgical care of children with cardiac birth defects in Ukraine, priorities concerning the early diagnostics of congenital heart disease, pre-and post-operative management, and the benefits of prenatal diagnosis.

During the conference, experts in the field of cardiovascular birth defects, renowned cardiologists and cardiac surgeons from the United States provided Ukrainian

doctors with the opportunity to learn and discuss current techniques in cardiac surgery as practiced in the United States.

Among the American lecturers were Dr. Steven E. Lipshultz, professor and chairman of the department of pediatrics, professor of epidemiology and public health, professor of medicine (oncology) at Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami; Dr. Steven E. Schultz, director, Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care Holtz Children's Hospital, assistant professor of the Pediatrics Division of Critical Care Medicine at the University of Miami School of Medicine; and Dr. Eliot R. Rosenkranz, director of congenital heart surgery, associate professor of surgery, University of Miami.

The importance of a team approach in treating newborn cardiac patients was stressed in most presentations during the conference. "A well-balanced team approach is commonplace practice in the United States and I believe it would benefit the medical system in Ukraine if doctors increasingly exercised the team approach," stated Dr. Matkiwsky.

Dr. Matkiwsky concluded, "According to the Children's Pediatric Centers in Zhytomyr and Rivne, the increase of cardiac defects is due, in large part, to the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe. In light of Ukraine's economic deficiency, the state's efforts are not enough to provide care to those suffering from the harmful health effects caused by Chernobyl. For this reason, we must do our best to provide advanced training and modern medical assistance to Ukraine in order to do our part to help raise a healthy Ukrainian nation."



CCRDF's Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky (second from left) with colleagues at the Kyiv conference on infant cardiac care.



**Екзекутивний Комітет УНСоюзу,  
редакції тижневиків  
„Свобода“ і „The Ukrainian Weekly“  
та адміністрація „Союзівки“**

*складають*

ПЕРВОІЄРАРХАМ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ЦЕРКОВ, УКРАЇНСЬКИМ  
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як і ПЕРЕДПЛАТНИКАМ і ЧИТАЧАМ ТА УКРАЇНСЬКІЙ ГРОМАДІ  
В ДІЯСПОРІ І УКРАЇНІ

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Секретарям Відділів, Родині і Приятелям  
та всій Українській Громаді в діяспорі і Україні  
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 вітаємо щиро Рідних, Приятелів і Знайомих,  
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**З нагоди Свят Різдва Христового**

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May your holiday celebrations  
 be warm and wonderful,  
 and give you memories  
 that keep well into 2007!  
 And thank you, dear readers,  
 for your many kind words  
 and continuous support  
 of our efforts  
 at The Ukrainian Weekly.

Roma Hadzewycz  
 Zenon Zawada  
 Awilda Rolon  
 Larissa Oprysko  
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*and a*  
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TO FAMILY, PATIENTS AND FRIENDS

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and

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ПАЦІЄНТАМ  
і ЗНАЙОМИМ

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ГРИГОРОВИЧ  
з РОДИНОЮ**



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РОДИНІ, ПРИЯТЕЛЯМ, ЗНАЙОМИМ  
І ВСІМ ХРИСТΙΑНАМ в УКРАЇНІ

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і з Новим Роком,  
вітаємо дорогих  
друзів і колег  
радісною колядкою  
і щирими побажаннями  
всього найкращого в 2007 році!*

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Пацієнтам

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родині тут і на Батьківщині,  
приятелям, шановним пацієнтам, знайомим  
та всьому Українському Народові на рідних землях

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*Вітаємо парафіян, вірних і весь український народ  
та бажаємо  
щастя, здоров'я і Божого благословення*

**оо. Василіяни при церкві св. Юра**

*Запрошуємо всіх на різдвяні відправи*

**в церкві св. Юра**

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Велике Повечір'я 9:00 вечором  
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Божественна Літургія – 8:30 ранку,  
10:00 ранку, 12:00 пол. і 6:00 веч.

To all our Members, their families and our friends  
Best wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season  
and a Happy New Year  
together with our most heartfelt thank you  
for your valuable support of the Institute

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Web: [www.ukrainianinstitute.org](http://www.ukrainianinstitute.org)





## ПЛАСТ – УКРАЇНСЬКА СКАВТСЬКА ОРГАНІЗАЦІЯ в ЗСА

З радісним празником Різдва Христового, Крайова Пластова Старшина в Америці вітає Президента України, Віктора Ющенка і його уряд, Ієрархів Українських Церков і їхнє духовенство, Начального Пластуна, проводи Головної Пластової Ради і Головної Пластової Булави, Крайову Пластову Старшину в Україні та в усіх країнах, де діє Пласт. Рівнож вітаємо усіх пластунів, розкинутих по світі, та весь український народ на рідних землях і в діаспорі. Бажаємо всім веселих свят, та всього найкращого в Новому Році.

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**КРАЙОВА ПЛАСТОВА СТАРШИНА ЗСА**

## The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

Wishes You and Your Family



***a Very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!***

*Let us celebrate this special holiday, which symbol-  
izes a new beginning, by uniting our community for  
the betterment of Ukrainians  
in the United States and Ukraine!*

***Christ is Born!***

***Let Us Praise Him!***

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America  
203 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10003  
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E-mail: [ucca@ucca.org](mailto:ucca@ucca.org)

UCCA Kyiv Bureau  
Tel.: (044) 228-45-80  
E-mail: [ucca@i.kiev.ua](mailto:ucca@i.kiev.ua)

Ukrainian National Information Service  
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Washington, DC 20002  
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*would like to wish all their  
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і Новим Роком**

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найщиріші святочні побажання всій родині на  
рідній Батьківщині та всім ближчим і дальшим друзям

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## Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the **United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Inc.** extend best wishes and holiday greetings to all Ukrainian clergy, to our generous benefactors, members of UUARC, and all of our fellow Ukrainians throughout the world.

May God keep you in his care!

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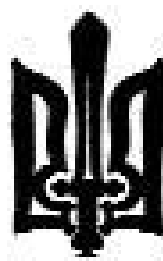
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Пластові Проводи,

усе Пластове Братство в Україні та в діаспорі,

і всіх братчиків нашого славного Загону

та їхні родини

і бажає

Веселих і радісних Свят та  
щасливого Нового Року!

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Понад дві тисячі літ тому сталося втілення Сина Божого в образі Сина Людського, початок Його земного служіння, метою якого було укладення Нового Завіту між Богом і людьми, заснування Христової Церкви і принесення Великої жертви на викуплення людських гріхів. Відтоді Різдво стало одним з двох найбільших християнських свят.

