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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Ocean scientists announce plans for Black Sea expeditions in 2007

by Yaro Bihun

*Special to The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON — Ukrainian, American and leading ocean scientists from other countries will be returning to the Black Sea in 2007 to continue studying an assortment of ancient and recent ship wrecks preserved in its depths. They also plan to establish the first in a series of underwater museums that will be accessible to schools through a satellite hook-up as well as on the Internet.

Plans for the 2007 Ukrainian-American expedition were announced during a briefing at the National Geographic Society on December 11 by the chief scientists of the project, representatives of other sponsoring institutions and Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Shamshur.

Describing the expedition, Robert Ballard, director of the Institute for Archeological Oceanography (IAO) at the University of Rhode Island, said the Black Sea is "the largest museum on earth." The reason for that, he explained, is that beneath 200 meters, it is anoxic, and without oxygen there is nothing to destroy the ships and cargo that sank to its depths.

During the first expedition to the coastal regions off Crimea in 2006, the joint team

identified close to 500 objects of interest on the sea bottom, among them a Byzantine ship from the late ninth or early 10th century, Russian and Soviet ships that went down in the first and second world wars, and more recent ships and aircraft, Dr. Ballard said.

His Ukrainian counterpart, Serhiy Voronov, director of Underwater Heritage of Ukraine and member of the Academy of Sciences, said the 2007 expedition will commence on January 15 and last until November, with the detailed examination of the old Byzantine ship starting in August.

He thanked his American partners for what he called their "truly effective cooperation," which for the first time is enabling Ukrainian scientists to explore sea depths from 100 to 2,000 meters.

The American project archeologist, Bridget Buxton of IAO, said they expect to find organic matter on the Byzantine ship — possibly honey, olive oil and even 1,000-year-old wine — which, after DNA analysis, may help them date other old ships found elsewhere.

"This is going to be better than Pompeii with respect to preservation," she said, referring to the Italian city buried in the

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## Putin visits Ukraine; convenes first Yushchenko-Putin Commission meeting

by Zenon Zawada

*Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV — Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin and his delegation reached agreements with their Ukrainian counterparts on trade and migrant readmission during a one-day trip to Kyiv on December 22.

During the visit, which was Mr. Putin's third during Viktor Yushchenko's presidency, the two leaders also convened the first meeting of the Yushchenko-Putin Commission, in which delegations of both countries will meet biannually.

Only minor agreements were reached, and Mr. Yushchenko indicated that far more challenging issues lie ahead with the Russian Federation, particularly on border demarcation and the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

"We are working from the point that many issues require time ... trust, desire and political will," Mr. Yushchenko said. "Politicization surrounds many, which interferes with removing them from the day's schedule."

Russian and Ukrainian leaders signed four agreements, most significantly on readmission, which would allow Ukraine

to immediately return captured illegal Asian migrants to the Russian Federation and avoid related detention costs, said Valeriy Chaly, the deputy general director of the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies in Kyiv.

Another agreement revised border admission protocols in order to protect trade across the Russian-Ukrainian border, in anticipation of stricter border demarcations possibly next year, Mr. Chaly said.

A third agreement involved defining, regulating and simplifying issues of intellectual property rights in joint military airplane engineering projects, he said.

The two leaders also discussed matters related to space, aviation, energy, natural gas and electric supply, without offering details at a press conference in which they only took two questions.

A Kyiv-based reporter for the Moscow-based Interfax news wire asked whether the recent death of Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov would affect the natural gas market and whether the Russian Federation was able to provide Ukraine with additional natural gas supplies if necessary.

Mr. Putin said Russia has long-term contracts with Turkmenistan to provide natural gas to Ukraine that won't change.

The Russian Federation can provide Ukraine with additional natural gas supplies, the Russian president said.

A Russian reporter posed the second question, asking whether any "emotional problems" obstructed cooperation during the meeting.

"Everything was pragmatic and in a friendly, business atmosphere," Mr. Putin said. "The only issue is finding compromise where it wasn't reached. But we felt after today's discussions a desire to find these compromises. In this sense, we are quite satisfied."

Such unresolved problems will be addressed next year during meetings of the Yushchenko-Putin Commission, the Ukrainian president said.

The commission's strategic format was confirmed during the visit, and Mr. Yushchenko said it will consist of a working group to resolve conflicts between the two countries.

So far, about 22 subject matters need resolution, Mr. Yushchenko said, a list that will be expanded during the next several weeks and eventually discussed with Mr. Putin.

Next year, the main issues between the Russian Federation and Ukraine will involve delimiting and demarcating the 979-mile border between the two countries, and resolving remaining issues related to the Kerch Strait.

A road map of measures to address these complicated situations will be drafted by the end of February, Mr.

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## Twin Cities' Ukrainians welcome Stefanyshyn-Piper

by Michael J. Kozak

MINNEAPOLIS — The Ukrainian community of Minneapolis and St. Paul is very proud that one of its members, Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper of the U.S. Navy, became a member of the STS-115 crew on the space shuttle Atlantis and recently completed her mission into space. For those in the Twin Cities, where she was born, grew up and shaped her outlook on her future life, this unusually talented lady is known simply as Heide.

Local Ukrainian community members took advantage of the astronaut's recent visit to her family and organized a welcome home reception on December 3. Hundreds turned out to meet and cheer their favorite daughter at a special reception at St. Constantine's School.

Heide came from a humble immigrant family. Her father, Michael Stefanyshyn, was born in Ukraine, and her mother, Adelheide, in Germany.

They met and got married in St. Paul. Both became members of St. Stephan's Ukrainian Catholic Church. They raised four sons and one daughter, and all five became successful according to their interests and talents. Two sons became Marines.

Heide was never the average Ukrainian American girl. According to

her mother, Heide has "always been a high achiever who did a lot of learning by observing and then doing on her own." She always excelled at school and became a member of the National Honor Society. She won first place in the school mathematics contest. She

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Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper signs autographs at St. Constantine's School.

*Michael Kozak, M.D., is a longtime community activist from the Twin Cities area. He served as the youth activities coordinator at St. Constantine Parish at the time that Heide Stefanyshyn was active in the parish youth organization.*

## ANALYSIS

## European rights commissioner spots areas of concern in Ukraine

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Following his trip to Ukraine on December 10-17, Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe's commissioner for human rights, gave an interview to RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report.

### What does the mandate of the Council of Europe's commissioner for human rights cover?

My office is mandated to monitor the human rights record of the 46 Council of Europe member-states, and identify shortcomings in the law and practice. We also seek to encourage reforms by advocating the adoption and implementation of existing Council of Europe human rights standards.

### Do you have the authority to enforce human-rights compliance upon the Council of Europe's members?

Neither I nor the rest of the Council of Europe machinery can actually enforce compliance. But the organization's main decision-making body, the Committee of Ministers, oversees the execution of all judgments by the European Court of Human Rights. For example, at their last sitting in early December, they reviewed over 800 cases in which member-state governments had been found guilty of violating the European Convention on Human Rights, and were ordered to pay damages to individuals.

My office focuses on promoting reforms and pointing to structural shortcomings, in order to render it unnecessary for cases to be addressed to the court. Apart from raising the problems with governments, we also work through ombudsmen, national human rights insti-

tutions and civil society organizations.

### What was the purpose of your recent visit to Ukraine?

The main goal of this visit was to make a comprehensive assessment of the human rights situation in Ukraine. While we are in dialogue with the authorities, NGOs and other international organizations during the year, it is important occasionally to dedicate time to be there in person and do a full review. In the course of my eight-day visit to Ukraine (Kyiv, Lviv and Odesa), I met President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, six government ministers, leading parliamentarians, the head of the Supreme Court, as well as religious leaders and representatives of human rights civil-society organizations. I also visited police stations, detention centers, secondary schools, shelters for migrants and psychiatric hospitals.

### What are your first impressions after this visit?

There is a better climate for freedom of expression than before. This also helps defining the many remaining human-rights problems. Indeed, there are several areas where Ukraine will need to continue with sweeping reforms. Let me mention a few.

First, there is an urgent need to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic which – if not seriously addressed – could lead to a dramatic demographic as well as economic and social crisis.

Secondly, the authorities need to pay close attention to the functioning of the justice system as a whole. We identified deep-rooted problems in relation to the

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## Ukraine discusses entry into Russia's energy market

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL

Following his talks in Kyiv with visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin on December 22, Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich announced that they had discussed the possibility of their countries jointly producing Russian and Caspian gas and oil.

Mr. Yanukovich told the press that discussions about joint energy production with Russia have been under way for some time now, saying that "a 50-50 arrangement is better than a concession."

Many analysts, however, believe that Naftohaz Ukrayiny, Ukraine's state-owned oil and gas monopoly, does not have the funds needed to enter the Russian or Caspian gas- or oil-production market. The general thinking is that the most Ukraine could provide would be expertise and skilled workers.

Furthermore, Ukraine, which has its own modest gas reserves, has not been able to develop them sufficiently and continues to rely largely on imported Turkmen gas and Russian gas and oil. This situation has opened the door to Ukraine's fuel-production market to a number of Western companies.

Prime Minister Yanukovich also pitched his joint-venture proposal during a December 22 meeting with Ukrainian energy officials and managers and owners of RosUkrEnergo, the Swiss-based

middleman company that has monopoly rights to deliver Turkmen gas to Ukraine.

The Ukrayinski Novyny news agency reported that "Yanukovich called on the participants in the meeting to assist Ukraine in the extraction of natural gas on the territory of Russia as well as in countries in the Caspian region."

In addition, according to the agency, Mr. Yanukovich praised RosUkrEnergo's activities in Ukraine and "thanked the leadership of Gazprom and [RosUkrEnergo part-owner Dmytro] Firtash for the work that ensured steady delivery of natural gas to Ukraine during the first half of 2006. ... We have learned to work in difficult conditions and adapt to very difficult issues."

RosUkrEnergo is 50 percent owned by Gazprom and 50 percent by two Ukrainian businessmen: Mr. Firtash, who owns 45 percent, and Ivan Fursyn, who holds 5 percent. On December 22 The Wall Street Journal Europe reported that a number of Western law enforcement agencies are currently investigating Mr. Firtash for his alleged connections to organized crime. Mr. Firtash has denied any such links.

By inviting cash-rich RosUkrEnergo into this project, Prime Minister Yanukovich is apparently attempting to expand the obscure company's role from that of a middleman to a full-scale oil and gas company. Last year, Mr. Firtash applied for a license to drill for gas in

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### President appoints Skliar deputy minister

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko appointed Oleh Skliar as deputy minister of internal affairs on December 27. Mr. Skliar is the former deputy chief of the ministry's agency that combats organized crime. (Ukrinform)

### Yanukovich 2006 Person of the Year

KYIV – An opinion poll conducted by the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies found that 26 percent of respondents thought Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich should be Person of the Year for 2006. Slightly over 19 percent voted for Yulia Tymoshenko, while President Viktor Yushchenko took 8.6 percent of the vote. In 2000-2004 President Yushchenko received the most votes; in 2005 Ms. Tymoshenko was respondents' favorite. The Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies began the Person of the Year poll in 2000. (Ukrinform)

### UkrEksimBank most transparent

KYIV – The Standard and Poor's rating agency named UkrEksimBank the most transparent of Ukrainian banks in 2006. UkrEksimBank was recognized as Ukraine's best bank in 2005 by the newspaper Banker, and the best bank of Ukraine by the magazine Global Finance. (Ukrinform)

### President signs 2007 budget

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on December 22 signed the state budget for 2007, which was passed by the Verkhovna Rada on December 19. The presidential press service said the Cabinet of Ministers and the Rada fulfilled the president's key demand: increased social standards of the population in 2007. On December 22 the Rada adopted a decision to increase the minimum wage and subsistence level, as well as the minimum pensions paid to more than 15 million Ukrainian citizens. The Parliament adopted a resolution that obliges the government to submit amendments to the 2007 budget based on outcomes of the first quarter of the new year. As of April 1, 2007, disabled persons will receive monthly payments of 397 hrv, or

\$79.40 (U.S.) and \$80 as of October 1, 2007. The government is also supposed to raise the minimum wage to 420 hrv, or \$80 as of May 1, 2007, \$86 as of August 1, 2007, and \$92 as of December 1, 2007. On December 12 the president had vetoed the budget that was passed by the Parliament on December 6. (Ukrinform)

### Rada endorses dismissal of SBU chief

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 22 approved the dismissal of Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) chief Ihor Drizhchanyi, Ukrainian media reported. The motion was supported by 407 deputies. A similar motion was rejected by Parliament the previous week. President Viktor Yushchenko dismissed Mr. Drizhchanyi last month and earlier this month appointed him deputy secretary of the National Defense and Security Council. In accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, the nomination and release of the SBU chief by the president must be approved by the Verkhovna Rada. Oleksander Turchynov of the opposition Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc told journalists on December 22 that the ruling coalition may have endorsed the dismissal of Mr. Drizhchanyi in exchange for some compromise from the president. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### PM wants acting foreign minister

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich on December 20 asked the Verkhovna Rada and President Viktor Yushchenko to name an acting minister of foreign affairs. He told the press, following a meeting of the Cabinet, that a decision was made to seek the appointment of an acting minister, which could be the first vice-minister of foreign affairs. Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk was sacked by the Parliament, but that decision was declared invalid by a Kyiv court. President Viktor Yushchenko then decreed that Mr. Tarasyuk should stay on in his post. However, the Cabinet has not admitted Mr. Tarasyuk to its meetings. (Ukrayinski Novyny)

### Ukrainian airline to be privatized

KYIV – Ukraine International Airlines

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# Tykhon Leshchuk marks 80th birthday at Lviv's ethnography museum

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

LVIV – He is the author of more than 1,000 literary works, and the painter of more than 50 oil canvases, many depicting romantic Lviv landscapes.

At 80 years old, he is also a respected professor at Lviv Polytechnic University, teaching German and Latin.

Tykhon Leshchuk is a living symbol of the city of Lviv and the Halychyna experience, as reflected in his own biography: an idyllic Catholic childhood; adolescence ruined by war; imprisonment in Siberia; life under Soviet communism and then freedom under Ukrainian independence.

As with many of his generation, the hardships and trials only solidified Prof. Leshchuk's devout Catholic faith, inspiring him to prolific academic, literary and artistic accomplishments.

Colleagues, family and friends gathered at the Museum of Ethnography and Folk Craft on Lviv's Freedom Boulevard on May 26 to honor the 80th birthday of a man with "God's gift of such young spirit, memory and energy, that is worthy of admiration," in the words of Volodymyr Zadorozhnyi, chair of Lviv Polytechnic's Foreign Languages Department.

On display were Mr. Leshchuk's oil paintings, including depictions of his native village of Rava Ruska in the Lviv Oblast, the nearby historic town of Belz, the Zakarpattia landscape, the Kuril Islands in the Sea of Okhotsk and the cliffs outside Meshkhed, Iran, where he once lived and studied.

"I believe that everyone has a talent," Mr. Leshchuk said at the ceremony. "But not everyone realizes that talent, and in that there's misfortune."

In her salutation to Mr. Leshchuk, the department's chair of Germanic languages Myroslava Vesna wished for him to continue "giving everyone a part of himself, and shine like the light of a

multi-faceted crystal," quoting the words of Ukrainian poet Lina Kostenko.

"We knew he was a good scholar, and had fundamental knowledge in many spheres like linguistics, literary criticism and translation," Ms. Vesna said.

"But in that he also has delicate strings of his heart, which are played out on the canvas, he has given us an understanding of just how deep his soul is. It is impossible to recognize its depths."

Prof. Leshchuk is the son of Osyp and Olha Leshchuk, the former a Ukrainian Catholic priest who led the Rava Ruska parish prior to the Second World War.

His dreamlike childhood spent in Rava Ruska and the neighboring towns of Belz and Sokal, where he graduated gymnasium, made a deep impression that lasted his whole life.

"We were a priest's family, so we had everything and everyone loved us," Prof. Leshchuk said.

"Everyone went to church on Sundays and the synagogue on Saturdays. All those traditions were very strong and everyone was tolerant of each other. It was total democracy at that time. Belz was a small town at the time, and music played day and night."

In 1945, Prof. Leshchuk studied at Lviv Theological Academy, the same year the Bolsheviks had shut it down.

An 18-year-old student at the time, Prof. Leshchuk was captured and deported to the Kuril Islands in the Pacific Ocean to serve in the Soviet Army.

His father refused to renounce his Ukrainian Catholic faith and was forced to work the mines of Donetsk.

Every day, NKVD officers visited Father Leshchuk and pressured him to convert to Russian Orthodoxy.

"If I did this, I would be an unhappy man for the rest of my life," Father Leshchuk wrote to Tykhon. "Because when we were ordained, we knew exactly where we went, we were faithful to our Church, and we couldn't just 'change' it."



Tykhon Leshchuk

Father Leshchuk was injured in a mine collapse, and sent to Poltava, where he faced torture by starvation.

While laboring in the Kuril Islands in 1949, Prof. Leshchuk received a letter from the Soviet government informing him his father had died in the Poltava camps, without providing any reason.

"He wrote that his stomach hurt so much," Prof. Leshchuk said of the letters he received from his father. "Not there in Russia, but here in eastern Ukraine. Just imagine what a paradox that is. I was on the islands and I could not do anything."

Being plucked from Lviv to live in wild, sparsely inhabited islands bordering the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean was a life-changing experience, Prof. Leshchuk said.

"I was sheltered from the world," he said. "I arrived there, and it was a whole new world."

For most of six years, Prof. Leshchuk

awoke at 5 a.m. every morning and spent the day laboring.

It was then that Prof. Leshchuk began writing. The exotic islands inspired him to pen science fiction stories.

"Everyone was scared, whoever they were," Prof. Leshchuk said. "We didn't know if a volcano would erupt tomorrow, or if an earthquake would happen and nothing would remain at all. Meanwhile, tsunamis were flooding our island."

Prof. Leshchuk was allowed to return to Lviv in 1950, and the next year, he entered Franko State University to study foreign languages, and earned his degree in German philology.

After graduating, the Soviet authorities sent Prof. Leshchuk to a remote Volyn Oblast village to teach German.

Soon he was promoted to the Lviv affiliate of the Kharkiv Library Institute, and joined the foreign language department of Lviv Polytechnic University in 1958.

Prof. Leshchuk said he was allowed to teach at the university, despite his father having been a Ukrainian Catholic priest.

"There was a change in the system when Lavrentiy Beria came to power," Prof. Leshchuk said. "He created an upheaval in the Soviet Union, and local people got leadership positions."

"I came to work and they asked me, 'What language do you teach?' Nothing else was asked. Before, they asked where you were from and who your father was. So if there were repressed people in your family, such a person could not be hired. And now everything had changed."

In 1970, Prof. Leshchuk defended his candidate's thesis, and in 1975, the university's Higher Attestation Commission awarded Prof. Leshchuk the title of docent, a ranking recognized in the U.S. as assistant professor.

During these years, Prof. Leshchuk studied and performed extensive research on linguistics, particularly lexicography.

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## \$240,000 bequest by Teodor Dziubanowsky creates chair at UCU

by Andrew Nynka

WINDSOR, Ontario – In a church here near the windswept banks of the Detroit River, Dr. Teodor Dziubanowsky prayed nearly every Sunday until he died several years ago, at age 99. His friends and fellow parishioners gathered recently to memorialize a man who gave much of himself to the Catholic Church.

On a cold Sunday morning in Ss. Vladimir and Olga Ukrainian Catholic Church, parishioners remembered a deeply devoted man who was extraordinarily kind to others. But on that day they discovered something new about Dr. Dziubanowsky, a longtime parishioner of the church.

When he died in December 2003, Dr. Dziubanowsky, who was predeceased by his wife by a year and daughter years earlier, left more than \$240,000 to create the Dr. Teodor Dziubanowsky Chair at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

"He lived for the Church," the Rt. Rev. Eugene Halitsky, the pastor of Ss. Vladimir and Olga, said of Dr. Dziubanowsky. The two men became friends not long after Father Halitsky moved to the parish in 1990 from his previous home in Brazil.

"Every time I saw him he wanted to know how the Church in Ukraine was doing," the Rt. Rev. Halitsky said, remembering the man who had a private medical practice in Windsor from 1951 to 1984. "Many Ukrainian families went to him because they trusted him. He was a very loving and caring person," Father

Halitsky added.

The announcement of the endowment, following a church service in memory of Dr. Dziubanowsky, was made by the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, Canada, on December 3. Dozens of parishioners packed the basement hall of the church to hear not only of Dr. Dziubanowsky, but also of the Ukrainian Catholic University and what the bequest means to the growing school.

"He fully understood the mission of the Church, and the university's role in helping to build that Church," said Dr. Juriy Darewych, academic advisor and former chair of the UCEF, Canada.

Parishioners also heard about the university's most recent successes from Prof. Myroslav Marynovych, the former political prisoner and current senior vice rector at the university, who attended the event on behalf of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

The decision regarding who will occupy the Dr. Teodor Dziubanowsky Chair, or even what subject matter the chair will focus on, has not yet been decided, Dr. Darewych said.

In fact, Dr. Dziubanowsky left the money to create the Dr. Teodor Dziubanowsky Endowment Fund at UCEF, Canada, which will be used to support the chair. The idea of the endowed chair was decided upon by the university's trustees in cooperation with UCU, said Lada Darewych, administrative director of the UCEF, Canada.

Dr. Dziubanowsky was a respected

member of the Ukrainian community in Windsor, and he and his wife, Olha, were longtime parishioners of the church.

Born in the Ternopil region of Ukraine on September 9, 1904, Dr. Dziubanowsky received his medical training in Poland and briefly practiced medicine in Ukraine before serving as a physician in the 1st Division of the Ukrainian National Army.

After World War II Dr. Dziubanowsky immigrated to Canada, where he received his Canadian medical certification.

Nearing his death, Dr. Dziubanowsky

lost his sight, but still wanted to attend church regularly, said Lubow Manley, a friend who often drove the doctor to church on Sundays. "I was a teacher, but I learned a lot from him," Mrs. Manley said.

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, Canada, at 265 Bering Ave., Toronto, ON, M8Z 3A5. The website is [www.ucef.ca](http://www.ucef.ca); by phone, 416-239-2495; e-mail, [ucef@ucef.ca](mailto:ucef@ucef.ca).

### Quotable notes

"...The most important postulate of your government reads, 'We must not carry out cultural policy only in the interests of a narrow circle of Ukrainian-speaking intelligentsia, which is simply afraid of all-around competition' (as if until now cultural policy had been in their 'interests'). Having announced it, are you aware of the horrifying meaning of your formulation 'narrow circle of Ukrainian-speaking intelligentsia'? Are you speaking about the Ukrainian diaspora in Russia? In Poland? In Canada? No. In Ukraine! To what sort of state has Ukraine been reduced – in the days of 'eternal union,' in Soviet times, and today – that all that it is now left with is only 'a narrow circle of Ukrainian-speaking intelligentsia'! And to what sort of state will the country be led by those who govern according to this formulation, at the heights of their political and governmental inadequacy? Do we consider as 'normal' what was 'achieved' throughout the centuries of oppression, the seas of blood and the millions of victims? As a historian, you know very well what was involved. Why do you allow yourself to forget this, and to speak so disaffectedly and disrespectfully about this systematically attacked, but not quite completely destroyed, intelligentsia?"

– Ivan Dzyuba, in an open letter to Vice Prime Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk that was published in the newspaper *Den (The Day)* on October 30. Excerpted from the translation by Nykolai Bilaniuk and Natalka Patsiurko published in *The Ukraine List*, November 21.

# In Ukraine: a nationwide test forges national identity

by Claire Bigg  
RFE/RL

PRAGUE – Ukraine is a pioneer of dictation in the former Soviet Union – but that doesn’t mean other ex-Soviet states are lagging behind. Most of them have developed their own contests aimed at promoting their native language following decades of Russian linguistic domination.

In November Ukrainians had another chance to take part in an unusual contest – the sixth nationwide dictation intended to test knowledge of the Ukrainian language.

As in previous years, it was broadcast on radio and participants were invited to send their transcriptions to the radio’s office. Those who were able to successfully avoid all the spelling pitfalls were rewarded with prizes.

This year, the dictation’s text was inspired by the life of a famous 18th century Ukrainian traveler: “He was 25 years old when he set out from Kyiv to distant shores. The name of the wanderer was Vasyl Hryhorovych-Barsky. As a student of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, he decided to visit many countries in the world to gain knowledge, for the benefit of his motherland and for himself.”

The dictation takes place every year on November 9 to mark Ukraine’s annual language day.

Ukraine remains split between its Ukrainian-speaking population in the West and Russian-speakers in the East. The nationwide dictation is part of an effort to forge a national identity and to bridge the language gap that emerged after the Soviet collapse.

Its title – “Dictation of National Unity” – could hardly be more explicit.

But the contest’s impact so far has been modest, lamented Mykhailo Slaboshpytskyi, the director of the League of Ukrainian Patrons – one of the groups organizing the event.

An informal survey conducted by RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service on the streets of Kyiv showed that the vast majority of respondents had never heard of the dictation.

Mr. Slaboshpytskyi said that officials, on the other hand, could make a colossal contribution to promoting Ukrainian by actually speaking Ukrainian – instead of Russian – during public appearances.

“There is no need for contests and other such measures,” he said. “All we need is for 5,000 families belonging to the vertical of power to start speaking Ukrainian. It would create an avalanche that would immediately prompt servants and would-be lords to start speaking Ukrainian.”

**Setting an example**

One solution could be to follow the example of Poland, where lawmakers in February vied for the title of “Zero-Fault Parliamentary Group” in a dictation competition broadcast live on Polish television.

The conservative Law and Justice Party won the title, but all participants were provided with a diploma and a dictionary.

Although the concept of national dictation has yet to gain a firm foothold in former Soviet countries, language-related contests and festivals have sprouted across the region over the past 15 years.

Most have launched language days to counter the ero-

sion of their native language and culture caused by decades of Soviet rule. In some countries, individual regions also have their own language day. Russia’s Tatarstan Republic, 800 kilometers east of Moscow, even has two.

Tatarstan’s Language Day, celebrated every year on February 21, was initiated by UNESCO in 1999. Firaya Shaykhiyeva, the head of Tatarstan’s state Culture and Languages Committee, said the event aims to revive not only Tatar, but also languages spoken by the myriad ethnic minorities living in the region.

“Since 2001 this day is very widely celebrated,” Ms. Shaykhiyeva said. “Actually, the whole of February has become a ‘Month of Languages’ in our republic. This is a time when activities promoting the respect, the attention and the development of languages are at their peak. And this concerns not only the Tatar and Russian language – these events also take place in schools teaching in other languages such as Chuvash, Marii and Udmurt.”

Two months later, on April 26, the republic celebrates Native Language Day. On this day, which commemorates Tatarstan’s cult poet, Gabdulla Tuqay, prizes are awarded to local literary talents writing in Tatar.

This year’s poetry prizewinner was Marsel Galiyev, who said, “We are honored to receive a prize named after such a great man. May God never take away from us the key to our native language.”

### Central Asian languages

Language days can also be found in Central Asia.

Kyrgyzstan, for instance, holds an annual State Language Day on September 23. It marks the date when, in 1989, Kyrgyz was made the country’s sole official language and Kyrgyz language classes became compulsory in all schools.

In Kyrgyzstan, Language Day has a distinct musical flavor. Traditional concerts and dances are staged across the country, and ethnic minorities are strongly encouraged to display their knowledge of the Kyrgyz language, culture and, of course, music.

This year, the country staged a Kyrgyz music competition exclusively for non-natives living in Kyrgyzstan. A Japanese band called “Sakhna Giului,” which in Kyrgyz means “flower of the stage,” took the victory.

One of the seven Japanese musicians forming the band is Yumiko, a young woman who teaches music in the remote mountainous town of Naryn, in the country’s north.

During the competition, Yumiko drew applause from the audience for her flawless Kyrgyz when she said: “Hello, dear guests. Our group’s name is Sakhna Giului. We come from Japan. We are very much interested in Kyrgyz music. Today we will perform the melodies ‘Kermetoo’ and ‘Chaikama.’ Now, please enjoy the music.”

While governments in former Soviet countries are actively supporting campaigns to restore the prestige of native languages and, in some regions, rescue them from oblivion, one country stands out as a glaring exception.

### Forgotten Belarusian

In Belarus, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has displayed little interest in encouraging the use of Belarusian.

In conformity with his pro-Russia policy, Mr. Lukashenka gives his speeches only in Russian.

At times, he has not refrained from pouring scorn on Belarusian.

“People who speak Belarusian can’t do anything other than speak Belarusian, because it’s impossible to express anything great in Belarusian,” he once famously said. “Belarusian is a poor language. There are only two great languages in the world: Russian and English.”

As a result, the Belarusian language has actually receded over the past 10 years. The number of schoolchildren who are taught in Belarusian has dropped from 70 percent in 1995 to 20 percent today.

## The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: November

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|          | Melanie Platosh           | Portland, Ore.         |                   |                             |                       |

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

*“Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia” pay a visit to the UNA’s Corporate Headquarters*

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The quartet “Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia” paid a visit to the Ukrainian National Association’s Corporate Headquarters here on December 5, bringing the authentic sounds of Ukraine’s Carpathian Mountains to New Jersey’s Morris County.

The foursome – Ivan Zelenchuk, his brother Petro and Petro’s son Mykola, plus Dmytro Tafiychuk – are currently on a tour that takes them to several venues in New York City, as well as Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and Philadelphia.

Ivan Zelenchuk is the lead singer of the group, in addition to being the village head in Kryvorivnia, while Petro Zelenchuk has taken part in the koliada in Kryvorivnia ever since he can remember. Their father, Ivan, is credited with preserving the tradition of koliady, or winter songs, by keeping handwritten notebooks of these works.

Mykola Zelenchuk carries on the family tradition of singing koliady. In addition, he plays the trembita, the long mountain horn of the Carpathians.

Mr. Tafiychuk is a master fiddler, as well as a trembita and duda player. He comes from one of the most well-known musical families of the Carpathian region.

The Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia were accompanied to the UNA by Virlana Tkacz, leader of the Yara Arts Group, who has been recording the koliada in Kryvorivnia since January 2003, when she first traveled there to document the area’s winter rituals with photographer Alexander Khantaev.

The quartet began its performances in the atrium of the UNA Corporate Headquarters as the unique sound of the trembita filled the air. After performing several selections in that public space, including a koliada to the master of the



“Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia” perform in the atrium of the UNA Corporate Headquarters.

Young UNA’ers



Adriana Merrill Scheidle, daughter of Peter and Ulana Scheidle of Buffalo, N.Y., is a new member of UNA Branch 217. Adriana was enrolled by her great-grandmother Anna Waskiw.



Daniel Orest Jarosewich, son of Andrew and Tania Jarosewich of North Royalton, Ohio, is a new member of UNA Branch 15. He was enrolled by his grandparents Lydia and Eugene Jarosewich.



Jason Christopher Donovan, son of Michael and Anna J. Donovan of Auburn, N.Y., is a new member of UNA Branch 283. He was enrolled by his grandparents Emilia and Mykola Pinchak.

Mission Statement

The UNA 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.

house, they went upstairs to the UNA offices, where they sang several more koliady, including one addressing the mistress of the house.

They also informed employees of the UNA and its two newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, about the tra-

ditions of Kryvorivnia and the unique nature of this village in the Hutsul highlands.

For more information on the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia, readers may e-mail [yara@prodigy.net](mailto:yara@prodigy.net) or call the Yara Arts Group at 212-475-6474.





Do you know why we’re so happy?