У Різдвяні дні ми вітаємо усіх братів і сестер у Христі з великим святом, а тих, хто ще не прийняв Христа, як свого Спасителя, запрошуємо прийти до Нього з вірою і любов'ю, молитвою і подякою. Адреса церкви:

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в Нью Йорку**

— б а ж а є —

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та Щасливого Нового Року***

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*Вітає з нагоди*

*Великого Празника Різдва Христового  
і Нового Року*

український народ в Україні і його вітку в діаспорі, Ієрархію Українських Церков на Батьківщині і на поселеннях, Провід Організації Українських Націоналістів і голову Андрія Гайдамаку, всі братні організації Світової Конференції Українських Державницьких Організацій, Світовий Конгрес Українців, Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки, Управи Відділів ООЧСУ, усе членство, їхні родини та українське патріотичне громадянство і всіх жертводавців на фонд ОУН та бажає усім

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І ЩАСЛИВОГО НОВОГО РОКУ

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Голова: *МИХАЙЛО КОЗЮПА*

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
*and a*  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**





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нехай новонароджений Христос завжди буде у ваших життях, нехай Він володіє вашими  
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### з ПРАЗНИКОМ РІЗДВА ХРИСТОВОГО

і щиро бажає

### ЩАСЛИВОГО НОВОГО РОКУ

7911 Whitewood Road, Jenkintown, PA 19027



The Ukrainian Music Institute of America, Inc.  
extends warmest greetings to our branch  
directors, teachers, students, parents,  
all musicians in Ukraine and abroad, and  
to the general public on the occasion  
of Christ's birth.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Board of Directors of  
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членам і ланковим Управи УСЦАК та їхнім родинам, проводам спортивних і молодечих  
організацій, нашим друзям-спортсменам в Україні всім щирим прихильникам  
українського організованого спорту в діаспорі

б а ж а є

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### і НОВИМ 2007 РОКОМ



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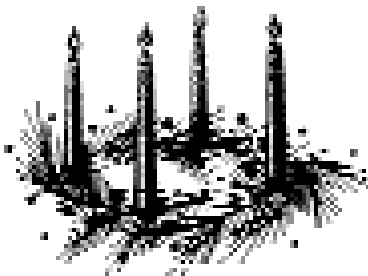
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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

### Justice Ministry weighs in on decree

KYIV – The Ukrainian Justice Ministry said on December 8 that the presidential decree directing Borys Tarasyuk to continue fulfilling the foreign affairs minister's duties violates the Constitution of Ukraine and goes beyond the constitutional authorities of the head of state. The ministry concluded that "the president has practically overstepped his authority that the Constitution entrusts to the Verkhovna Rada, having thus violated the principle of the power distribution." The Justice Ministry said the decree might be challenged in the Constitutional Court of Ukraine. The ministry's statement also said the Constitution clearly provides that the president's submission of a candidacy must precede the candidate's appointment to the foreign ministry post, but submitting the candidacy while dismissing the minister is not envisaged. "Dismissal of the foreign affairs minister is within the constitutional authority of the Verkhovna Rada, which it implements independently and doesn't require any relevant presentation or other actions on the part of the president of Ukraine," the document maintained. (Ukrinform)

### Yanukovich: Rada decision is primary

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said on December 8 that in the conflict that emerged around Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk one should stick to the resolution of the Verkhovna Rada, which sent the minister packing on December 1, not to the Shevchenkivskiy District Court ruling suspending the resolution. "Otherwise, we could sink into the absurd," the prime minister said after a meeting with President Viktor Yushchenko. Mr. Yanukovich said the candidacies of the ministers of foreign affairs and defense will be determined by the government and the Anti-Crisis Coalition by end of 2006. The prime minister did not comment on the opinion of the president, who, in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, is entitled to nominate these ministers for the Parliament's approval. (Ukrinform)

### New emergency situations minister

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 12 backed the appointment of Nestor Shufrych as emergency situations minister, Ukrainian media reported. Mr. Shufrych, a deputy in the Crimean autonomous legislature, was a lawmaker of the Social Democratic Party-United in the preceding Verkhovna Rada. He will replace Viktor Baloha, who was appointed as head of the Presidential Secretariat by President Viktor Yushchenko in September. (RFE/RL Newsline)

(Continued on page 37)

## Georgia and Ukraine...

(Continued from page 2)

today." So while disappointment is widespread among many of the Ukrainians who gathered for daily vigils in November and December of 2004, there are still those who say they would do it all over again.

Among them is Ukrainian pop singer Sviatoslav Vakarchuk, whose group, Okean Elzy, wrote a song extolling the spirit of the Orange Revolution.

"If you ask me today whether I'm prepared to do it all again, I would say 'Yes, without question,'" Mr. Vakarchuk said. "I would go again into the street because the values we were fighting for are those of freedom – freedom to make decisions, freedom to be a full-fledged citizen of one's own country."

# NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 36)  
*Protesters rally at Kyiv City Hall*

KYIV – Some 5,000 Kyiv residents turned up for a rally in front of the City Hall on December 7 to protest the recent decision by Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi to increase housing and utility tariffs sharply as of December 1, Ukrainian media reported. The rate hikes would amount to a more than threefold increase. Meanwhile, deputies supporting Mr. Chernovetskyi scuffled with deputies from the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) during a Kyiv City Council session, after Mr. Chernovetskyi refused to put a draft resolution on canceling the higher communal tariffs to a vote. A YTB councilman was reportedly hospitalized after losing consciousness during the scuffle. The mayor’s supporters on the council blocked all attempts to revise the rate hikes, agreeing only to set up an ad hoc commission to consider the issue. Mr. Chernovetskyi reportedly used highly abusive language with regard to his opponents. “I prohibit you from taking the floor in accordance with the rules of procedure because of your hooligan actions and your brazen mug,” Mr. Chernovetskyi told Councilman Mykhailo Brodskyi. “All those who have so far treated Leonid Chernovetskyi as a fool who came to power as a result of a fatal misunderstanding have now seen that the post of mayor was taken by an absolutely inadequate person who poses a threat to the life of normal people,” the YTB said in a statement after the session. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Mayor told to revise rate hikes**

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has advised Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi to reconsider his recent decision to increase housing and utility tariffs as of December 1

by more than threefold, Interfax-Ukraine reported on December 12. “Of course, I as the president could not allow the living standards of hundreds of thousands of Kyiv residents to worsen sharply,” Mr. Yushchenko said in a statement. “I also instructed the city head to reduce the rates for residents of the capital who live in old houses. ... If the Kyiv administration refuses to agree with my proposals, I will issue a decree annulling the inflated rates.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Russian defense minister visits Kyiv**

KYIV – Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov came to Kyiv on December 7 to discuss the upcoming visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to Ukraine by the end of this month, Ukrainian media reported. Mr. Ivanov met with his Ukrainian counterpart, Anatolii Hrytsenko, as well as with President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Mr. Ivanov told journalists in Kyiv that Ukraine’s potential NATO membership will affect relations with Russia. “Whether we want it or not, this step will certainly have an inevitable effect, one way or another, on our relations, for instance on cooperation in the military-industrial sector. We think this will happen, and not because a malicious Russia will want it to happen. Not at all. This will simply happen for objective reasons,” Mr. Ivanov noted. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Parliament adopts 2007 budget ...**

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 6 adopted a budget bill for 2007, Ukrainian media reported. The bill envisages government spending at 161 billion hrv (\$32 billion U.S.) and revenues at 147 billion hrv, thus setting a budget deficit at the equivalent of some \$2.8 billion hrv. The bill projects \$2 billion hrv in income from privatizations in 2007. The bill also sets the monthly subsistence mini-

mum at 492 hrv (\$97 U.S.) and the monthly minimum wage at 400 hrv (\$79 U.S.) as of January 1, 2007. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**... and privatization program**