Our parents and grandparents invested in our future by purchasing an endowment and life insurance policy for each of us from the Ukrainian National Association, Inc.

They purchased prepaid policies on account of the low premium rate for our age group. If you’d like to be smiling like us, please have your parents or grandparents call the

UNA at 1-800-253-9862.

They will be happy to assist you!

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

"She is a rising star in the space program. I guess you can say a new star is born. We look forward to many great things from her and more missions in the future."

— Astronaut Joseph R. Tanner, speaking on October 23 at the Embassy of Ukraine about fellow Mission Specialist Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper.

### Our Ukrainian of the Year

Ukrainians around the globe will remember 2006 as the year that Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper became the first Ukrainian American to fly in space when the shuttle Atlantis lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center on Saturday, September 9, at 11:14:55 a.m. On September 12 she became the eighth woman, the seventh American woman and the first Ukrainian American to walk in space. She went on her second spacewalk, or Extra-Vehicular Activity (EVA) in NASA parlance, three days after that, bringing the total amount of time she spent on EVAs to 13 hours and eight minutes.

U.S. Navy Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper logged over 12 days in space on the NASA mission designated STS-115. For the St. Paul, Minn., native it was the fulfillment of a long-held dream. For the Ukrainian American community and Ukrainians worldwide — including her late father's homeland, Ukraine — it was a time of immense pride.

Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper had been selected as an astronaut candidate back in April 1996; after two years of training she qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist. On February 7, 2002 — her 39th birthday — she learned that she was assigned to STS-115, scheduled for launch in April 2003. After the Columbia disaster in February 2003, however, all NASA missions were put on hold. Thus, she became an astronaut-in-waiting. The waiting continued even after STS-115 officially began its countdown on August 24 (Ukrainian Independence Day!), as weather and technical glitches delayed the launch for two weeks.

What made the Ukrainian American astronaut's success during 2006 all the more heartfelt for her fellow Ukrainians was that she is, quite simply, one of us. Her ties to the Ukrainian community run deep and continue through today.

Growing up in the St. Paul-Minneapolis area, Heide (as she is known to the community) was a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization as well as the Ukrainian folk dance and vocal ensembles, attended the local School of Ukrainian Studies and was active in the youth group at St. Constantine Parish. She kept up her Ukrainian community ties while she was studying at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, participating in activities of the Boston-area hromada, and even after she was accepted into the astronaut training program, remaining in touch with Houston's Ukrainians.

Perhaps it should come as no surprise then that Mission Specialist Stefanyshyn-Piper took with her into space, along with photographs of her family, a small Ukrainian flag, a Plast emblem and a recording of Ukrainian folk music. On the fourth day of the mission, Taras Shevchenko's poetry set to music served as the day's wake-up music.

Ukraine also was proud of the Ukrainian American astronaut whose late father hailed from the Lviv region. While Atlantis was in space, Heide received an e-mail message from President Viktor Yushchenko, who expressed his hope that he would meet her soon in Kyiv. Soon after the crew concluded its highly successful mission — which resumed construction of the International Space Station — the Embassy of Ukraine honored its members at a special reception. Ambassador Oleh Shamshur presented Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper with a painting of Kyiv's Pecherska Lavra, while the astronaut presented the envoy with a photo of Kyiv taken from space.

Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper recently visited her hometown, where her family still resides. As befits a favorite daughter, the area's Ukrainian American community gave her a rousing and affectionate welcome.

The Twin Cities community may well be the proudest group of Ukrainians this year, since the first Ukrainian American astronaut came out of its ranks. However, during 2006 all Ukrainians were honored to be able to consider Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper one of our own. She truly is our Ukrainian of the Year.

Dec.  
29  
1991

### Turning the pages back...

It was 15 years ago this week that The Weekly reported the announcement of the U.S. to recognize Ukraine as a free and independent country, hours after the formal resignation of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Satisfied with the assurance by the former republics on nuclear safety, democracy and free markets, President Bush announced in a televised speech on December 25, 1991, that the U.S. would establish diplomatic relations with Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Bush said that relations with the other republics — Moldova, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States — and Georgia, the sole republic that refused to join the CIS, would come "when they are found to comply with principles of democratic rule and human rights."

Further in his address, Mr. Bush announced that Washington would accept Russia as the successor state to the Soviet Union and would inherit the Soviets' place as a member of the United Nations Security Council.

Likewise, a statement released by the European Community said that it would speed up the establishment of diplomatic ties with the new states. Britain, the Netherlands, Israel and the European Community said they recognized the Russian Federation as the legal successor to the Soviet Union, while Canada announced that it would immediately establish diplomatic relations with Russia.

Regarding the logistics in establishing embassies in the new national capitals, a U.S. administration official said that in the case of Ukraine, the transition would be relatively easy, given the presence of an already functioning consulate.

Source: "United States recognizes Ukraine, plans to establish diplomatic relations," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 29, 1991.

## CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER

*"A new light has ascended... that illumines each of us"*

*Pastoral letter of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Hierarchs Beyond the Borders of Ukraine issued for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ 2006.*

To the Venerable Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church beyond the Borders of Ukraine and to our Brothers and Sisters of the Faith in Ukraine:

Peace be with you from the Christ-Child — born of God's Love for us!

Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

"God Eternal is born this day!" (Boh Predvichnyi) hymns, both liturgical and secular, and carols of our Ukrainian nation and those of other nations, sing of an event, which human words are unable to explain. Two thousand years ago the silent night that embraced Bethlehem exploded with an announcement that forever changed the face of history and the life of all people. A new light has ascended — "Light from Light" that illumines each of us.

The Apostle, "whom Christ loved," opens his Holy Gospel with words that describe the mystery of Love, a mystery, which lies at the foundation of the Great Feast of the Nativity: As a witness of the words and deeds of our Lord and Savior, St. John the Evangelist makes it clear that the Word of God — Jesus Christ — came to his own, that is, to us. To our great sadness, then and now, not all those to whom He comes accept Him, but those "who do accept Him, He gives the right to become the children of God" (John 1:12). The apostle continues: "For God so loved the world that He gave His Only-Begotten, so that everyone who believes in Him might have life everlasting" (John 3:16). With this short verse, the Evangelist describes all that happened in the moment when Divine Love appeared and God Eternal became a weak and dependent child, one of us, so that we might become sons and daughters of God.

Let us ask ourselves as Orthodox Christians of Christ's Holy Church: Have we remained faithful to the words we spoke just before our Baptism when we clothed ourselves in the Word of God, Christ Himself: "I accept Him and I believe in Him as King and as God"? By these words we, like the Mother of God, openly stated through our parents and Godparents "let it be done to me according to His will."

Our modern epoch needs and demands courageous followers of Jesus Christ, people who strongly build their lives on the foundation of the Gospel, rather than those who cry out in a loud voice "My Lord, My Lord ..." but who know Him not and never did know Him, even though they may have been baptized. This 21st century is overly populated with people who present themselves as "Christians," but in reality, besides that name, have nothing in common with the Son of God. Consequently, the Nativity Feast and all the feasts associated with it are reduced to ritual for ritual's sake, and custom for the



Iconographer Michael Kapeluck, as reproduced on a Christmas card.

custom's sake.

The godly people of Ukraine and other nations were not ashamed to witness to Christ as His followers, even when the world tried and continues to try to convince them that He was no longer necessary or that His teachings have no place in modern times.

We, as archpastors, servants of God, charged by the Son of God to properly teach the Word of His Truth at this celebration of the Holy Nativity, beseech you to turn away from all that which dims the Light of Christ within you. We call upon you to stand firm in your faith in the Son of God even when it is inconvenient for you. We too frequently forget the fundamental doctrines of our life, doctrines which give strength — particularly that Jesus Christ the Son of God is the Source of the Love and Mercy of God our Heavenly Father.

We forget that the moment will come when we must depart from this earthly, material world and answer for our deeds — deeds which either brought others to Christ or turned them away from Him and His Holy Church. The Light — Christ — is never extinguished and even in today's seemingly dark and dangerous days of agitation, new forms of war — terrorism and genocide — brutality against one's neighbors and grossly exaggerated human pride, He illumines and warms the hearts of those faithful to Him.

The single salvation for us and our time is for each of us to internalize the eternal teachings of our Lord during this Holy Season and beyond. We, as seriously thinking Orthodox Christians, must allow the Gospel knowledge to penetrate us and embark on the path of truth, justice and brotherhood, giving witness to the fact that we belong to Christ.

During these holy days of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, born for us and for our salvation, we pray that He will grant you and all our brothers and sisters in Ukraine His Peace and His Joy, which we must share with others. May we bring Him our gifts: instead of gold — a strong faith; instead of frankincense — a non-hypocritical love, and

(Continued on page 26)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### On commemoration of Nadia Svitlychna

Dear Editor:

I am very pleased that the commemoration of Nadia Svitlychna's work as a human rights activist has been so well documented on the pages of The Ukrainian Weekly. In this the paper continues its decades-old tradition of comprehensive and well-researched coverage of the dissident movement in Ukraine.

Adrianna Melnyk ought to be commended for her excellent report on the sixth annual Grigorenko Readings at Columbia University (December 3). Her lengthy article masterfully conveyed not only the content of the presentations but also the spirit of the event.

I would like to make a minor correction, however, with respect to a comment attributed to me during the discussion. In my response to the question of why the dissidents have been marginalized in the post-Soviet period, I noted that this issue requires thorough research, but on the basis of my recollections, I could offer as one of the possible explanations the smear campaign against the dissident candidates during the first presidential election in Ukraine. The erroneous branding of Chornovil as an "ultranationalist" I attributed not to Leonid Kravchuk himself, but to those who were involved in promoting the future president's candidacy both in Ukraine and abroad.

In view of the many questions posed at the conference, I did not have time to elaborate on this issue, but would like to take this opportunity to add a few examples to substantiate my point. During the campaign one could hear in New York at an event sponsored by an academic society a speaker from Kyiv praising Chornovil's former activities but criticizing the candidate's platform and even making sly allusions to the improvement in the former dissident's modest living conditions.

At a gathering of professionals one could hear repeated assertions that if Chornovil became president there would be an immediate war with Russia, yet when asked on what basis these claims were made in view of Chornovil's moderate political views and long history of close ties with Russian human rights activists, the speaker could offer no meaningful explanation, responding only with the lame assertion that "everybody is saying that."

One could hear a member of the "Fourth Wave" confiding privately that "she would never vote for Chornovil because the former dissident's wife (the Ukrainian poetess Atena Pashko) was Polish!"

The anti-Chornovil campaign was masterfully orchestrated and carefully conducted, with a slew of arguments aimed at every level of the Ukrainian community.

No wonder that while the presidential campaign was still in progress, a banquet was organized in a prestigious New York hotel not in honor of those who were praised during the past three decades by Western scholars and the international press for their democratic values, moderation and personal valor, but in celebration of the former secretary of ideology of the Communist Party of Ukraine, the candidate Mr. Kravchuk.

Anna Procyk  
New York

### Re: deputies' immunity, democratic standards

Dear Editor:

I write in response to Dr. I.I. Mayba's letter on parliamentary immunity and democratic standards published in the December 3 issue.

Parliamentary immunity as established by the Constitution of Ukraine is not counter to the standards of Europe, as Dr. Mayba writes. The majority of countries in the European Union, among them France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Spain, Poland and the Baltic republics, also guarantee immunity for parliamentary deputies beyond their activity as lawmakers per se.

In doing so they are following, as has Ukraine, the French model of protecting deputies from possible pressure in decision-making by limiting legal or judicial procedures that can be taken against them for any reason.

By contrast, as Dr. Mayba mentions, the United States, Great Britain and Canada restrict immunity to actions taken by parliamentary deputies as lawmakers per se, an approach that is generally called the Westminster model.

I do not speak against Dr. Mayba's assertion that parliamentary immunity as it exists in Ukraine today does not serve the interests of the Ukrainian people and should be changed. Still, it is important to note that, in the past, broad parliamentary immunity has protected the political opposition in Ukraine when few other laws did, and that its existence as part of a country's legal structure does not of itself preclude democratic development.

Uliana Pasicznyk  
Toronto



## The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

### A spider for Christmas?

What says Christmas more than a spider and its spiderweb? Well, considering that Ukrainian Christmas and New Year traditions include those memorable and special seasonal symbols such as poppy seeds, hemp oil, garlic, hay, wheat stalks, goats, and even cross-dressing, hey, why not include the "pavuk" – the spider?

The spider-web-covered "yalynka" (Christmas tree) is now a standard Ukrainian Christmas story. It comes in many versions, and has appeared in a number of contemporary children's books. Basically, a poor family has nothing with which to decorate their yalynka and, hearing this, a spider overnight spins its web all over the tree, making the spiderweb sparkle and glitter in the morning sunlight. This explains the tradition of tinsel on the Christmas tree.

The various embellishments of the story depend upon the teller and the tale. Another version has the Holy Family hiding in a cave during their flight to Egypt. The benevolent spiders spin webs and cover the whole entrance to the cave. When Herod's soldiers pass by, they do not bother searching the cave, because obviously it has not been disturbed in a long time – and the Holy Family is safe.

Now, a few things need to be clarified. First of all, the custom of the Christmas tree arrived in Ukraine from Germany in the 19th century. It became a supplement to the Ukrainian "didukh," the sheaf of wheat and other best grains, which symbolizes Ukrainian Christmas. The spirits of the ancestors come into the home in the didukh for the holy days. They had lived in the fields in the grain helping the bountiful harvest. The didukh is symbolic, the yalynka is decorative.

The yalynka, originally based on tree worship in early Germany, became a separate Christmas tradition, decorated with home-made paper and metallic ornaments, and apples, walnuts, candies and candles. Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky even wrote a delightful children's story about going to cut down the tree, called "Yalynka." A short 16-minute film based on this story was produced and directed in Canada in 1975 by George Mendeluk (Faroun Films, Montreal). The cast included Mike Mazurki and filmmaker Linda Sorensen.

The paper or wire in "pavuchky" (little spiders) and spider webs are just one example of the traditional ornaments for the tree. The gift shop of The Ukrainian Museum in New York sells pavuchky and a booklet on traditional ornaments, and its Christmas workshops teach how to make them (see [www.ukrainianmuseum.org/shop](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org/shop)).

A book on international Christmas ornaments includes the Ukrainian pavuchok and the gilded walnut: "Christmas Crafts from around the World (Kids Can Do It)" by Judy Ann Sadler, illustrated by June Bradford (Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2003. ISBN 1-55337-428-2 [paper], ISBN 1-55337-427-4 [cloth]).

A few children's books have the Ukrainian Christmas spider and web story as their theme: "Spider's Gift: A Ukrainian Christmas Story," by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Katya Krenina (Holiday House, 2007. ISBN: 0823417433) tells the basic story; "Starre Baba and the Christmas Spider: A Ukrainian Story," by Ina C. Shoonover (XLibris, 2007. ISBN: 1-4134-3822-9) is a historical novel set in Ukraine during the Holodomor. (Why "starre" instead of "stara" baba?)

The award-winning and now classic "Silver Threads" by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch, with illustrations by Michael

Martchenko, also combines history and the spider tale. This story is set in Canada just before and during World War I, and tells the story of an immigrant family and its travails during the internment of "enemy aliens" by the Canadian government (originally published in Toronto: Viking, 1996; new edition, Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2004. ISBN 1550419013 [cloth], 155041903X [paper]).

While the story of the spider and its web on the yalynka probably arrived from Germany along with the Christmas tree, the pavuk as a special symbol is well-established in Ukraine. The arachnid has been held in high esteem since prehistoric times.

In many cultures, it is not a good thing to kill a spider – you will "call evil upon yourself." The pavuk was considered the center of the universe, with the spiderweb contributing to the world's creation.

Yevhen Onatskyi gives examples of the pre-Christian "koliadky" (Christmas carols) about spiders and spiderwebs: "Oy, yak to bulo z pochatu svitu, Yak shche ne bulo neba ni zemli? Oy no, na mori odna pavutynka, na tii pavutyntsi try tovaryshi – Yeden tovarysh – yasne sonenko, Druhi tovarysh – yasnii misiachenko, Tretiy tovarysh – dribnyi doschenko." (Oh, how was it at the beginning of the world, when there still was no heaven nor earth? Oh, only on the sea there was one spiderweb, and there were three friends on this spiderweb: one friend – the bright sun, the second friend – the bright moon, the third friend – the light rain.)

Another ancient koliadka: "Oy, yak to bulo z pochaku svitu, oy yak ne bulo sviatoyi zemli? Oy, na mori pavutynonka. Oy, tam bratonky radiat: Yak by nam brate, svit obsnuvaty. Pustysia brate, v hlyboki vody, todi my brate svit obsnuyemo, Svit obsnuyemo i nasytymo, Svit nasytymo I napovnymo." (Oh, how was it at the beginning of the world, when there was no sacred land? Oh, there was a spiderweb on the sea. Oh, there the brothers were seeking council: Brother, how should we surround the earth with a web? Brother, dive into the deep waters. Then, brother, we will spin a web around the world, we will surround the world with a web and feed it, we will feed it and fill it up/populate it.)

A ritual wedding song from Bukovyna sings: "Dva pavuky zemliu stochoyly, dva bratchyky do mista khodyly." (Two spiders tumbled or rolled out the earth, and two brothers went to town).

There are two sides to most symbols – the positive and negative. In ancient times, the spiders, along with amphibians such as snakes and frogs, were considered benevolent creatures, while at the same time having their faults. The spider sucks the life out of his prey, and can be considered creatively sterile and unproductive, since the web is so fragile and easily destroyed. However, in her epic "Robert Bruce," Lesia Ukrainka depicts the spider as an inspiration for persistence and tenacity. A spiderweb protects from the "unclean spirit" (i.e., evil) – as it did the Holy Family during their flight. And in folk medicine, a spiderweb is used to stem bloodflow, as it contains a natural coagulant.

The spider and spiderweb motifs appear in Ukrainian folk art in many guises – on pysanky, in embroidery, weaving and other arts. As often happens, not always are they immediately recognizable as a spider or web, often being quite abstract. Other designs, woven of straw, not necessarily

(Continued on page 8)

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## COMMENTARY

# Equal human rights for all

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn

John Humphrey, the Canadian who was the principal drafter of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, helped me to understand the importance of human rights for all. He wrote the declaration to protect humanity from itself – its own inhumanity to man – brought sharply into focus on the ruins of World War II. He wrote it for people like me, one of some 40,000 Ukrainians that Canada accepted after the war.

The preamble states: "Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have

*Oksana Bashuk Hepburn is a former director (communications) of the Canadian Human Rights Commission. She has finished a literary work on the application of human rights in Canada and Ukraine.*

## A spider...

(Continued from page 7)

appearing spider-like, are also called pavuchy. These are hung from the ceiling near the pokuttia [the ceremonial corner of the home] as talismans, protecting from evil spirits. Interestingly – and obviously, once you think of it – a chandelier, in Ukrainian, is called a pavuk. This especially applies to the hand-carved wooden ones hanging in the old Hutsul and Boiko churches.

So as you hang your traditional and contemporary ornaments on your yalynka, you can think of the positive purpose of including at least one pavuchok among all the other lovely and sentimental decorations. Just in case.

\*\*\*

*My thanks to Larisa Schulechko Scates of Houston for the inspiration for this article.*

resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people ..."

The list of 27 articles ranges from the right to life, liberty, freedom from persecution and fear, equality before the law, the right to nationality, freedom of opinion and expression, to the right to a good reputation.

My father was an Auschwitz survivor. He was incarcerated in the notorious Nazi concentration camp for promoting Ukraine's liberty. Unlike the Holocaust of 6 million Jews by the Nazis that is well documented and universally condemned, my father's plight, and that of some other 10 million Ukrainians who perished in World War II and its aftermath – on the front, murdered, exiled, displaced – is little known.

The task of setting straight historic records is gargantuan. Few are aware, for instance, that the liberator of Berlin and Prague was the 1st Ukrainian Division, not the Russians. Few recognize that the murder of yet another 7 to 10 million Ukrainians during the Soviet Terror Famine in 1932-1933 was a crime against humanity.

Opposition to such historic claims is everywhere. Sometimes it is so subtle it fails detection by all but those closest to the issue. For example, my father and other prisoners of Ukrainian descent were not invited to the Auschwitz commemorations on Canada's Parliament Hill. Efforts by their children to honor these survivors with inclusion were met by silence. Furthermore, ongoing attempts to put up a marker to the murdered and incarcerated Ukrainians in Auschwitz have gone nowhere.

And, regarding the 10 million murdered in the Moscow-orchestrated famine, the knowledgeable Washington Post writer, Anne Applebaum, stays silent on the 10 million starved in a recent article on genocides while citing horrific human atrocities. She includes the Holocaust, Rwanda and Darfur.

Why are these facts being sidelined or, worse, erased? Why the reluctance, if not a conspiracy of silence, to admit to crimes against the Ukrainian people? Who stands to gain?

After Auschwitz, my father devoted himself to setting the record straight. He co-founded the World League of Political Prisoners while eking out a living helping thousands of displaced families from losing their minds after being thrown from the horrors of the war into Canada's mine pits, logging camps, the "shmata" sweat shops and other undesirable jobs relegated to immigrants. He brought them dignity, reminding them that once they were freedom fighters opposing Nazi and Communist tyrants only to be confronted with media taunts from the likes of former Minister of Justice Irwin Cotler claiming hundreds or thousands of Nazi collaborators in Canada.

The claim was staunchly supported, among others, by Communist ideologues and the Weisenthal Center, but dismissed by the Deschenes Commission, a special body called by Canada's Parliament to look into the allegations. However, the slur that the national aspiration of former USSR republics like Ukraine is dangerous Nazi fascism lingers long after the threat of that dictatorship has passed, while Communist and Russian atrocities, like those in Chechnya, confront us with impunity today.

Obviously, there exists an uneven human rights reality in the world. Dead dictatorships posing no threat, e.g., the Nazis, are condemned; events like those in the Balkans and Darfur are met with repulsion; but one of the most severe examples of a nation deprived of rights,

like the Ukrainians, is erased.

John Humphrey wanted it to be different. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations in 1948, talks about "... universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

Canada and the United States, among others, have abided by the declaration – accepting refugees like me, tackling poverty and participating robustly in accepting women as equals. Most Canadians are proud of Prime Minister Harper's position on human rights in China and respect U.N. Human Rights Commissioner Louise Arbour for speaking out against war crimes in Israel's recent attack on Lebanon.

However, globally, human misery continues to unfold on the TV screens. The emaciated children; the blood-soaked bodies in the Middle East; the carcass-strewn cities of Chechnya; the dead bodies of journalist Anna Politkovskaya and former KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko manifest the gaps between the declaration's intent and reality.

Even in Canada, one of the best places in the world according to United Nations documents, we have issues undermining our commitment to the declaration. Our native reserves, for instance, compete for attention with some of the poorest housing in Ukraine.

On a visit there recently, I witnessed the difficulty of standing up to the excesses of Russia. Ukraine's Parliament recognized the Terror Famine as a genocide by only 233 out of 450 votes. The pro-Russia party of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and the Communist Party abstained because, he claimed, condemnation of these atrocities would offend Russia.

The fight for equal human rights for all is far from over. However, it is being pursued around the world, albeit unevenly, thanks to the fine Canadian John Humphrey who gave the world its road map.

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# Party of the Regions’ quest for power means diminishing that of the president

by **Zenon Zawada**  
*Kyiv Press Bureau*

*The following is the conclusion of a two-part series about the Party of the Regions’ aggressive campaign of usurping power in the Ukrainian government.*

## Disabling the president

Part of expanding the Party of the Regions’ influence in government involves curtailing its main obstacle to absolute authority, currently the Presidential Secretariat.

Less than a month in power, the Cabinet of Ministers on August 30 passed a resolution eliminating President Viktor Yushchenko’s authority to give its ministers orders and assignments.

To intercede regarding Cabinet decisions, the resolution allowed for the president to file lawsuits in court.

In their first direct threat to Mr. Yushchenko’s authority, Party of the Regions Assistant Faction Chair Yevhen Kushnariov announced on September 13 that he intended to ask the Party of the Regions to introduce constitutional changes enabling the Parliament to elect the president, instead of electing the head of state by popular vote.

“In countries with such a parliamentary-presidential system, the Parliament elects the president,” he told the newspaper *Isvestiya*. “That’s an absolutely legitimate process. I am currently working on the details for such conditions.”

Further laws are necessary to implement constitutional changes that would transfer more of the president’s powers to Parliament, Mr. Kushnariov said, adding that this would resolve a dangerous situation of conflict within a government that has turned into a diarchy.

It’s unlikely the Party of the Regions would be able to implement such constitutional changes because 300 votes are necessary.

A week later, the Cabinet of Ministers announced its plans to introduce a bill requiring that any presidential decree bear signatures from the prime minister and the Cabinet minister responsible for the decree’s execution. Presidential decrees are otherwise invalid, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said.

The bill also contained the provision denying the president authority to give ministers orders and assignments.

To prove it was serious, the Cabinet returned seven presidential decrees to the Presidential Secretariat on September 21, alleging they violated constitutional procedure because they lacked the necessary signatures. The decrees were related to diplomatic personnel changes and judicial appointments.

Ukraine’s Parliament passed a bill, “On the Cabinet of Ministers” on December 21 which would require the prime minister’s signature on presidential decrees, as well as eliminate the president’s authority to give orders to the Cabinet of Ministers.

However, the president will veto the bill, and the Verkhovna Rada is unlikely to muster the 300 votes to override the veto.

Always keeping the president under threat, Anti-Crisis Coalition leaders every so often raise the issue of impeachment.

Most recently, Verkhovna Rada Chair Oleksander Moroz said that should President Yushchenko revoke the January 1 constitutional reforms creating the parliamentary-presidential republic, the Parliament’s immediate reaction would be to initiate impeachment proceedings against the president.

Another prong in the coalition government’s strategy of curtailing the president’s authority involves ignoring presidential orders and decrees.

Numerous instances since August have revealed the coalition government’s disrespect for the Presidential Secretariat.

Among them, the Cabinet of Ministers decided on August 30 to keep the Institute of Ground Forces in Odesa, ignoring Mr. Yushchenko’s proposal to transfer it to Lviv.

Most recently, the newly appointed Minister of Internal Affairs Vasyl Tsushko announced through his press secretary that he would ignore a December 16 decree ordering his ministry to stop appointing officials without presidential approval.

## Purging the ranks

In the tradition of Soviet dictators, the Party of the Regions has led its own version of purges within the Ukrainian government, successfully managing to cleanse the ranks of almost all pro-Orange Cabinet ministers.

Of the seven pro-Orange ministers in government when the Anti-Crisis Coalition took over, only Minister of Defense Anatolii Hrytsenko remains.

Minister of Health Yuriy Poliachenko switched teams, turning his back on Our Ukraine People’s Union (OUPU) and choosing to remain in the Yanukovich government instead of resign, as three other colleagues had done.

The first purge attempt wasn’t directed toward the Orange Cabinet ministers, but against five oblast administration chairs appointed by President Yushchenko who represented pro-Orange political parties.

The Cabinet of Ministers announced on September 28 that it would ask the president to dismiss the oblast administration chairs of the Poltava, Ternopil, Kharkiv, Kherson and Chernihiv Oblasts “for unsatisfactorily resolving problems that restrain the nation’s social and economic development.” Oblast state administrations chairs, commonly referred to as “governors,” are appointed by the Ukrainian president.

Poltava Oblast Administration Chair Valerii Asadchev represents the Ukrainian People’s Party; Ternopil Chair Ivan Stoiko, Kharkiv Chair Arsen Avakov and Kherson Chair Borys Silenkov represent OUPU; and Chernihiv State Oblast Administration Chair Mykola Lavryk represents the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

The attempt failed because only the president can appoint or dismiss oblast administration chairs. However, the Party of the Regions has a tendency to view such laws as mere nuisances.

Prime Minister Yanukovich announced on September 29 that he would pursue legislation in Ukraine’s Parliament that would cancel oblast and district state administrations altogether, replacing them with locally elected oblast executive committees.

A new law on local self-administration would give regional governments the power to adopt regional policies, pass laws locally and establish regional laws, Mr. Yanukovich said.

When it became apparent the coalition government had no interest in honoring the Universal of National Unity, Our Ukraine Political Council Chair Roman Bezsmertnyi announced on October 4 that the Our Ukraine bloc was entering the opposition.

Subsequently, Minister of Justice Roman Zvarych, Minister of Culture Ihor Likhovyi, Minister of Family, Youth and Sports Yuriy Pavlenko and Mr. Poliachenko submitted their resignations.

In the following weeks, the Cabinet of Ministers plucked the Orange ministers out of government one-by-one, with the exception of Mr. Poliachenko, who opted to remain.

The next ministers on the coalition government’s radar screen were Mr. Tarasyuk and Minister of Internal Affairs Yuriy Lutsenko.

## The unrefined Viktor

In his usurpation surge, Mr. Yanukovich has managed to reaffirm the gangster image associated with the Party of the Regions.

# Always keeping the president under threat, Anti-Crisis Coalition leaders every so often raise the issue of impeachment.

His gruff, bullying behavior towards Orange ministers in the Cabinet provided among the more amusing scenes in Ukrainian politics this fall.

Former Minister of Justice Roman Zvarych became the target of Mr. Yanukovich’s boorish mannerisms on numerous occasions.

At a September 29 Cabinet of Ministers meeting, Mr. Yanukovich even threatened to fire Mr. Zvarych when the justice minister pointed out that the Cabinet has no right to fire oblast administration chairs, which is exclusively the president’s prerogative.

“Keep in mind, and I’m warning everyone, particularly you, Roman Mykhailovych,” Mr. Yanukovich said in a commanding tone. “Everyone who stands in the way of raising the level of accountability for his responsibilities, I personally will initiate the dismissal of such people, including you.”

The prime minister spoke further: “Government representatives from Our Ukraine should understand that we are in delicate relations with you! In delicate relations! We still haven’t signed an agreement, so don’t play with me!”

At another Cabinet of Ministers meeting a month later, Mr. Yanukovich scolded Mr. Zvarych for talking on his cellular phone while he spoke, telling him to leave it outside the hall. It’s doubtful Mr. Yanukovich would have given the same order to a Party of the Regions minister.

Mr. Tarasyuk also felt the wrath of Mr. Yanukovich’s bullying.

During an October 25 Cabinet meeting, the foreign affairs minister was wishing his colleague Mr. Hrytsenko a happy birthday with an apparent smile, drawing the prime minister’s irritation.

Just days earlier, Mr. Tarasyuk publicly said the coalition government was stalling Ukraine’s WTO entry on behalf of the Russian Federation.

“Tarasyuk! You have a humor ... I’ll tell you what kind of humor it’ll be,” Mr. Yanukovich barked. “Listen when I speak! I wouldn’t be laughing if I were in your place!”

After his dismissal, Mr. Zvarych told reporters it was “very uncomfortable” working in the Yanukovich government.

## Protection from the law

The latest frontier in the Party of the Regions’ usurpation campaign is the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

As with Mr. Tarasyuk, the coalition government had long been itching to dismiss Mr. Lutsenko, one of the Orange Revolution’s heroes and among those who launched the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement in 2000.

Under Mr. Lutsenko’s directive, authorities arrested former Donetsk Oblast Council Chair and top Party of the Regions operative Borys Kolesnikov, charging him with threatening to kill a businessman. He was eventually released.

Mr. Kolesnikov is currently a Party of the Regions member of Parliament shielded by deputy immunity.