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 6 passed a privatization plan putting dozens of potentially attractive state-run enterprises up for sale, Ukrainian media reported. The bill was supported by 226 deputies – the minimum required for approval. The most valuable enterprises for sale include minority stakes in the Ukrtelekom telephone communications provider, the Odesa Port Plant producing fertilizers, and 12 regional producers and distributors of electricity. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**President vetoes 2007 budget bill...**

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has refused to sign the 2007 budget bill that was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada and proposed that the Parliament amend it, Ukrainian media reported on December 11. The Presidential Secretariat criticized the budget for having failed to meet all suggestions by the president, including those related to the social sphere. Arsenii Yatseniuk, first vice-chairman of the Presidential Secretariat and the presidential representative in the government, is to present Mr. Yushchenko’s budgetary proposals to the Rada. Ivan Boki, head of the Socialist Party’s parliamentary caucus, told journalists on December 12 that President Yushchenko’s veto on the 2007 budget bill is a “stab in the state’s back,” Interfax-Ukraine reported. The Verkhovna Rada needs at least 300 votes to override the presidential veto. (RFE/RL Newsline, Ukrinform)

**Yanukovich indignant over veto**

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said at a Cabinet meeting on

December 13 that he “practically” does not see any chance for a compromise with President Viktor Yushchenko regarding the latter’s veto on the budget bill for 2007, the Ukrayinska Pravda website reported. “It has been proposed that we should find on paper 10 billion hrv (\$2 billion), but we know very well, and our citizens know very well, that money does not fall from the sky and that we need to earn it,” Mr. Yanukovich said. “They [the pro-presidential opposition] hope that we will be patiently listening to the fairy tales they tell people. I have warned that I am going to work and not to talk much. This is going to be our style. There should be no populism here.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

**YTB will not vote to overturn veto**

KYIV – Commenting on the president’s veto of the 2007 national budget, Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) member Oleksander Turchynov on December 12 noted that the risk of that move can serve grounds for the Anti-Crisis Coalition’s Communists, Socialists and Party of the Regions members to accuse the head of state of internal policy collapse. Mr. Turchynov said he believes the president’s remarks about the “anti-social” budget are absolutely justified. But remarks are not enough to balance revenues and the needs of citizens next year. He added that he believes that a new version of the budget must be approved by the end of 2006. The YTB representative denied rumors that his political force is allegedly ready to vote for overcoming the presidential veto in exchange for positive voting on the bill “On the opposition.” Mr. Turchynov said YTB will never back the anti-social policy of the government – “this is a principled position, and we will not bargain on that.” The budget for 2007 was adopted on December 6 with 249 votes of the Anti-Crisis Coalition, plus nine members of the YTB and Our Ukraine. (Ukrinform)



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With deep sorrow we announce that

## Julia Kostyszyn

passed away on November 21, 2006

She was born on May 25, 1920 in Brody, Ukraine.

She was predeceased by her husband Petro, who died in 1977 after a long illness. She was also predeceased by her eldest son Alexander George Kostyszyn (2005), and grandson Jason Peter Kostyszyn, (1990).

Julia Kostyszyn immigrated through Europe to United States in 1950 with her husband Petro and two sons, Borys Bohdan and Alexander Yuri. They settled in Garfield, NJ in 1957.

She retired from Hoffman La Roche after 25 years. In 1991 Mrs. Kostyszyn moved to North Port, Florida .

She was an active member of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, and a devout parishioner of Presentation of the Most Holy Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in North Port, FL.

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## Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

### Two new Ukes Thrashers

Having missed the playoffs by two measly points – a disappointing scenario never considered possible by team management when it assembled the 2005-2006 squad – the Atlanta Thrashers scaled down in their approach and payroll. Gone are Marc Savard, one of the league's top playmakers, and aging Ukraine-born sniper Peter Bondra, a player whose original signing could only have come with post-season games in mind. Gone also is defenseman Jaroslav Modry, dealt to Dallas along with first-ever draftee Patrik Stefan for defense-minded Niko Kapanen. Replacements for Savard and Modry? Read on.

### Vishnevski acquired from Ducks

Atlanta acquired defenseman Vitaly Vishnevski from the Anaheim Ducks in exchange for forward Karl Stewart, a second-round pick in the 2007 NHL Entry Draft and a conditional fourth-round selection in 2008.

"Vitaly is an excellent addition to our existing group of defensemen and we're excited to have him on our roster," said Executive Vice-President and General Manager Don Waddell in an official team press release. "He brings a considerable physical presence to our blueline and is a solid all-around player that our fans will quickly embrace."

Vishnevski, 26, has earned 48 points (11 goals, 37 assists) and 403 penalty minutes in 416 NHL games with Anaheim in six NHL seasons prior to 2006-2007. The 6-2, 205-pound defender has also tallied five assists in 36 career Stanley Cup playoff games, helping the Ducks reach the 2003 Stanley Cup Finals

and the 2006 Western Conference Finals.

The native of Kharkiv, Ukraine, skated in a career-high 82 games with Anaheim last season, notching eight points (one goal, seven assists), 91 penalty minutes, a plus-eight rating with an average 16:25 minutes of ice time per game. He also appeared in all 16 playoff games for the Ducks, recording four assists.

Vishnevski, who was selected by Anaheim in the first round, fifth overall, in the 1998 entry draft, set career highs with six goals and 16 points in 2003-2004, and recorded a career-best 10 assists in 2000-2001 and 2003-2004. He has played in 70+ games in the past five NHL seasons, including at least 80 twice.

In 1999 Vishnevski helped Russia capture the gold medal at the World Junior Championships and was named the tournament's best defenseman. He has represented Russia at the 2001 World Championships and the 1998 World Junior Championships, and also played in his second European Junior Championships as a member of Russia's 18-and-under club in 1998. He debuted in the Russian elite league in 1998-1999 with Yaroslavl, and made his North American debut with Cincinnati and Anaheim in 1999-2000.

### Thrashers ink free agent Metropolit

This past summer the Atlanta Thrashers signed unrestricted free agent forward Glen Metropolit. Terms of the contract were not initially disclosed by Executive VP-GM Don Waddell. Metropolit, 32, led Lugano to the Swiss National League Championship last season with 27 points (nine goals, 18 assists) in 17 playoff games. During the regular season,

Metropolit led the entire league with 39 assists and 63 points in only 44 games. He spent the previous two seasons with Jokerit-Helsinki of the Finnish Elite League from 2003-2005, posting 97 points (31 goals, 66 assists) in 106 games.

The 5-10, 200-pound center/right wing has registered 47 points (10 goals, 37 assists) in 103 NHL games over parts of four seasons with Washington and Tampa Bay. He set NHL career highs with 16 assists and 17 points with the Capitals in 2001-2002. The native of Toronto, has collected 484 points (185 goals, 299 assists) in 455 minor league games in the American Hockey League, the former International Hockey League and East Coast Hockey League, including one game with the Atlanta Knights in 1995-1996.

### Colorado's Konowalchuk calls it quits

On September 29 Colorado Avalanche left wing Steve Konowalchuk announced he retired from professional hockey after a 13-year career in the National Hockey League.