Just three days after becoming prime minister, Mr. Yanukovich met with Mr. Lutsenko and informed him that he was creating a new structure to ensure Mr. Lutsenko would “coordinate” his work with the Cabinet of Ministers.

“We will work on a model of relations

in which the Cabinet will control the situation in the nation, in every region,” Mr. Yanukovich told Mr. Lutsenko on August 7. “I hope a constructive cooperation will begin between the Cabinet and the ministry.”

The ministry is a critical power base in the Ukrainian government because it controls all law enforcement activities.

In the case of Mr. Lutsenko, the Party of the Regions was particularly interested in limiting his newly launched criminal investigations, particularly in the Donetsk Oblast and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, both rats’ nests of politicians with criminal backgrounds.

Specifically, the Party of the Regions was concerned about Mr. Lutsenko’s investigations in Crimea, during which between 225 and 250 bodies of victims of business and gang violence were unearthed.

Among those suspected in the murders was gang leader Oleksander Melnyk, who managed to get elected as a deputy to Crimea’s Verkhovna Rada in the 2006 elections, representing the “For Yanukovich!” bloc.

However, only national deputies’ in Kyiv enjoy deputy immunity.

Aware of Mr. Lutsenko’s investigations in the summer, Mr. Melnyk fled Ukraine for several months. When he returned in September, authorities arrested him and transferred him to Kyiv to face charges for murdering two Crimean businessmen.

However, the Procurator General’s Office, led by eastern Ukraine loyalist Oleksander Medvedko, announced on October 3 that the Ministry of Internal Affairs had failed to provide enough evidence against Mr. Melnyk.

Numerous cases similar to the attempted Kolesnikov and Melnyk prosecutions drew the Party of the Regions’ wrath against Mr. Lutsenko.

After the Parliament sacked him on December 1, the coalition government replaced him with Socialist Party National Deputy Vasyl Tsushko.

Soon enough, the Cabinet of Ministers approved a list of appointments of assistant and deputy ministers with close ties to the Party of the Regions.

Among the most disturbing appointments was the new assistant minister for personnel and internal safety Mykola Plekhanov. He was the Sumy police chief who ordered the assaults on Sumy university students during their protests against election falsifications in 2004 – an event now recognized as among the critical sparks of the Orange Revolution.

At the time, Mr. Plekhanov was serving under Volodymyr Scherban, the former Sumy Oblast Administration chair accused of extortion who was found in October under an Interpol arrest warrant hiding in Florida.

Mr. Scherban has since returned to Ukraine without arrest, and is unlikely to

(Continued on page 22)

## Tykhon Leshchuk...

(Continued from page 3)

He also built his prolific bibliography, writing hundreds of philological, historical, pedagogical and ethnographic works, performed extensive translations, and pursued his talent for poetry and prose.

Prof. Leshchuk is currently recognized as Ukraine's most prolific living author, having written more than 1,000 works.

In 2004 the academic council of Lviv Polytechnic University awarded Prof. Leshchuk the title of professor, the only one in its foreign languages department.

Never lacking energy, Prof. Leshchuk is just as active in Lviv's academic and civic life as at any point in his life.

"I ask God for His help and strength in everything I do," said Prof. Leshchuk, revealing the source of his seemingly boundless energy.

He plans to defend his doctorate of science dissertation in Kyiv in 2007, and still teaches courses on the German and Latin languages at Lviv Polytechnic.

"The students love him and respect him because he gives his soul and knowledge to them," Mr. Zadorozhnyi said. "He talks to them during breaks, forgetting that he has to go home. The Ukrainian land is rich for such people, but there aren't as many as we'd like to have."

He continues to actively engage in documenting the Lviv Oblast's history and ethnography.

In December 2005 he attended the first academic conference in Belz, the historic city near the Ukrainian-Polish border.

He visited the city of Halych this year to investigate its castles.

Writing remains his passion, having recently conceived the words to the first school anthem for Lviv Polytechnic University.

His downtown Lviv apartment is full of folders with book manuscripts that have yet to be published, ranging from his science fiction fantasies to academic theses.

He is currently trying to publish an extensive academic work, *Scientific Terminology: Theory and Practice*, a complex research on many languages that argues, among many points, that every national language was intellectualized with terminology in the pursuit of scientific progress.

So what's the secret to living a long and healthy life?

"Do you think I can tell you?" Prof. Leshchuk said, lifting his hands in puzzlement. "I'm trying to find the answer myself. I don't have a ready answer..."

He suspects his athletic youth, as well as the genes he shares with relatives that lived to be 90 years old, played a role, not to mention one particularly critical factor.

"Every summer, my father brought a few carts loaded with carrots," Prof. Leshchuk said. "He unloaded it, and we

children had to eat them. So that's one thing that was very important."

\* \* \*

*The following are poems written by Tykhon Leshchuk, selected from his collection, "Vesna Na Svitanku" (Spring at Dawn), published by the Ukrainian Academy of Publishing in Lviv in 2005.*

### The Dreamy Little River

The little river cuddled up to the old village,  
It gathered the tears from my heart,  
The stony bank dreams amidst kisses,  
And the little river left a silver spark for me.

A whole world of paintings, an endless glow,  
The most tender of strings yearn towards creation,  
Colorful dreams sing along the path,  
Eternity the moment plaited together delicately.

The prayers whisper, ask not the person,  
An unfathomable mystery – rest for a minute.

A tender glance conceals, the night lied down to rest,  
The fog hastens to cover the earth.

Dreamy little river, mournful little star,  
Is it not difficult for you, dearest mother, darling?

Although the world has grown weary, drowns in distress.  
You sing a song to life, to freedom.

### You Are a Man

When the night will fall,  
And tranquil stars extinguish,  
And darkness will cover the eyes,  
Embrace all open spaces,

Remember forever,  
Do not lose hope, faith,  
For you are a man –  
The Lord's image in full measure.

When Your country is in a haze,  
The atom lays waste to the soul,  
In the city, the village  
The air, the sea, the land.

Do not fall into despair,  
Do not complain about your fate,  
Stand up for life –  
For truth, prosperity, freedom!

And even, when,  
the sun's ray will vanish,  
you fall in battle,  
The heart's fire will not extinguish,

For you are a man,  
You are the pre-image of God,  
Forever stand for truth!  
And God will help you.

doesn't recognize.

By actively supporting Transdniester's secessionist aspirations, the Russian Federation has waged a foreign policy of deliberately inflaming internal conflict within Moldova and destabilizing the Ukrainian-Moldovan border.

Plans of action for the next two years are currently being drafted, Mr. Yushchenko said, indicating he will be traveling to Moscow in late May or early June for the next meeting with Mr. Putin.

The two leaders stressed the need for closer Russian-Ukrainian cooperation, particularly in providing fuel and energy supplies to their respective countries, as well as to Europe.

In sharp contrast to his policies, Mr. Putin called for the two nations help build "a united Europe without dividing lines."

"It's important that we set firmly on the market economy track our coopera-



Yaro Bihun

**The three leading scientists of the 2007 Black Sea research expedition (from left): Robert Ballard, Bridget Buxton and Serhiy Voronov.**

## Ocean scientists...

(Continued from page 1)

eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D.

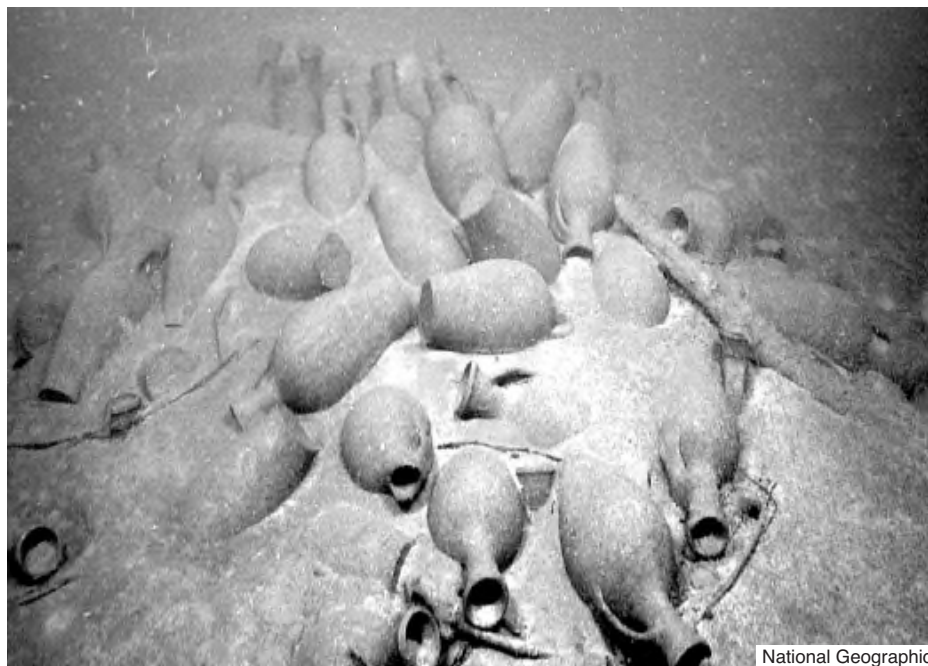
Dr. Ballard said that the site will be excavated and made into a museum accessible via underwater vehicles controlled from land that will transmit video of the site via satellite and the Internet ([www.immersionpresents.org](http://www.immersionpresents.org)). Some of the objects brought to the surface for conservation will be placed in a special museum somewhere in Crimea.

The project is international in scope, with scientists from other countries – Germany, Russia and Poland, among others – participating. It will rely on two main research vessels – a Ukrainian ship and one from NATO.

Ambassador Shamshur focused on this aspect in his remarks during the briefing: "To my mind, it would be a perfect example of the cooperation between Ukraine and NATO." He said that it should help in "telling the truth" about that alliance and change the public's perception about NATO in Ukraine, "so that we can count on that in our quest for membership in Euro-Atlantic structures, including membership in NATO."

He also noted that Ukraine recently ratified the UNESCO Underwater Heritage Convention and that this will serve as a good example of this kind of cooperation for the world.

Among the honored guests at the briefing was Ambassador Shamshur's wife, Tetiana Izhevskaya, who was recently named Ukraine's ambassador to the Vatican.



National Geographic

**Amphora on seafloor at a Byzantine shipwreck site, photographed during the summer 2006 Ukrainian -U.S. expedition to the Black Sea.**

## Putin visits...

(Continued from page 1)

Yushchenko said.

Problems related to the Russian Black Sea Fleet also need resolution, including land ownership and navigation.

Mr. Yushchenko and pro-Western politicians would like to see the Black Sea Fleet leave the Crimean Peninsula by 2017. Mr. Putin said he'd like a compromise.

"We want the fleet to have the possibility to function fully in being a factor in improving safety in the region and Russian-Ukrainian partnership," Mr. Putin said.

The two leaders will also seek to resolve the volatile Transdniester situation, they said.

Transdniester is a region of Moldova that has repeatedly voted for independence, which the international community

tion in the fuel and energy spheres," Mr. Putin said. "Our energy sectors are reaching final agreements. Only in doing that can we ensure the energy security of our two countries and also Europe."

During the meeting, Ukrainian Minister of Culture and Tourism Yuriy Bohutskyi and Russian Minister of Culture and Mass Communication Mikhail Shvydkoy signed an agreement to cooperate in cultural activity, particularly music, theater, folk art, circus art and cinematography.

The two leaders agreed to coordinate cultural events in 2009 honoring the 200-year anniversary of the birth of Mykola Hohol (Nikolai Gogol), who was born in a village of Poltava Oblast.

In his opening remarks to the commission, Mr. Putin also suggested commemorating the 300-year anniversary of the historic Battle of Poltava, in which Russian

Czar Peter the Great's army defeated the united forces of Ukrainian Hetman Ivan Mazepa and King Charles XII of Sweden. The battle marked the rise of the Russian Empire and the decline of Ukraine's hetmanate.

It was unclear whether Mr. Putin was joking or serious.

After meeting with Mr. Yushchenko, Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich escorted Mr. Putin to Boryspil airport in the Russian president's Mercedes, according to news reports.

When asked what they discussed at a December 27 press conference, Mr. Yanukovich said he discussed the Yushchenko-Putin Commission programs with Mr. Putin, particularly natural gas and oil transit.

They also discussed providing Ukraine with adequate energy supplies to ensure its stability, the prime minister said.

# Harvard University holds memorial service for Omeljan Pritsak

by Peter Woloschuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Harvard University held its official memorial service for Prof. Omeljan Pritsak in the Appleton Chapel of the Memorial Church on October 20. Dr. Pritsak died at the end of May; at the time of his death, Harvard University had marked his passing with the tolling of all of its bells.

These commemorations marked the first time that the university had paid tribute in such a way to a Ukrainian.

Dr. Pritsak had served at the university for almost 25 years as a professor of linguistics and Turkology, as the first director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), and as the first Mykhailo S. Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History.

HURI was closed for the afternoon in honor of the commemoration of its founder.

At 2 p.m. Harvard administrators, colleagues, staff, noted scholars, former students from across North America, representatives of both the Boston and national Ukrainian communities, and Turkey's honorary consul in Boston, Erkut Gomulu, filled the chapel for the 90-minute service. Also present were Harvard Profs. Horace Lunt and Richard Pipes, and Prof. Wyktor Weintraub's widow, Marlena Weintraub, who all served on the first Ukrainian Studies Committee.

Prof. Michael S. Flier, current director of HURI and Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian Philology, gave opening remarks and also served as master of ceremonies.

"Prof. Pritsak will always be remembered for his four hallmarks – erudition, vision, energy and faith or belief," Prof. Flier pointed out. "He was able to take a vision of a comprehensive approach to Ukraine that had been lacking in contemporary scholarship and make it a reality through sheer perseverance."

"Understanding deeply how Ukrainian studies had been stifled by various oppressive governments, Prof. Pritsak developed a vision of what Ukrainian studies could be in a free academic setting," Prof. Flier continued. "He envisioned a humanistic approach to Ukrainian studies coordinated by a research center linked with a mandate for teaching courses in the three areas that he ascertained as crucial: history, literature and philology. He stressed the need of developing scholarly projects in each area and of publishing the foundational texts crucial to an understanding of the origins and development of Ukrainian history and culture."

"It was Prof. Pritsak who created the institute as it exists today with its seminar series, three endowed chairs, a vibrant series of publications, including the journal *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, the Harvard Library of early Ukrainian literature, and the more than 80,000 volumes of *Ucrainica* to support teaching and research," Prof. Flier said.

"However, Omeljan Pritsak was not just a dreamer," Professor Flier added. "He worked tirelessly with the Ukrainian Studies Fund to raise sufficient capital to make his visions reality. To do this he traveled all over the United States and Canada to share his ideas with the Ukrainian community and to convince them of the urgent need to get going immediately. And they responded as no other ethnic group has. Prof. Pritsak dreamed big dreams. He worked long hours. He overcame insurmountable obstacles."

Next to speak were Prof. Edward Keenan, director of Harvard's Dumbarton Oaks Research Center in Washington; George G. Grabowicz, Dmytro Cyzevskyj Professor of Ukrainian Literature; Roman Szporluk, Mykhailo Hrushevsky Research

Professor of Ukrainian History; Richard Frye, Aga Khan professor of Iranian, emeritus; Lubomyr Hajda, associate director of HURI; Frank Sysyn, director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research; and the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. The speakers paid personal tributes and offered insights into Dr. Pritsak's life, work and unique personality.

The chapel organist, Harry Lyn Huff, played selections from J.S. Bach as prelude, interlude and postlude.

"Prof. Pritsak generated hundreds of scholarly works and professional articles," Prof. Keenan said. "However, he will be most remembered for the fact that he created out of air, as it were, a full-blown, full-service Ukrainian academic center that has come to set the standard for everyone."

"Omeljan Pritsak was a very complex individual," Prof. Grabowicz stressed. "He was a teacher, a mentor, a pioneer, a builder of institutions. In many ways he was the embodiment of an heroic age. He was a founding father. He enabled Ukrainian studies to break out of the marginalized existence, and, for the first time since the late 18th century, take their legitimate place in academia."

"Often individuals influence the course of history and the development of events," Prof. Szporluk pointed out. "It is clear that Prof. Pritsak was not only a great scholar and builder but he was also a great strategist. He knew how to win over influential leaders and make powerful intellectual allies. At Harvard, the members of the first Ukrainian Studies Committee included noted Byzantinist Ihor Sevcenko, Medieval Muscovite Historian Edward Keenan, Slavic Philologist Horace Lunt, Russian and Soviet History Professor Richard Pipes, political science Prof. Adam Ulan, and professor of Polish literature Wyktor Weintraub. Among his other supporters were a future president of Harvard University, the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan of Winnipeg, and a member of the National Security Council. He even treated the fund raising that he did for HURI as a way of educating the Ukrainian community in the United States and Canada."

"Prof. Pritsak also believed that intellectual creativity could be more influential than direct political activity, that theoretical work could often accomplish more in the world than the practical, and that the development of scholarship could and does influence events," Prof. Szporluk concluded, "and we have seen how the events in Ukraine over the last two decades have more than justified his belief."

"I first met Omeljan Pritsak in 1951," said Prof. Frye, "when he was just beginning his academic career and even then I was struck by the scope of his knowledge. His areas of interest ranged from Turkey through central Asia to the Far East and his linguistic ability covered a vast number of languages, both ancient and modern. A number of his works, like those on the Bulgars of the Middle Volga and the Karakhanid dynasty of Central Asia, are still the classical reference sources."

"Omeljan was truly a renaissance man," Prof. Frye concluded, his voice breaking. "He was my friend ... he was one of my best friends."

"Omeljan Pritsak's scholarship, preserved in his published legacy of several hundred titles, is an ongoing gift to the world, open and available to all – today and for future generations," said Dr. Hajda. "He was an extraordinary teacher, with an idiosyncratic teaching style that his students will never forget. In a unique fashion he viewed his own attainments not as a mark of personal intellectual superiority, but as proof that with some aptitude, the right attitude and a lot of application nothing was impossible. This was the hall-



Prof. Omeljan Pritsak

mark of his expectations of his students."

"There is a curious prehistory to my acquaintance with Prof. Pritsak," Dr. Hajda said. "When I told my parents about my first meeting with him, my mother remembered an incident from her youth in Ternopil when she attended the 'Ridna Shkola' (Ukrainian) girls' gymnasium and Omeljan Pritsak, a couple of years her junior, the men's First Gymnasium (a Polish school, the Ukrainian boys' gymnasium had been closed by the authorities). The two schools shared a teacher of Polish literature, an ethnic Pole – even in the 'Ridna Shkola' Ukrainians were not allowed to teach the subject – a Prof. Rybinski, who also was a source of information on the boys for his female students. On one occasion he remarked: 'I know young ladies are not interested in such things, but I have one brilliant student' – referring to Prof. Pritsak. 'You Ukrainians will someday have a great man in him.'"

Dr. Sysyn spoke next. "I have been walking around the Harvard campus and revisiting some of the places where Prof. Pritsak put the institute and us together ... his small study turned meeting room in the Widener Library ... the seminar room with its magnificent table ... his office at HURI. I have done a lot of thinking about Prof. Pritsak and I believe that his greatest gift was that he brought us all together and gave us the opportunity to launch our careers and to develop our interest in Ukrainian studies. Over the years his students have taken major academic positions all over the world and today occupy some very significant academic positions. And we owe it all to him and the teaching that came from his encyclopedic knowledge and insight."

The Rev. Dr. Gudziak, also a former

student of Prof. Pritsak, concluded the encomiums and reflected on the fact that Prof. Pritsak also had much to be grateful for "... grateful for the fact that he lived 86 productive years when more than half of the children born at the time in Galicia did not live to adulthood, grateful for the fact that he survived the war and was able to continue his studies, grateful for graces received and shared, grateful for his colleagues, grateful for his students, grateful for his late first wife Nina and his daughter Irene, and grandchildren, grateful for the company of his wife Larysa in his later years, and grateful for the care of his doctors in his last days."

He then bid a final farewell using the words of commitment from the Ukrainian burial service asking God to be merciful and grant a place of peace and light with the righteous as well as eternal memory.

"Vichnaya pamiat. Vichnaya pamiat. Vichnaya pamiat." Following the memorial service a memorial reception ("pomynky") was held in the reading room of the Harvard Faculty Club. Prof. Flier welcomed everyone and stressed that both the memorial service and the reception were "a celebration of the life and scholarship of Prof. Pritsak." He then invited a number of additional speakers to take their turn at the lectern.

Dr. Zenon Kohut, director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, spoke first and reflected on Prof. Pritsak's enthusiasm and support for his students. He was followed by Dr. Oksana Grabowicz, an anthropologist and associate of HURI, who talked about the support that she received from Prof. Pritsak in her academic growth and development, and Dr. Mubeyyin Altan, Prof. Pritsak's last doctoral student at the Institute for Oriental Studies at the Academy of Sciences (Akademia Nauk) in Kyiv and co-founder and president of the International Association of Crimea and the former editor of the *Crimean Review*, who spoke of Prof. Pritsak's abiding interest in and support for the Crimean Tatars. He also pointed out that Prof. Pritsak's academic career came full circle when he began to re-establish the Oriental Institute in Kyiv with its branch in Crimea in the years before his death.

Prof. Larysa Pritsak, widow of Prof. Pritsak, and historian of Kozak Ukraine, came to the lectern last. She announced that Prof. Pritsak's entire library with its collections of books, manuscripts, art and correspondence would be going to the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and would be housed together in a specially prepared repository. She said she hoped that the gift would enable the university to establish a research center to serve as the foundation for a department of Oriental studies.

## OBITUARY: Dr. Ihor Sonevsky, 80, composer, musicologist

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Dr. Ihor Sonevsky, composer, musicologist and conductor, passed away at his home in Hunter, N.Y., on Saturday, December 23. He was 80.

Co-founder of the Ukrainian Music Institute of America, and founder of the Grazhda – the Music and Arts Center of Greene County in New York, Dr. Sonevsky is survived by his wife, Natalie; children Andrij, Melasia and Markian; and grandchildren Solomia and Zoriana.

A viewing was held on Wednesday, December 27, at Peter Jarema Funeral

Home in Manhattan, followed by a requiem service held on Thursday, December 28, at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in Manhattan, with interment at St. Andrew's Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Music and Arts Center of Greene County or the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation. Checks can be mailed to Natalie Sonevsky, 62 East 7th St., New York, NY 10003.

A full obituary will appear in a future issue of *The Weekly*.

# How “Aurora” wooed Oscar: a detective story about Ukraine’s contender

by Yuri Shevchuk

NEW YORK – Finally, a good piece of news for all those who care about Ukrainian film. After two filmless years, Ukraine will again take part in the Oscar competition. According to the official website of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, this year one of the Oscar contenders for best foreign film is “Aurora” by director Oxana Bayrak (<http://www.oscars.org/press/pressreleases/2006/06.10.19a.html>).

As the director of the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University in New York City (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc/>), I asked Bayrak’s company, Bayrak Studio, to cooperate with us in organizing a New York screening of her film. When I didn’t receive a reply, I decided at least to find out as much as possible about the elusive “Aurora.” After all, it was not just any film but an Oscar contender – the best Ukrainian film of the year.

First I asked my contacts in Ukraine to tell me their impressions of Bayrak’s film. As it turned out, none of them, not even those who work in the film industry, had seen it. Until recently, the film was not in the movie theaters, at least not in Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa or Kharkiv.

Meanwhile, the American Academy’s “Special Rules for the Best Foreign Language Film Award” state that: “The film must be first released in the country submitting the film no earlier than October 1, 2005, and no later than September 30, 2006, and be first publicly exhibited by means of 35mm or 70mm film for a run of at least seven consecutive days in a commercial motion picture theater for the profit of the producer and exhibitor, advertised and exploited during the run in a manner considered normal and customary to the industry.”

Further on it says: “Every country shall be invited to submit its best film to the Academy. Selection of the best picture from each country shall be made by one organization, jury or committee that should include artists and/or craftspeople from the field of motion pictures. A list of the selection committee members must be submitted to the Academy no later than August 1, 2006, by 5 p.m. PDT.”

Was “Aurora” screened in Ukraine, and, if so, where and when, and can one consider such runs and the location of the screenings “normal” for Ukraine? But if this film was never screened, how did it end up on the official Oscar contender list? Did the Academy make an exception for Ms. Bayrak?

I contacted IntWestDistribution, the company that co-produced the film with Bayrak Studio. Yulia Malynovskaya, the PR manager for IntWestDistribution, told me in a telephone conversation that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine had submitted “Aurora” as Ukraine’s official contender for the Oscar. When I asked her to provide me with the list of members of the selection committee that had recommended “Aurora,” Ms. Malynovskaya said she would send it. (She never did.) Then she added that the film was screened in Sevastopol for seven days in September expressly in order to meet the eligibility rules of the Oscar competition. During our conversation she mentioned Sevastopol at least three times as the city where the film had been screened.

In order to verify this information, I telephoned Borys Savchenko, the head of the Union of Cinematographers of

Ukraine, who by virtue of his work should have been acquainted with this film and the procedure of its submission. Mr. Savchenko said that he had not seen the film.

Moreover, professional institutions that are directly involved in Ukrainian filmmaking, like the Union of Cinematographers, the Oleksander Dovzhenko Foundation, the Rylsky Institute of Art, Folklore and Ethnology at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (which has a film studies section), the Oleksander Dovzhenko Film Studio, did not take part in the process to select “Aurora.”

Thus, it appears that even if the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine had indeed proposed “Aurora,” it did so without the knowledge and participation of the above-mentioned professional film institutions.

Mr. Savchenko contacted Valentyn Hrebenny, who is in charge of the film distribution network in Sevastopol. He confirmed that no film called “Aurora” was screened in this city in the last two years. According to Mr. Savchenko’s information, there are no private movie theaters in the city. Thinking that Ms. Malynovskaya had made an error, on November 15 I wrote to tell her that her information was incorrect and requested a comment.

The next day I received the following answer: “The filmmakers replied to questions regarding the film “Aurora” at an official press conference. The film will be widely released on November 30.” This was followed by references to the official website of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, where the film is listed as one of several Oscar contenders.

Since I had obtained neither specific details nor corrected information from the film’s official representative, IntWestDistribution, I was forced to contact the Academy’s representatives for an explanation. On November 20 I received this reply from Torene Svitil, awards coordinator of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences:

“I received your e-mail with some concern. We ask filmmaking communities in submitting countries to follow certain rules. We ask for the names of the members of the selection committee, and we also ask for copies of ads demonstrating that the film had a theatrical run in the submitting country. We received both of these for the Ukrainian submission.

“Obviously, however, there is much about the internal processes of this selection that we have no way of knowing. I have contacted both the Ukrainian selection committee and the filmmakers asking for an explanation to your allegations.

“When I have a response, I will respond to your e-mail at greater length, but I wanted you to know that we are investigating. Best regards, Torene Svitil, awards coordinator, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.”

On November 23 Ms. Bayrak held a press conference in Kyiv. According to the website of KINO-KOLO (<http://kinokolo.ua/news/2736/>), Ms. Bayrak said that her film had had a limited seven-day screening run on November 11-17 at the Spartak movie theater in Symferopol. In a telephone conversation with KINO-KOLO, the director of the Spartak cinema, Iryna Vyshnevskaya, confirmed Ms. Bayrak’s statement about the weeklong screening of “Aurora” in September.

At the press conference, Ms. Bayrak also said that her film was submitted as a contender for the Oscar by an organization called the Association to Promote the Development of Cinematography in

Ukraine together with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine. The filmmaker said that the association sifted through five films and selected “Aurora.”

So, now it was not Sevastopol but Symferopol, and not the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine but an institution with its mission clearly stated in the title: Association to Promote the Development of Cinematography in Ukraine.

The irony here is that this association earned its notoriety not by making films but by opposing the right of Ukrainian viewers to see films in their mother tongue. Until this past June, all foreign films were released in Ukraine only in Russian-language dubbing. An attempt to rectify this anomaly was made last January when Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov’s government passed a decision obliging film distribution companies to gradually switch to Ukrainian film dubbing, not to the exclusion, but alongside Russian-language dubbing. By July 2007, 70 percent of all foreign-made films would be dubbed in Ukrainian.

The first films dubbed in Ukrainian, “Cars” and “Pirates of the Caribbean. Dead Man’s Chest,” were a big success with the viewers around Ukraine, even though the Ukrainian version was often shown either too early or too late in the day, when fewer viewers come to theaters. The Ukrainian-language “Cars” sold at least 15 percent more tickets than the Russian version.

Unable to compete, the said association, which apparently represents the interests of Russian film distribution companies in Ukraine, lodged a court complaint and succeeded in nullifying the government’s decision. The government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, which under the existing procedure was the only entity that could appeal the court ruling, refused to do so. In his infamous reaction to the appeals by many prominent intellectuals to defend the cultural rights of the majority of Ukrainian citizens, Ukraine’s Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Issues Dmytro Tabachnyk, – in the past one of the principal architects of the kleptocratic Kuchma regime and now the happy comeback kid of the Yanukovich era – said, “We cannot allow a narrow stratum of Ukrainian-speaking intelligentsia which is afraid of open competition to determine our cultural policies.”

Thus, thanks to the initiative of the Association to Promote the Development of Cinematography in Ukraine and with the support of the Yanukovich government we are back to square one: millions of Ukrainians are effectively being deprived of the right to watch films in their own language. They are being brazenly Russified.

Now the association is allowed to represent Ukraine before the Hollywood-based Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Is this a bad joke?

There is more.

When I interviewed Mr. Savchenko for this article, he said of the association, “Those are the same people who believe that filmmakers are not entitled to receive money for their films because these films were made in the Soviet period.”

The Bayrak affair is not just about “Aurora” – it is about the principles of fair play, about Ukrainian national cinema, about how and who can legitimately represent it before the world. It is clear that Ms. Bayrak’s film “Aurora” did not undergo a process of transparent, honest and democratic selection that would have given it the right to represent the country, not just an individual filmmaker, however ambitious or unscrupulous.

Among the participants of such a

process must be cinematographers, members of the national filmmaking community and also Ukrainian viewers. Every Ukrainian should have the opportunity to watch a Ukrainian film that is competing for the Oscar without having to travel to one single city, even if it is sunny Symferopol. National viewers must be respected, not looked at simply as a source of profit or a springboard to fame, whose rights can be trampled with impunity.

In what other country but Ukraine can a film first be proposed as a contender for the Oscar and later, as an afterthought, released widely two months after the designated deadline? Why is it impossible to get Ms. Bayrak’s representatives to provide answers to these and other entirely justified questions? Do we, Ukrainian film viewers, not have the right to know who is representing Ukraine in the world, and how?

The film “Aurora” was finally released in 150 copies simultaneously in Ukraine and Russia on November 30 – exactly two months after the deadline set by the American Academy. I have not yet had the privilege of watching it here in New York. The first reviews of the film, which I read in the Ukrainian press and heard from professional film critics, suggest a depressingly convincing answer to all these questions. The process of “selection” of this film was orchestrated in this peculiar manner exactly because the film would otherwise have failed to pass even a very liberal test for Ukrainianness.

It would have failed not because the director is openly opposed to Ukrainian culture and language, not because she seems to question the very idea of Ukrainian independence: Oxana Bayrak is No. 4 on the official electoral list of contenders for the Ukrainian Parliament advanced by a political entity with a bizarre designation – the Party of Putin’s Policies (Partia Polityky Putina).