Konowalchuk made this difficult decision official after undergoing an additional series of tests related to his heart condition. The condition was detected during medical tests all Avalanche players underwent prior to the start of training camp. Results from a standard EKG test revealed an abnormal reading.

"In Steve's case, the abnormal reading prompted further tests which revealed he has Long QT Syndrome, a genetic disease involving electrical conduction which can lead to irregular heart rhythms," said Dr. Steve Friedrich, Avalanche team cardiologist. "These findings were confirmed through a series of tests Steve underwent at the University of Rochester Cardiac Center in New York, which runs an International LQTS registry and is a research center for the syndrome. Steve and the physicians in Rochester conferred with multiple national centers in order to form a consensus regarding his condition."

"After a complete evaluation from a number of different physicians and experts associated with this condition, we decided this was the best and only alternative for me," said Konowalchuk in an official Colorado Avalanche team press release. "As much as I'll miss the game of hockey and all it's provided for my family and I, my health was the number one priority."

"This has been a very painful process, but I'm very proud of a long NHL career and happy to have a lifetime of special

memories and friends to take with me."

"Steve is a true professional and will be known for playing the game as it should be played – with passion and a strong commitment to his team and his teammates," said Avalanche Executive Vice-President and General Manager Francois Giguere. "We will treat him with great respect, the same way he treated the organization since his arrival here in Colorado."

"Our organization will support Steve and his family any way we can," added Giguere in the same press release.

Konowalchuk, 33, a native of Salt Lake City, Utah, was originally drafted by the Washington Capitals in the third round, 58th overall, in the 1991 entry draft. He was acquired by the Avalanche from the Capitals along with the Caps' third selection in the 2004 entry draft in exchange for Bates Battaglia and the rights to Jonas Johansson on October 22, 2003. During his 13 NHL seasons, he appeared in -/90 contests, accumulating 171 goals and 22.5 assists. He made 32 NHL playoff appearances, tallying 21 points (nine goals, 12 assists).

Konowalchuk also represented the United States in World Cup Tournaments in 1996 and 2004.

### Blues opt yes on Tkachuk

Lame-duck owner Bill Laurie exercised the option year on Keith Tkachuk's contract for this 2006-2007 season. Owner-to-be Dave Checketts was in full agreement with the personnel decision.

Tkachuk, 34, played in 41 games last season with the Blues, recording 36 points on 15 goals and 21 assists to go with 46 penalty minutes.

The Melrose, Mass., native has totalled 868 career points (446 goals, 422 assists) along with 1,907 penalty minutes in 897 NHL contests. He has reached the 30+ goal plateau in over half (eight) of his 14 NHL seasons, collecting 50+ goals on two occasions. The 6-2, 225-pound left winger has recorded 30+ assists in eight of the last 12 campaigns, posting a career high 48 during the 1995-1996 season.

Tkachuk lit the lamp a career best 52 times in the 1995-1996 season, becoming the first American-born player to lead the NHL in goals, while becoming just the fourth player in NHL history to score 50 goals and accumulate 200 penalty minutes in one season. Tkachuk helped the United States capture a silver medal in the 2002 winter Olympics.

Tkachuk was originally the Winnipeg Jets' first round selection, 19th overall, in the 1990 NHL Entry Draft.

### Isles hope new coach inspires Zhitnik

On the eve of this 2006-2007 season hockey experts tried to determine each NHL team's player most under pressure to perform. For the New York Islanders, the answer could have been Alexei Yashin or goalies Rick DiPietro. But, come to think of it, almost every team in the league can probably include its top centerman and/or its No.1 goalie.

After a while, the discussions can get redundant.

So, getting the vote for Islanders player most needed to improve his two-way performance this season is veteran blueliner Alexei Zhitnik. His first season on Long Island, after signing a lucrative four-year, \$14 million contract, was a mini-disaster. It began with a total inability to adapt to the new obstruction crack-down and culminated with a serious ankle injury which managed to put him out of action during the team's unsuccessful playoff push.

This year it is hoped Zhitnik – reunited with his former Sabres coach Ted Nolan – will be a valuable mix with veteran newcomers Brendan Witt and Sean Hill to form a solidly rebuilt defense corps in front of DiPietro.

### An open invitation to local community activists

Would you like fellow Ukrainians to know about events in your community?  
Would you like to become one of The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondents?  
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The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions from local community activists. You may reach The Weekly by phone, (973) 292-9800; fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com; or mail, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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# Plast's Spartanky sorority meets for annual convention at Soyuzivka

by Vera Chuma-Bitcon

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Spartanky sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization held its annual convention, or "rada," on September 29-30, in the beautiful Catskill mountain region at the Ukrainian National Association estate, Soyuzivka. Over 30 senior members from the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and New England areas gathered for two days of camaraderie, fun and hard work.

On Friday evening, a traditional Plast bonfire was lit, kicking off the convention. Popular Plast songs broke the

silence in the Soyuzivka woods as the embers crackled in the crisp, autumn air. Original, funny skits showed off the singing and acting talents of the group.

On Saturday it was back to business as the Spartanky met all morning and afternoon to plan out their activities for the year. Their plans for the year include coordinating the "Sviato Vesny" outing for novatstvo (children age 7-11) in the spring, and leading all the required activities for older youths, "yunatstvo," (age 11-18) to achieve their physical fitness badge at Vovcha Tropa summer camp in East Chatham N.Y. In addition, the Spartanky will continue to run the



The Spartanky sorority of Plast gathered at Soyuzivka.

## Ukrainian Diaspora...

(Continued from page 15)

Prof. Vasyl Zhukovsky, vice-rector of Ostroh Academy, welcomed the creation of the Chair of the History of the Ukrainian Diaspora and expressed his belief that leading Ukrainian scholars from the West, many of whom have already established a strong working relationship with the academy, will become actively involved in the development of its academic and research programs as advisors and guest lecturers.

Also welcoming the establishment of this unique chair were Iaroslav Malyk, guest professor; Sviatlana Novoselska, dean of the department of foreign languages; Vitaly Kovaliuk, dean of department of law; and others.

On the unanimous recommendation of the presidium of the Ukrainian Historical Association, Prof. Lubomyr Wynar presented Rector Pasichnyk with a certificate of honorary membership in the Ukrainian

Historical Association for his significant contribution to the development of Ukrainian scholarship and national culture, his leadership role in educating the future intellectual elite of Ukraine, and for his promotion of strong ties between scholars from Ukraine and the diaspora.

Prof. Wynar also presented a special certificate of recognition from the World Scholarly Council to Prof. Alla Atamanenko for her extensive research in Ukrainian historiography, organizing two major international scholarly conferences on the Ukrainian diaspora, and publishing numerous academic monographs and diaspora source materials, as well as for her work in steering the course of development of various programs at the Institute of Ukrainian Diaspora Studies.

The concluding event took place the following day with the presentation by Prof. Wynar of the inaugural paper: "Mykhailo Hrushevsky – Noted Historian and Organizer of Ukrainian Scholarly Life – Period of Emigration."

popular Pochatkovyi Tabir," a series of one-week camps at Vovcha Tropa for 6- and 7-year-olds. There are also many activities planned on the local branch level.

This year the Spartanky sorority donated \$1,000 toward the Vovcha Tropa campground, which has been undergoing major improvements.