Ms. Bayrak’s film would surely have failed primarily because there is precious little art and even less Ukrainian identity in it. That is one thing that the critics who saw it agree on. “I felt cynically and brazenly cheated for the entire duration of the film,” wrote Oltarzhevskaya in *Ukraina Moloda*. “The genre of Bayrak’s films can be described as something of a cinema for rhinoceroses. There is nothing Ukrainian in them: either in their language, or actors, or spirit or coloring...” commented the director Mykhailo Illienko. The influential film reviewer for *Dzerkalo Tyzhnia* Oleh Verhelis wrote, “The viewing of this film ... reduced this writer to a state of ... moral and intellectual stupor.”

The Bayrak debacle reflects badly not only on Ukraine and its dysfunctional government with its disastrous record of neglect of Ukrainian film, language and culture. It also reflects badly on the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which seems to allow its name to be associated with a third-rate product and an unscrupulous film director pretending to represent a culture she despises. The fact that “Aurora” by Ms. Bayrak remains on the shortlist of 61 contenders for the Oscar in the best foreign language film category is both a slap in the face of Ukrainian cinema and a mockery of the very purpose of one of the world’s most prestigious competitions of excellence in cinema.

Now only the Academy can correct the situation by removing “Aurora” from the list, and thus sending all present and future impostors around the world a clear message that it intends to uphold the principles of fair, open and honest play.

*Translated from the original Ukrainian by Marta D. Olynyk.*

*Yuri Shevchuk is lecturer of Ukrainian language and culture at Columbia University and the founder and director of the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University.*

# Staging of "Ivan Vyshensky" honors Ivan Franko and Lidia Krushelnytsky

by Anisa Handzia Sawyckyj

NEW YORK – As the 2006 world-wide celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Ivan Franko's birth drew to a close, the Ukrainian American community in New York City was privileged to have the opportunity to attend a rarely staged production of one of the classics of Ukrainian literature, Franko's epic poem "Ivan Vyshensky."

The Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, as part of the continuing celebration of its 40th anniversary and as a tribute to its founder and director Lidia Krushelnytsky, raised the curtain to honor one of Ukraine's greatest writers, patriots, journalists and political thinkers.

On October 15, in the performance space of the beautiful new Ukrainian Museum on East Sixth Street, a hushed audience sat mesmerized by the psychological drama unfolding before them. In the character of the 16th century Orthodox community leader-turned-Mount Athos-ascetic Vyshensky, Franko presented the difficult choices facing an individual in the bitter Orthodox-Catholic crisis of that century, caught between a commitment to personal spiritual salvation and responsibility to one's fellow man as represented by Church, community and nation.

The dilemma of self-interest versus the greater good is an ethical theme in many cultures. For Ukrainians, who have struggled for more than a century to reinvent themselves as a modern nation, "Ivan Vyshensky" resonates as deeply now as it did in Franko's lifetime.

The afternoon's two-part event, consisting of the "Vyshensky" production followed by a book launch of a new volume titled "The Flying Ship of Lidia Krushelnytsky" by Dr. Valerij Hajdabura, was co-hosted by the Friends of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble and by The Ukrainian Museum.

The matinee began with the president of the museum's board of trustees, Olha Hnateyko, welcoming the guests, while Marta Kichorowska Kebalo of the Friends served as mistress of ceremonies.

In her 40 years with the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, founder and director Ms. Krushelnytsky trained some 250 students, produced over 150 plays, dramatic readings and other performances, and organized tours to various North American cities as well as two tours to independent Ukraine. In this, she was supported by dedicated parents and generous donors, most significantly, the Self-Reliance Federal Credit Union of New York, which also underwrote the newly published book.

The audience was riveted by this performance of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, particularly that of veteran actor Askold Lozynskyj as Ivan Vyshensky, reprising a role he first played in the initial staging of the play in 1977 in New York City, and to which he has returned several times since then.

In this unique conceptualization by Ms. Krushelnytsky, "Vyshensky" is actually a choreographed recitation of Franko's original dramatic poem. It is presented in the form of a monologue by the main character, Vyshensky, interspersed with individual and group commentary by a classic Greek chorus comprising 10 women.

This production saw the combined talents of veteran actors with a 10- to 40-year track record with the ensemble such as Nadia Dyba-Podolak, Ivanka Zajac, Romanka Zajac and Liza Szonyi, and their more junior colleagues, some of whom were appearing in an ensemble production for the first time: Melasia Huryn, Olenka Kebalo, Svitlana



Cover of the new book that traces the life and theatrical career of the founder of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, Lidia Krushelnytsky.

Makhno, Olya Nykolyn, Andrea Popovych and Victoria Symotiuk.

Supporting Mr. Lozynskyj's Vyshensky in the roles of heiromonk and Kozak was Andrij Dobriansky. In fact, three Dobriansky brothers supported the production with their technological expertise, Danylo creating the lighting effects; Andrij, the sound; and Yarko, the videography.

As in past Krushelnytsky productions, the staging of "Ivan Vyshensky" was the result of a close collaboration among artist-colleagues. The music was composed by Ihor Sonevsky, the choreography (based on original choreography of the late Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky was created by Andrij Dobriansky. The artistic consultant was Maria Shust, costumes were by Nusia Denysyk and stage sets by Romanka Zajac.

It was Ivanka Zajac, however, who was key to the restaging of this production. With an infectious enthusiasm and unflagging determination, she shepherded the troupe through two years of rehearsals. Together with Sofika Zielyk, who has performed in "Vyshensky" numerous times, they recreated the "professional memory" of how "Pani Lida" Krushelnytsky had directed and staged "Ivan Vyshensky" in the past.

The absence of Ms. Krushelnytsky at this event made the achievement of her ensemble all the more remarkable. She has been in Chicago with family for some time, recovering from illness, and was unable to travel. Nevertheless, her input was conveyed through hundreds of telephone calls between Chicago and New York over the past months.

Following the performance of "Ivan Vyshensky," after a brief intermission, the audience was treated to the delightful reading of excerpts from "The Flying Ship of Lidia Krushelnytsky"

authored by Dr. Hajdabura, who had traveled to New York City to take part in the presentation of his book.

"Flying Ship" refers to the children's fairy tale dramatized by A. Shiyan, the first play staged by the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble in 1966. The author uses it as a metaphor for the link that Ms. Krushelnytsky represents between contemporary Ukrainian theater and Ukraine's pre-Soviet theater traditions. Reviewers have called this book a "triumph," "a collection of unique memoirs," "a story of an artist's love conquering the vagaries of fate."

An excerpt about the author's first encounter with Ms. Krushelnytsky was read by Ms. Zielyk; Ms. Krushelnytsky's memoirs of how she fell in love with New York City were read by Adam Hapij; and Ivan Makar read a hilarious excerpt about the backstage shenanigans of Ms. Krushelnytsky's youngest thespians during the staging of children's plays.

The readings were followed by a film highlighting Ms. Krushelnytsky's life and theater career from Lviv to New York. Created by ensemble members – the Emmy-award winning Olexa Hewryk and professional radio announcer Xenia Piaseckyj – this film had its premiere on April 17, 2005, at the Pierre Hotel during a gala luncheon celebrating Ms. Krushelnytsky's 90th birthday and the 40th anniversary of her Ukrainian Stage Ensemble.

When Dr. Hajdabura took the stage, it was obvious to all that, aside from being a writer, he is himself a master of engagement with a theater audience. Currently involved in the artistic direction of the Ivan Franko National Theater in Kyiv, Dr. Hajdabura, member of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and author of several works on the history of the Ukrainian theater, charmed listeners with accounts of his meetings and interviews with Ms. Krushelnytsky, as well as his immersion in the archives and memoirs of her illustrious theatrical mentors, Joseph Hirniak and Olimpia Dobrovolsky, who are the subject of his forthcoming book.

Ms. Krushelnytsky is fortunate to have such a sensitive chronicler of her theater career. With an understanding of the theatrical tradition of the pre-Soviet era that shaped her artistic vision, and with a light

literary touch that makes for a delightful read, Dr. Hajdabura takes an appreciative, yet balanced look at her artistic, cultural and pedagogical legacy. Hopefully, this legacy will continue to resonate in the years ahead in the work of her students and protégés, who have now shown themselves capable of carrying on the traditions of their esteemed founder and director.

In the spirit of excellence and attention to detail of all of Ms. Krushelnytsky's work, the afternoon was a marvel of planning and nuanced execution. It was remarkable not only for its impassioned staging of "Vyshensky," but for its seamless transitions through the balance of the afternoon's lighter offerings, managed by the head of Friends of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, the accomplished mistress of ceremonies, Ms. Kebalo. Her refined aesthetic sensibility, graciousness and eloquence bear the marks of her long association with the "grande dame" of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, Ms. Krushelnytsky.

Indeed, in every respect, the young actors and organizers of this event projected such love and admiration for their founder and such dedication to Ms. Krushelnytsky's mission, that, with the true magic of theater, her presence in the room was almost palpable.

This was a gem of a theater experience. With both serious and joyful segments, like the tragicomic masks of Janus, it reflected the complex, bitter-sweet path of personal as well as collective cultural destinies on the vast canvas of the Ukrainian American experience.

This event was a reminder of the lifelong commitment of artists such as Ms. Krushelnytsky to the moral, cultural and aesthetic values brought out of Ukraine by World War II emigrants and their extraordinary achievement in transmitting those values to the younger generation under less than ideal circumstances. Theirs is the indomitable creative spirit that overcomes all obstacles.

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For further information about the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, or to order "The Flying Ship of Lidia Krushelnytsky," at \$29 (\$25 plus \$4 shipping), contact: Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, c/o Ivanka Zajac, 455 E. 14th St., #MC, New York, NY 10009.



The cast of "Ivan Vyshensky" with special guest, author Dr. Valerij Hajdabura of Kyiv. Standing (from left) are Sofika Zielyk, Dr. Hajdabura, Ivanka Zajac, Askold Lozynskyj, Andrij Dobrianskyj (far right), and the women of "the Greek chorus."



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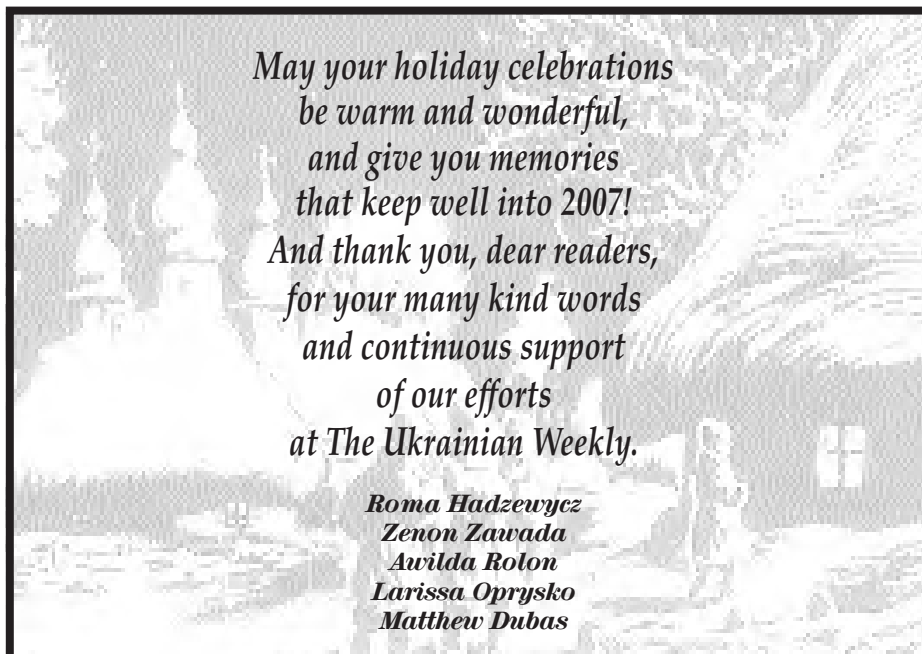
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from  
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*Roma Hadzewycz  
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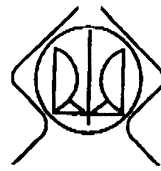
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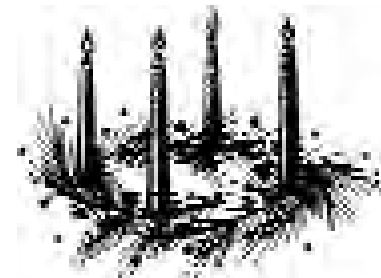
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## Newark parish's Christmas concert celebrates the season's true meaning

by Lada Bidiak

NEWARK, N.J. – It seems that with every passing year, Christmas becomes more and more commercial. No matter where we turn, we are bombarded with advertisements for Christmas sales and discounts, holiday displays (as early as September), and reminders about last-minute presents for our loved ones. We scramble to decorate our homes with wreaths and lights. We rush to send out Christmas cards. And as we approach December 25, everyone seems to become even more frenetic.

Several weeks ago, in his weekly bulletin letter, the Rev. Leonid Malkov of St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J., called upon his parishioners to take a few hours out of their busy schedules and to come to the annual Christmas concert in the church. He encouraged everyone to set aside the commercial aspects of the holiday, and to truly focus on the occasion of Christ's birth.

On Sunday, December 17, with an array of singers and musicians performing a broad spectrum of religious music, holiday songs and Christmas carols, St. John's Church was able to provide its parishioners and friends with a much-needed haven from society's holiday commercialism.

The concert consisted of 10 musical performances, alternating with poetry and passages from the Scriptures read by the Rev. Malkov. Each musician and singer brought his or her unique quality to the concert, providing a church full of solace-seekers just what they had come for.

Roman Cymbala's performance of Schubert's "Ave Maria," followed by

"Dnes' Poyusche" and "V Yaslakh Lezhyt'" performed by the vocal trio of Mr. Cymbala, Lev Wolansky and Michael Stashchyshyn, were only the beginning of over an hour's worth of soul-lifting music that swelled to the dome of the church.

They were followed by the instrumental quintet of George Shuhan and Yuriy Zhukevych (violins), Vira Nesterivska (viola), Suzanna Hywel (flute) and Olha Stashchyshyn (bandura), whose rendition of two Ukrainian carols set a tone of tranquility within the church.

The church ensemble consisting of Maria Wolansky, Ms. Stashchyshyn, Mr. Shuhan, Mr. Wolansky, Mr. Stashchyshyn and Basil Tershakovec performed three beautiful pieces, but it was their version of the French carol "Patapan" that seemed to make the greatest impression.

They were followed by several younger musicians – Wolodymyr Stashchyshyn, whose musical talents quickly became apparent as he sat at the piano to play both Barvinsky and Burgmuller, and Alexander Sydoriak, whose saxophone sent an almost ethereal sound throughout the church as he played two seasonal favorites – "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Let it Snow."

The six-member sopilka ensemble, consisting of Wolodymyr Stashchyshyn, Mr. Sydoriak, Natalka Kudryk, Alexis Roziy, Sophia Smaluch and Justin Pyz, played a beautiful medley of carols and

schedrivky, and introduced many to their not-so-common instruments.

Violinist Innesa Tymochko-Dekajlo's skilled performance of "Silent Night" and "Nova Radist Stala" concluded with an almost whimsical rendition of "Zemlyu Yudeisku," while soprano Oleksandra Hrabova's performance of Mozart's "Alleluja" and Barvinsky's "Scho to za Predyvo" moved many to tears.

They were followed by the church choir's stirring performance of two lesser-known carols – "Shedshe Triye Tsari" and the Lemko "Narodyvsia Boh," accompanied on guitar by Mr. Wolansky and Bohdanna Wolanska, and on the piano by Maria Cymbala (who provided

musical accompaniment for many of the singers and musicians throughout the concert).

In conclusion, everyone present was asked to join the church choir in singing "Boh Predvichnyi."

As each day brings us closer and closer to Christmas, let us continue to set aside the commercial aspects of the holiday, and truly focus on the occasion of Christ's birth. And next year, if you find yourself in the vicinity of St. John's Church on the Sunday before Christmas, try to take a few hours out of your busy schedules, and come to the annual Christmas concert. You just might find the serenity that you didn't even know was missing.