During the convention, the Spartanky had re-elections of their sorority leadership. The leader once again is Irka Sawchyn-Doll, the vice-president – Lesia Sikorskyj, treasurer – Chrystia Kozak, recording secretary – Chrystia Demidowich and corresponding secretary – Vera Chuma-Bitcon. The local branch leaders include: New Jersey – Darka

Halaburda-Patti, New York/New England – Lesia Kosicky and Philadelphia – Marusia Kolodij.

The Spartanky also had the pleasure of inducting a new member, Ruta Cholhan-Lenchur, during a traditional Spartanky initiation ceremony.

As the convention came to a close and everyone said their good-byes, the Spartanky members felt invigorated and inspired to once again work hard and volunteer their services to ensure that the mission and values of this Ukrainian scouting organization continue to flourish among Plast youth.

To obtain more information about the Spartanky sorority readers may contact Lesia Sikorskyj at 908-686-0426.

## SAVE THE DATE



## Establishing a Legacy for Education in Ukraine

The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy needs your support. Ukraine will be built and sustained by a new generation of leaders. One of the greatest challenges of our day is to provide the highest level of education to this new generation. Together we can accomplish this goal.

The Kyiv Mohyla Academy has been the preeminent academic institution of Ukraine for much of its tortured history. Established in 1615 as the first institution of higher learning in Ukraine, it produced many of the country's most respected scholars and intellectuals. During the Russian Empire, the Academy was closed by the tsars and it was used for military purposes until the end of the 70-year Soviet regime. In 1991, the Kyiv Mohyla Academy was opened again under the leadership of Dr. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky.

In the years since, the Academy regained its traditional position of Ukraine's most prominent academic center, with its emphasis on excellence in education, respect for human rights and ethical norms and democratic ideals of national and individual freedom.

Two years after the Orange Revolution when the university played a significant role, it faces a different reality in the country's struggles. It is a reality which brings forth challenges and difficulties for its academic autonomy.

Your participation and support in the events planned during the month of February will be a highly valued contribution to the financial and moral support of the work of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

We invite everyone to participate in the planned events. Further detailed information on each event will be forthcoming in the Ukrainian-American media and in correspondence. Thank you for your support.

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SATURDAY 5:30 p.m.

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Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey - Whippany

**FEBRUARY 18, 2007**

SUNDAY 1 p.m.

**CHICAGO**

Ukrainian Cultural Center - Chicago

**FEBRUARY 24, 2007**

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**DETROIT**

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## UNWLA Branch 30 holds elections, gears up for new season of activity

DOBBS FERRY, N.Y. – As a new season of work begins, Olia Rudyk has stepped down as president of Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) Branch 30 and Iryna Hoshovsky has taken up the reins. Ms. Hoshovsky has been a resident of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., for over 10 years. She moved there with her two sons, Victor and Andrew, after her husband, Bohdan, passed away in 1991.

Ms. Hoshovsky was formerly very active in the Ukrainian American Youth Association's New York chapter and has now been an active member of the

UNWLA for several years.

She is the office manager for The Healing Clinic in Spring Valley, N.Y. (an alternative health-care facility), for the past 13 years under the medical direction of Dr. Volodymyr Buhayenko. She also specializes in live blood microscopy at this clinic. Recently she graduated from the Fire and Wind Healing Institute, an esoteric school of energy healings, where her forte included angelic energy balancing and past life regressions.

Ms. Hoshovsky's plans for UNWLA Branch 30 are just now being formulated. She wants to help raise funds for the many



UNWLA Branch 30 officers and members: (seated, from left) Maria Chomyk, Secretary Nadia Liteplo, President Iryna Hoshovsky, Roxolana Podpirka, Vice-President Olia Rudyk, (standing) Stephania Odomirok, Nadia Howansky, Luba Kuver and Jeanine Chomyk.

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admirable and humanitarian projects run by the UNWLA, not to mention the support of the Ukrainian Museum in Manhattan and the organization's magazine "Our Life." Her first major event was the annual Christmas Bazaar and Art Exhibit scheduled for December 10 at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers, N.Y. The featured artist was to be Bohdan Borzemyk, a master in the technique of woodcuts. Recently, through experimentation, he invented his own individual technique that he calls paper cuts, substituting heavy paper for wood. Mr. Borzemyk's source of inspiration is his childhood fascination with the Hutsul region of Ukraine and its inhabitants, whose folk art had a decisive influence on his art.

Other artists and vendors included Olia Basarab-Kolodij, a specialist in traditional Ukrainian gerdany; Daria Hanushevsky, an artist of Hutsul and Trypillian ceramics; Tracey Kuzemczak and her mother, Anna Evans, who create hand-crafted giftware for all occasions; and Oksana Lotocky, a professional floral arranger/designer.

Each year in January the ladies of Branch 30 socialize and catch up on their personal lives and family news. This year a dinner is planned on January 21, 2007, at the new Ukraina restaurant in Brooklyn. Anyone wishing to become a member of the organization or just spend a fun afternoon at a Ukrainian restaurant with the ladies of Branch 30 may call Olia Rudyk, 914-762-6514.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Scientist lectures  
around the globe

by Dr. Olga Maria Cehelska

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – Dr. George A. Kowalchuk leads a multifaceted research program with emphasis on environmental and rhizosphere microbiology within the department of terrestrial microbial ecology of the Netherlands Institute of Ecology.

Born in New Jersey in 1966, Dr. Kowalchuk has been known for his keen sense of humor since his days as an undergraduate student at Duke University, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1988 with a double major in biology and psychology.

He continued his training in molecular biology and microbiology after being awarded a graduate research fellowship to Yale University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1993.

Since his thesis defense, he has been involved in the development and application of the new molecular and genomics approaches to help explore earth's greatest source of biodiversity, the microbial communities inhabiting soil that drive terrestrial ecosystems.

After post-doctoral work at Yale, he moved to the University of Amsterdam as a guest researcher and lecturer. In 1994 he joined the research staff of the Netherlands Institute of Ecology, where he received a tenured position as senior scientist in 1999.

Since February 2005 Dr. Kowalchuk also holds a full professor's chair in



Dr. George A. Kowalchuk

plant-microbe interactions at the Free University of Amsterdam within the Institute of Ecological Sciences, where he delivered his inaugural address on October 6, 2005. Recently, he supervised a research team of approximately 12 scientists and recently conducted a sabbatical research project at the University of Adelaide, Australia.

While his work pertains to the serious aspects of the biological methods used to describe the function and evolution of microorganisms in the environment, his lectures and research publications often tickle the scientific funny bone. For

(Continued on page 42)

Student helps  
Ukraine's orphans

WOONSOCKET, R.I. – On August 4-20, John Charest, 24, of St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket, R.I., made his third trip in four years to western Ukraine's orphanages in the towns of Zaluchia and Znamianka.

On this mission Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon and the Rev. Deacon Ihor Mahlay coordinated each orphanage to receive eight volunteers who were sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund.

This was the third trip to these orphanages by college-age students who helped with repairs, assisted with physical therapy exercises, played games, conducted a mini Special Olympics and spent as

much time as possible with the children.

Mr. Charest hopes to establish a daily session of physical therapy and hopes to expand the program to include more children with a wider diversity of disabilities. Mr. Charest said, "I was encouraged by the progress being made by the staff and the children. I am looking forward to next year's trip and hope to lead a group."

Currently, Mr. Charest is pursuing an education degree at Rhode Island College, where he is student teaching. In addition to his duties as a subdeacon in his parish, Mr. Charest helps with the local Ukrainian dance group, is a church group advisor and aspires to follow his vocation as a priest.

Outside of the Ukrainian community, Mr. Charest is actively involved with sports by coordinating referees for various sports. He also referees soccer matches, and coaches both soccer and hockey teams.

John Charest (left) with Irene Sarachmon, Olha Mode and Eleanor Kogut.

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# Scientist lectures...

(Continued from page 41)

example, in 2005 at the annual symposium of the Institute for Ecological Services of the Free University of Amsterdam, as guest speaker his topic was "How do you tap into microbial diversity? Use your roots, of course." His recently published study in microbial ecology is titled "Finding the needles in the meta-genome haystack."

In general, his research is most serious and attempts to delve into the microbial processes that drive the world's ecosystems and sustain life on this planet. His specific research foci include environmental genomics of ecologically relevant micro-organisms, rhizosphere ecology,

molecular community analysis of bacterial and fungal communities, microbial diversity in the rhizosphere, interactions between above-ground and below-ground biota, effects of genetically modified plants on soil communities, and roles of plant-microbe interactions in C and N cycling.

Dr. Kowalchuk has published over 50 articles – most with titles not for the faint of heart – which appeared in such scientific journals as *Biology and Biochemistry*, *Mycological Research*, and *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*. There are countless others, some even with titles decipherable for the average layperson, such as "Assessing Soil Ecosystem Responses to GM Plants," which appeared in *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*.

Prof. Kowalchuk currently serves as editor-in-chief of the *Molecular Microbial*

*Ecology Manual* and the journal *Microbial Ecology*. He has recently been named co-editor-in-chief of a new journal to be launched in 2007, as a joint venture between the International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME) and the Nature Publishing Group, simply titled, *The ISME Journal* (see [www.nature.com/ismej/](http://www.nature.com/ismej/)). He is also on the editorial board of *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, *FEMS Microbial Ecology* and the *Journal of Microbiological Methods*.

His professional associations include the American Society for Microbiology, the Netherlands Association of Microbiology and the International Society for Microbial Ecology. He holds numerous journal refereeing duties, as well as a large number of grant referring duties. His summary of grants awarded

could be a topic for another article.

Dr. Kowalchuk has lectured or conducted research on every continent of the planet, including a project on the effects of global warming conducted in Antarctica and the Antarctic Islands. His international collaborations encompass the United States, Canada, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, England, Ireland, Russia, Denmark, France, Austria, Spain, Brazil, China, Wales, Mexico, Scotland, Finland, Italy and Australia.

Currently, Dr. Kowalchuk lives in Amsterdam where, along with his wife Cindy de Visser, he is raising two young sons, Luka, 4 and Max, 3. Dr. Kowalchuk is fluent in English, Dutch and Ukrainian.

As a young boy he was active in Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and spent many summers at Vocha Tropa in East Chatham, N.Y. He is the son of Roman and Anisia Kowalchuk of Reading, Pa., and the grandson of the late Dr. George Cehelsky of Miami Beach, Fla., and centenarian Michael Kowalchuk, also of Miami Beach.

# Ukrainian language...

(Continued from page 7)

large proportion of its population speaks Russian only, including high-level government officials, is totally unacceptable. We understand that in some cases it may take some time to reach the final objective, but the Ukrainian government should have an explicit and clear policy with concrete implementation steps for reaching the final objective of becoming a normal country with pride in its culture and language.

While continuing our efforts to influence the Ukrainian government in this respect, we should make our position clear at all levels of Ukrainian society – not just with words, but with deeds.

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## Ukraine Business...

(Continued from page 1)

euros in foreign investment after attaining its EU membership, and cited the new “big R” – Romania – as an example of successful technology development.

On Ukraine’s economic future, Jock Mendoza-Wilson, head of international and investor relations for Systems Capital Management, said that SCM accounts for 8 percent of Ukraine’s GDP, making it a powerhouse player in Ukraine’s economy. He said SCM has branched out into diverse sectors such as mining and metals with Metinvest, energy development with D-Tek, finance with SCM Finance, telecommunications with Telco and in other areas of brewing, hospitality, sports and media.

In an effort to promote transparency, financial reporting and investment, SCM publishes its figures annually and hires independent directors and supervisors, Mr. Mendoza said. To increase competitiveness with China’s and India’s steel production, Mr. Mendoza said Ukraine needs to update its equipment and promote more energy-efficient practices.

Ihor Shevchenko, president of the Ukrainian Bar Association, said that the reduction of corruption in Ukraine is the result of corporate law improvements and a reform of the legal profession with an increased stress on ethics.

Ukraine’s Minister of Energy Yuriy Boiko said there is a \$5 billion investment opportunity in the energy sector of Ukraine. As an example, Mr. Boiko cited energy partnerships like the one with Houston-based Vanco Energy Co. that is scheduled to begin drilling oil on the Black Sea.

Other areas of energy development include domestic uranium production, and increases in domestic oil and gas production to 5 billion to 6 billion cubic meters annually. As a condition of these developments, Mr. Boiko expressed his desire to maintain strong relations with Russia to promote stability.

On the topic of investing in Ukraine, and the opportunities and obstacles involved, Robert Bensch, president of Cardinal Resources, said that Ukraine has a lot of legacy issues that are remnants from the days of the Soviet Union that will have to be addressed. From his oil and gas experience in Ukraine, Mr. Bensch said that Ukraine’s significant natural resources allow it to be both a supplier and a transit nation, but ensuring security, he found, is dependent upon the political party in power.

John Imle, president of Vanco Energy Co., which is scheduled to commence an oil drilling operation off the coast of Ukraine in the Black Sea, said that his company’s goals in Ukraine would be to finalize a profit-sharing agreement with Ukraine’s government, with over half of the profits going toward the government. As a condition of this agreement, Mr. Imle said that his company seeks a “transparent and durable 30-year agreement that must withstand public and political scrutiny.”

In areas of high technology, Roman Kyzyk, managing director of DFJ Nexus, a Silicon-Valley venture capital firm, said, “Ukraine is an environment based on technology education that is a legacy from the Soviet days.” However, this environment of “pure research,” Mr. Kyzyk said, lacks management and standardized practices.

In areas of aviation, for example, Mr. Kyzyk said that Ukraine is the No. 1 producer of titanium welding and that Ukraine launches more satellites than NASA. Mr. Kyzyk also commented that the no-visa policy in Ukraine makes better business sense that investors should capitalize on.

On the “wait and see” investment attitude, Gregory Vaksman of Aerosvit Cargo said, “Investors can’t wait for the best tim-



Matthew Dubas

**Noah Gotbaum, managing director of New Spirit Capital; Ihor Obozintsev, advisor to the chairman at Ukreximbank; Sergiy Lesyk, head of research at Millennium Capital, Alexander Bondar, a stock market operator; and Lucas Romriell, head of sales at Concorde Capital; listen as Volodymyr Makukha, minister of the economy, addresses the forum.**

ing. Go to Ukraine and see for yourself.”

Minister of the Economy Volodymyr Makukha said that Ukraine is progressing in the areas of transparency, economic reform and the development of the private sector.

Areas of needed reform for Ukraine, according to Mr. Makukha, include legislation, law enforcement and the reluctance of regional leaders to modify behaviors after legislative reforms have taken effect.

Citing areas of progress, Mr. Makukha said Ukraine is close to finalizing preparatory WTO legislation, but remarked that, with respect to free trade zones, mistakes have been made and learned from. Mr. Makukha also said there should be a development of industrial parks, similar to those in the U.S., for the technology sector.

In an effort to promote investments in Ukraine, Serhiy Lesyk of Millennium Capital said, “Without investments [in the Ukrainian market], shareholders fight each other for a majority stake in the company. This promotes a climate of instability.”

Ukrainian stock market operator Alexander Bondar told the forum that Ukraine’s stock market is underdeveloped, which allows for large opportunities for investors. Citing a comparison between Ukraine and Poland, Mr. Bondar said that Ukraine’s market accounts for 5 percent of the GDP, while in Poland, the market accounts for 37 percent.

Representing a company that is just two years old, Lucas Romriell, head of sales for Concorde Capital, said that the gas price hike had little effect on Ukraine’s economy. Mr. Romriell remarked that opportunities in the banking sector have a huge privatization potential, specifically in areas of retail. As signs of progress in the market, Mr. Romriell cited Mittal, a steel manufacturer that has proven its capacity for cut-

ting costs, and the electric energy sector that is awaiting privatization.

For Ukraine to reach its market potential, Mr. Romriell said, “Ukraine needs better protection of property rights, a ref-

ormation of the stock market on the model of London or Frankfurt, and a shift in attitude by Ukrainian businessmen recognizing the value of foreign investment.

## Yanukovych addresses business luncheon

by Matthew Dubas

NEW YORK — Ukraine’s Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych met with business leaders at a luncheon hosted by the Business Council for International Understanding on December 6 during the Ukraine Business Forum at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

James Wolfensohn, president of the BCIU and former president of the World Bank, introduced Mr. Yanukovych to the gathering of approximately 170 people. Among the audience were advisors to the prime minister: Andrew Fialka, Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Andriy Honcharuk, Leonid Kozhara; Anna Herman, member of Parliament; Volodymyr Khandohiy, deputy foreign minister; and Oleh Shamshur, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States.

Addressing the audience in Ukrainian, Mr. Yanukovych appeared to be struggling with the official state language as he tried to appeal to the businessmen in the room.

“Ukraine has made significant changes in the last 15 years,” Mr. Yanukovych said. “The year 2006 marks the beginning of the new parliamentary Ukraine and look at its effectiveness.”

There is an opportunity to work effectively and responsibly, he stated, and this new nation’s government is working. “We have a responsibility to pull huge investment in Ukraine, creating the right environment with stability and increase growth not by points, but severalfold,” he said.

“The stock market is beginning to

grow, political and economic stability is beginning to emerge, with transparent and open policy,” Mr. Yanukovych explained. “Ukraine is ready to maintain contact with the West and to encourage cooperation.”

As he concluded his talk, Mr. Yanukovych took questions from the audience.

Voicing concern over protection of property rights in Ukraine, Roger Rosendahl of Kaye Scholer, LLP, a U.S.-based shareholding company that is developing a shipping container service in Odesa, questioned the prime minister on how Ukraine plans to overcome control of land from interference from “unknown” sources.

To this, Mr. Yanukovych offered this lackluster solution: “A series of laws will need to be passed to ensure adherence to land control and fair practices.”

Stanley Roth of Boeing Co. asked the prime minister to increase the safety of Ukraine’s air fleet so that direct flights to the U.S. are available. The prime minister said that Ukraine would be ready to work with Boeing when the time is right.

An unidentified audience member, who represents a foreign company involved in the clean-up at Chornobyl asked the prime minister about Chornobyl’s mothball state, and asked how Ukraine plans to clean up nuclear waste and used fuel.

Mr. Yanukovych responded: “Mr. Boiko, the minister of fuel and energy, has given you a partial answer to that question, but Ukraine will offer fair and equal opportunities to foreign companies to assist in the clean-up. I wish your company great success.”

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## Telnyuk Sisters music video seen on YouTube and Google

KYIV – After more than a three-year absence from Ukraine's musical arena, the Telnyuk Sisters are taking a new approach and pre-empting the release of their latest album, "About Both Sides of the Sun and the Moon," with a premiere of their video of their song "Vechirnyk" from the album using new media technologies.

The video was produced by Ukrainian Producer Taras Khymych and was released simultaneously on YouTube and Google Video on November 17. The video is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tF-pUjLwqHA> and <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-2095468538915479477&hl=en>.

"It's all about positioning yourself in front of your audience and potential audience regardless of where they are located on the face of this planet. But more clearly it's about thinking outside of the traditional structure of marketing and managing today's musical talents," said Rostislav Shtyn, principle of DANAPRO Ltd, which since the end of October has

been managing the duet.

"The video release is just a small part of what we are doing with the Telnyuk Sisters leading up to the release of their CD, and their mini-promo tour of their album in six Ukrainian cities, starting on December 13. It's a new approach for the duet and while it has added to everyone's workload, it's what is necessary in today's industry," added Mr. Shtyn.

Since their appearance on the Ukrainian music scene in 1986 the Telnyuk Sisters have been laureates of the 1989 and 1991 Chervona Ruta festivals, were awarded first prize at the "New Names" National Competition, and the Vasyl Stus Award in 1998.

They have recorded seven albums: "The Magic Span of Time" (1991), "Halya and Lesya" (1994), "Silence and Thunder" (1998), "Concerts in Canada" (2000), "U.B.N. Songs from the Play" (2001), "Wind of the Century" (2002), "Firebirds" (2002), and their double disk compilation CD titled "Selected" (2005).

## SUM organizes...

(Continued from page 16)

etc. The participants had to work together, under the pressure of time, to formulate and present their project – a new camp.

Through the interactive sessions on both days, the participants underscored the need to "think outside of the box." They understood the need to change and evolve to become more efficient, productive and alluring, without compromising the vision, ideals and missions of organizations.

SUM leaders extended their sincerest appreciation to the Ukrainian Embassy and to the U.S-Ukraine Foundation for their warmth and hospitality, which was instrumental in making the leadership seminar successful and memorable.

Andriy Bihun, SUM's director of youth and the orchestrator of the Youth Leadership Seminar, said that this seminar has met all of its goals and that its continuation is vitally important to the future of SUM and to the Ukrainian community.

## INDEPENDENCE TOURS:

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**Departures:** Jun 27 and Aug 22



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**Departures:** May 23, Jul 18 and Sep 12



### STUDENT TOUR

via Malev Airlines from New York

20 Day All Inclusive Tour \$3500 tw

Odesa, Crimea: Yalta, Bakchysaray, Sevastopol, Chersonesus and Ei Petri, Kyiv/Kaniv then by bus via Rivne to Potchajiv and L'viv. A three day bus tour into the Carpathian Mts: Manyavskyj Skt, Ivano Frankivsk, Yaremche, Vorokhta, Kolomyja and Zarvanytci. End this adventure in Budapest!

**Departure:** May 31-Jun 20, 2007 *Minimum age: 20*



### DNIPRO CRUISE + LVIV MUSIC FEST

via Austrian Airlines from New York

20 Day All Inclusive Cruise + L'viv tw from \$3290

Odesa, Sevastopol, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Kaniv and Kyiv (Chestnut Blossom Festival). What a great way to see all of Ukraine and spend a leisurely week in L'viv attending concerts. Senior citizens discount: \$100 if deposit in by Dec. 20, 2006! Plus early registration bonus ....save \$400 per couple!!!

**Only ONE departure:** May 10-29, 2007



### MINI UKRAINE

via Austrian Airlines from New York

10 Days All inclusive Tour tw from \$2200

Kyiv and L'viv – the two "capitals" of E. & W. Ukraine. Leisurely pace of this tour allows time for daily self exploration of these lovely cities and permits for one/two day excursions into surrounding areas to visit with friends/family and seek roots.

**Departures:** May 17, Jul 12, Aug 16 and Sep 20



### HUTSUL FESTIVAL TOUR

via Austrian Airlines from New York

13 Day All Inclusive Tour \$3350 tw

This year, the Hutsul Festival is in Yaremche will bring together some of the finest dancers, entertainers and craft makers from the region. Of course, no tour of Ukraine is complete without Kyiv and L'viv!

**Only ONE departure:** Jul 21 – Aug 2, 2007



### CARPATHIAN ARTS-CRAFTS FAIR

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**Only ONE departure:** Sep 06-15, 2007

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## OUT AND ABOUT

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| December 17-<br>January 5<br>Saratoga Springs, NY | Photo exhibit, "Koliada: Winter Solstice Rituals from the Carpathian Mountains," by Alexander Khantaev, Spring Street Gallery, 212-475-6474                                     |
| December 24<br>Los Angeles                        | Holiday concert, Kitka women's vocal ensemble, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, www.lacountyarts.org  |
| December 31<br>Horsham, PA                        | New Year's Eve Party, "Romance the Gypsy in Your Heart," featuring music by Fata Morgana, Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub, 215-860-8384 or 215-343-5412 or 610-272-0678 |
| December 31<br>Passaic, NJ                        | New Year's Eve Party, featuring music of The Wave band, Ukrainian Home, 973-779-4017  |
| December 31<br>Jersey City, NJ                    | New Year's Eve Party, featuring music by Lvivany, Ukrainian National Home, 201-798-0132   |
| January 2-23<br>New York                          | Art exhibit, "Beyond Borders: Exhibition of Fine Art from Canada," featuring bronze works by Oleg Dergachoff, Agora Gallery, 212-226-4151                                       |
| January 5<br>Washington                           | The Washington Group social, Leopold's Café, 703-548-8534 or 240-381-0993   |
| January 6<br>Lecanto, FL                          | Country-Western Music Show to benefit Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, featuring Buddy Max and others, Cowboy Junction Opry, 352-746-6972                     |
| January 7<br>New York                             | Caroling at Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, 7 pm, (bring candles), 203-241-1894 or olena@olena.biz   |

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers; please send e-mail to [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com). Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.

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# UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## Kids participate in new cultural center’s grand opening

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The recent grand opening of the newly built Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey was an event that got the entire community involved, from the youngest children to seniors. Seen here are some of the kids of the community who participated in the festivities over the weekend of November 11-12. The first group to perform at the newly built UACCNJ was the Iskra Ukrainian folk dance troupe, some of whose members are seen in the photo on the right performing the “Pryvit” during the gala banquet. The youngest members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization are seen in the photo below in their uniforms and with one of their troop’s totems as they prepare to participate in the blessing of the new center. Uniformed teenage members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (known as SUM) are seen in the bottom photo carrying their branch’s flag toward the new center where the blessing ceremonies were about to begin. The UACCNJ will be home to these youth groups, plus the Lesia Ukrainka School of Ukrainian Studies and the Sitch sports club.



Roma Hadzewycz



Christine Syzonenko

## Mishanyna

To solve this month’s Mishanyna find the names of the listed Ukrainian cities in the grid.

- Cherkasy

Dnipropetrovsk

Kaniv

Kherson

Kyiv

Lviv

Poltava

Sumy

Vinnytsia

Yaremche
- Chernihiv

Donetsk

Kharkiv

Kryvyi Rih

Lutsk

Odesa

Rivne

Symferopol

Yalta

Zaporizhia

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

# Soyuzivka's Datebook

<b>December 10, 2006</b> Kozak Hockey Team Christmas Party	<b>January 6, 2007</b> Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve Supper, 6 p.m., \$25 per person
<b>December 11, 2006</b> Kerhonkson-Accord Senior Citizen Association Christmas Party	<b>January 7, 2007</b> Christmas Day Brunch, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., \$12.95++
<b>December 15, 2006</b> UNWLA Branch 95 Christmas Party	<b>January 19-21, 2007</b> Church of Annunciation, Flushing, NY – Family Weekend
<b>December 21, 2006</b> Jeremiah Flaherty Esq. Christmas Party	<b>January 20, 2007</b> Kerhonkson Fire House Installation Dinner Banquet
<b>December 24, 2006</b> Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve Supper	<b>January 27, 2007</b> Soyuzivka's 2nd Annual Malanka sponsored by the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America
<b>December 30, 2006</b> Dinner followed by Kozak Cabaret with Ron Cahut and Ihor Bachynsky	<b>March 3-4, 2007</b> Plast Fraternity "Khmelnychenky" Annual Winter Rada
<b>December 31, 2006</b> New Year's Eve Extravaganza	<b>March 23-25, 2007</b> Plast Sorority "Chornomorski Khvyli" Rada

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

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 17

**WHIPPANY, N.J.:** St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church and the local branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization are holding their first-ever joint Christmas bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the newly dedicated Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, located on 62 N. Jefferson Road, just north of Route 10. Featured will be foods, pastries, crafts, Ukrainian arts, jewelry and various other items. Come and enjoy baked goods and coffee as you browse.

Sunday, December 31

**HORSHAM, Pa.:** The Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub, located at

County Line and Lower State roads, invites all to a New Year's Eve 2007 Extravaganza: "Romance the Gypsy in Your Heart." The New Year's Eve festivities will commence at 7:30 p.m. with a two-hour open specialty wine, beer and martini bar, and dinner. Feast on a delectable array of hors d'oeuvres, carving stations, seafood, a taste of Tuscany, Viennese sweets, flambé table, coffee and tea; and enjoy a champagne toast at midnight. Welcome "Stesha," the mysterious Gypsy fortuneteller, and dance the night away to the music of the Fata Morgana band. Price: \$120 per person. For reservations, due by December 19, call: Natalia Luciw, 215-362-5331; or Kristine Rizanow, 610-272-0678. Advance ticket sales only.

## 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 submission) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long; longer submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, senders are asked to include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours, as well as their complete mailing address.

Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510; e-mail, preview@ukrweekly.com.

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