The church ensemble: Basil Tershakovec, George Shuhan, Maria Wolansky, Olha Stashchyshyn, Lev Wolansky and Michael Stashchyshyn.

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## Party of the Regions'...

(Continued from page 9)

be prosecuted with Mr. Plekhanov in a  
position of influence.

To prevent such odious figures from  
becoming leaders in Ukraine's Ministry  
of Internal Affairs, Mr. Yushchenko on  
December 15 issued a presidential decree  
stating that the appointments violated  
presidential constitutional authority and  
required his approval.

Three days later, Mr. Tsushko indicated  
he would ignore the president's decree.

### Defending the presidency

At a December 14 press conference in  
Kyiv with foreign journalists, President  
Yushchenko was visibly upset with Prime  
Minister Yanukovych's aggressive con-  
duct. He acknowledged that his relation-  
ship with Mr. Yanukovych was increasing-  
ly conflicting, "but I want to emphasize I  
am not the author of these conflicts."

"The new team came, and they have the  
feeling that the whole world is under their  
feet," Mr. Yushchenko said, later adding  
that they are "attempting to seek revenge,  
attempting to see everyone defeated."

If there's a silver lining to the current  
events, political observers said it's that  
Mr. Yanukovych and the Party of the  
Regions are providing a valuable test of  
presidential authority following the  
January 1 constitutional reforms creating  
a parliamentary-presidential republic.

In his remarks on December 14, Mr.  
Yushchenko called on Mr. Yanukovych  
to form government relations strictly  
according to Ukraine's Constitution.

If Mr. Yushchenko is able to success-  
fully defend the presidency, the bound-  
aries of authority between the coalition  
government and the Presidential  
Secretariat will be established, setting a  
precedent for successors.

Mr. Tarasyuk's firing is a particularly  
critical test in defending presidential author-  
ity, because at issue is the president's ability  
to set and control Ukrainian foreign policy.

"Every lawyer will tell you it's clear  
that if the president proposes a minister's  
candidacy for the Parliament's confirma-  
tion, it is obvious that the president initi-  
ates the dismissal of this candidate," Mr.  
Yushchenko said.

Speaking to Ministry of Internal Affairs  
employees on the December 20 holiday for  
law enforcement workers, Mr. Yushchenko  
was uncharacteristically blunt, for the first  
time using the term "usurpation" in  
describing the actions of Mr. Yanukovych  
and the Party of the Regions.

He was still visibly upset with this sit-  
uation, calling on the ministry's workers  
to serve the law, the people and the  
Ukrainian state.

"A time of trial has now arrived," the  
president said. "Today in front of you  
stands a challenge in the appearance of  
individual anti-constitutional actions,  
which led to usurpation of power, includ-  
ing at the Ministry of Internal Affairs ...  
Serve, and don't be subservient."

When Mr. Yanukovych became prime  
minister, he had a unique chance to  
prove he was a politician who could  
work across party lines and unite  
Ukrainians, said Serhii Taran, chair of  
the Socio-Vymir Center for Sociological  
and Political Research. By doing so, the  
Party of the Regions would have also  
been able to spread to appeal beyond  
eastern and southern Ukraine, and prove  
itself as a national political force.

Instead, Mr. Yanukovych squandered  
that chance, proving you can't teach an  
old dog new tricks, "Yanukovych started  
to talk about a wide coalition," he said.  
"But, very quickly, it was revealed that  
he didn't know how to do that. And then  
he began dismissing people. He lost the  
prospect of becoming a politician of a  
national scale, not just a single interest."

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

(UIA) will be privatized it was reported on December 19. The state share in the company will be decreased from 61.6 percent to 41 percent. The head of UIA’s supervisory council, the first deputy head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine (SPF), Viktor Petrov, explained that reduction of the state’s share in the airlines by 20.6 percent won’t reduce its influence on decision-making “in any way,” since, according to the company’s statutes, serious decisions are made by qualified majority in 75 percent of shares. He noted that he welcomes the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and Austrian Airlines as reliable investors in UIA. Ukraine International Airlines is the second largest passenger air carrier in the country. As many as 61.6 percent of the company’s authorized funds are state property, 22.5 percent belong to the Austrian Airlines, 9.9 percent to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and 6 percent to the international leasing company AerCap. The company has over 250 routes weekly to 15 cities of Europe from Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa and Symferopol. The UIA air fleet consists of 12 Boeing-737 jets. (Ukrinform)

### Yaremcha now officially Yaremche

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 14 voted to rename the town of Yaremcha in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast as Yaremche, thus reverting to its historical name. The change was supported by 406 national deputies. The Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast Council had decided on June 30 to appeal to the Verkhovna Rada to change the name of this popular tourist destination. Yaremche encompasses the villages of Yamna, Dora, Tatariv, Mikulychyn, Yablunytsia, Voronenko, Palianytsia and Vorokhta. Its population is 25,000. (Ukrayinski Novyny)

### New faction leader for Our Ukraine

KYIV – The presidium of the Our Ukraine bloc on December 21 decided to designate Viacheslav Kyrylenko as chief of its parliamentary faction. His candidacy was announced for voting at the faction session. On December 19 the chairman of the central executive committee of the Our Ukraine party, National Deputy Roman Bezsmertnyi, resigned as faction leader. Mr. Kyrylenko is a member of the Our Ukraine party – the third largest in the Verkhovna Rada. He held the post of vice prime minister in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov. (Ukrinform)

### Crimean Tatar youth leader killed

KYIV – Norik Shyrin, the leader of the youth Crimean-Tatar organization Birluk-Unity and member of the Youth Policy Council under the Crimean chairman, was murdered in Symferopol on December 20. According to preliminary information, he died of numerous knife injuries. The 22-year-old student of the Tavrichesky National University was well-known among the Crimean Tatar youth. He was founder and editor of the recently established Golos Molodezhy (Youth’s Voice) newspaper and organizer of the popular Eastern Discotheque. According to information from organization members, Mr. Shyrin had recently returned from Kyiv, where he received documents for opening a youth radio station in Crimea. His father, Reshat Osmanov, an entrepreneur, was deputy of the Symferopol City Council of the past convocation (2002-2006). (Ukrinform)

### Persona non grata receives honor

KYIV – First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov conferred the honor cross “For Revival of Ukraine” (first degree) on

Russian Deputy Konstantin Zatulin, who had been proclaimed persona non-grata in Ukraine. The honor was established by the Scientific-Economic and Law Cooperation Fund headed by Mr. Azarov. Mr. Zatulin was visiting Kyiv to participate in a sitting of the inter-parliamentary commission on cooperation between the Parliaments of Ukraine and Russia. According to Mr. Zatulin’s press service, he encountered no problems crossing the state border of Ukraine at Boryspil International Airport. Ukraine was not implicated in conferring the order “For Revival of Ukraine” on Mr. Zatulin, explained President Viktor Yushchenko’s press secretary, Iryna Vannykova. She added that the chief of the Presidential Secretariat, Viktor Baloha, underscored that Ukraine had not decorated the Russian deputy with a state order. Mr. Zatulin had been announced a persona non-grata in Ukraine for interfering into internal affairs of Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

### Ternopil Rada: honor Shukhevych

TERNOPIL – The Ternopil Oblast Council has appealed to President Viktor Yushchenko with a proposal that the title Hero of Ukraine be granted posthumously to Roman Shukhevych (1907-1950), commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). A resolution to that effect was approved by the Ternopil Oblast Council on November 28. The appeal pointed out that 2007 will mark the 100th anniversary of Shukhevych’s birth and underscored that the UPA general was also a noted leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists. As well, they noted that 2007 will mark the 65th anniversary of the founding of the UPA. The deputies also decided to proclaim the year 2007 in the Ternopil Oblast as the Year of Roman Shukhevych and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. (Ukrayinski Novyny)

### Lukashenka admits falsifications

MIENSK – Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who in March was re-elected to his third straight term as president of Belarus in a ballot that was internationally decried as deeply flawed and fraudulent, on November 23 acknowledged that he rigged the March presidential election, but he claimed to have stolen the vote from himself, not from the opposition. “Yes, we falsified the last election. I have already told the Westerners [about this]. As many as 93.5 percent of voters voted for President Lukashenka. But they said this was not a ‘European’ result. So we made it 86 [percent]. That is true,” Mr. Lukashenka said.

“If we were to start recounting ballots now, I don’t know what we would do with them. The Europeans told us before the election that if there were ‘European’ figures in the election, they would recognize our election. And we tried to make European figures.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

### National council to focus on Chornobyl

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has established a national council on alleviating the aftermath of the Chornobyl nuclear accident, it was announced on December 12. The council will be a consultative/advisory organ under the auspices of the president. Its aim is to consolidate the efforts of the authorities, public organizations and scientists aimed at alleviating the aftermath of the Chornobyl nuclear accident. The tasks of the council include analyzing the effectiveness of implementation of laws, international agreements and other Ukrainian legislative acts related to the Chornobyl nuclear accident; preparing proposals on optimization of anti-radiation, medical, socioeconomic and psychological protection for the victims of the Chornobyl nuclear accident; and ecological and economic rehabilitation of the territories contaminated as a result of the Chornobyl disaster. The council will deliver annual reports on its activities to the president. (Ukrinform)

### Yushchenko supports Estonia’s Ukrainians

TALLINN – President Viktor Yushchenko, while visiting Estonia, met on December 13 with the Ukrainian diaspora in the Estonian capital, Tallinn. He promised to support the diaspora’s goal of giving

their children an education that includes Ukrainian language, as well to the establishment of Ukrainian courses and schools. Mr. Yushchenko directed Ukraine’s ambassador to Estonia to prepare a list of books, equipment and other materials needed for these undertakings. Mr. Yushchenko also said, “My wife will take educational themes under her patronage.” In addition, the president said Ukraine would help Ukrainian students from Estonia gain entry into the country’s universities. Mr. Yushchenko also said he would support initiatives to establish Ukrainian press organs in Estonia and to give Estonia’s Ukrainians access to Ukrainian mass media. There are 28,000 Ukrainians living in Estonia (Ukrayinski Novyny, Press Office of Ukraine’s President)

### Poland recognizes Famine as genocide

WARSAW – Polish lawmakers unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the totalitarian Soviet regime responsible for the forced Famine in Ukraine and recognizing the Famine as genocide. The resolution noted that the Polish Parliament, “joining in pain with relatives of the victims of the Great Famine in Ukraine, which cost the lives of millions of residents of the Ukrainian countryside from 1932-1933, condemns the totalitarian regime responsible for the genocide.” The Famine was orchestrated by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin; it killed 7 to 10 million Ukrainians, almost one-third of Ukraine’s population at the time. The Polish resolution was passed a week after the Verkhovna Rada in Ukraine adopted a bill recognizing the Famine as genocide. (Associated Press).

## Ukraine discusses...

(Continued from page 2)

Russia but his application was rejected.

In the past, Ukraine has offered to work with various countries to help develop their energy resources. A few weeks ago, Deputy Prime Minister Andrii Kliuyev announced that Ukraine is seeking to help Egypt develop its gas resources. Ukrainian delegations have visited Libya on numerous occasions over the past five years and offered the country’s services in helping develop Libyan gas fields. These offers have yet to yield any results, but the Ukrainian government continues to persist.

One private Ukrainian company, the Industrial Union of the Donbas (ISD), has been successful in working to develop

Uzbekistan’s gas infrastructure in return for gas. However, in 2006 RosUkrEnergo warned the ISD that it is the only company allowed to deliver Central Asian gas to Ukraine, requiring that the ISD work with RosUkrEnergo if it wants to continue its work in Uzbekistan.

Mr. Yanukovych may be hoping that renewed good relations with Gazprom will make his offer acceptable. He failed to mention what exactly he expects in return, but it is widely believed that Ukraine will insist on a percentage of the gas produced by such a joint effort.

But it is also worth noting the possibility that, in return for allowing Ukrainian participation in Russia, Gazprom might insist on a quid pro quo and demand to be allowed to drill for gas in Ukraine, thus gaining a larger role for its already substantial presence in the Ukrainian gas market.

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# Christmas Bazaar features sights, sounds, aromas of holiday season

by **Andrea Porytko Zharovsky**

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center celebrated Christmas early with its annual Christmas Bazaar on December 9.

The festively decorated UECC opened its doors early that Saturday morning and greeted the Philadelphia community with the lyrical sounds of koliady – Ukrainian Christmas carols – and tempted all with the tantalizing aromas of traditional Ukrainian Cuisine. Beautiful Christmas trees decorated by Plast members and

*Andrea Porytko Zharovsky is on the Press Committee of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center.*

children of the Svitlychka graced the lobby. Equally beautiful Christmas trees decorated by UECC board members provided an appropriate backdrop for the various performances throughout the day during the Christmas Bazaar.

The Ukrainian Heritage School's first grade students, under the musical direction of Halyna Bodnar and with assistance by teacher Olya Mykhaylyuk, performed two koliady. The mixed choir Ukraina, under the baton of assistant director Lesia Ivakhiv, welcomed all with traditional Ukrainian greetings and wishes for the New Year and performed a few beautiful koliady.

The Children's Choir of the Ukrainian Music Institute, under the supervision of

Lesia Penkalskyj with piano accompaniment by Helen Sagaty Porytko, also sang carols with UMI students performing on violin and trumpet. The youngest performers of the day were the students of the Svitlychka, the Ukrainian Cooperative Nursery School, who, along with Oksana Hlado and Olya Mykhaylyuk, entertained their families, friends and guests of the bazaar with greetings, songs and dance.

St. Nicholas, accompanied by a beautiful angel, surprised children of all ages with a special appearance. St. Nicholas reminded everyone of the beauty and meaning of Christmas here and in Ukraine.

The UECC Kitchen and Club Room were literally buzzing with activity all day. In a comfortable café setting, many guests gathered and tasted Ukrainian foods, including varenyky, holubtsi, borsch, mushroom soup, potato pancakes, nalysnyky and kapusta with kovbasa. They mingled with friends, caught up on the latest news over a cup of coffee and pastry, or simply enjoyed a mug of cold Ukrainian beer.

The Main Hall and the Gallery of the UECC accommodated 35 vendors coming from as far as Canada, New York state, Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland, and Lehigh County, Pa. There were beautiful displays of amber, silver, intricate ger-dany and gold jewelry, oil paintings, icons, books, music, videos, cards, scarves, ceramics, pysanky, candles, Ukrainian-themed clothing and honey.

Many organizations from the UECC also took part in the bazaar and rented tables for fund-raising purposes, selling books, paintings, music and hand-made children's crafts.

The volunteers answered questions about the various programs and organiza-

tions at the UECC.

Throughout the day, at the main table near the stage, the UECC sold homemade food and baked goods to take home for the holidays. The gallery became "kovbasa headquarters" with bazaar guests purchasing the always-popular kovbasa, kyshka, Krakivska kovbasa, and kabanosy. The ingredients for kutia (wheat and poppy seeds), along with dried fruit and dried mushrooms, were also available for purchase.

Various products imported from Ukraine, including chocolates, cookies, and even ketchup, provided guests of the bazaar with souvenirs of their "mini-trip to Ukraine."

Newly elected UECC President Borys Pawluk spent the day meeting UECC members and guests of the bazaar, speaking to many at length about upcoming events, organizational needs and planned building improvements.

Even though the Christmas Bazaar was a one-day event, an army of UECC volunteers worked long hours throughout the week preparing for the bazaar by setting up the various rooms, baking the very tasty sweets and cooking the mouth-watering traditional Ukrainian delicacies. UECC Board Member and Vice-President of Programs Natalie Firko and UECC Executive Director Orysia Hewka organized the volunteers throughout the week.

The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, founded in 1980, is a non-profit organization whose objective is to preserve and promote awareness of Ukrainian heritage throughout the Philadelphia community. The UECC is located at 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, PA 19046; telephone, 215-663-1166; e-mail, [contact@ukrainiancenterphila.org](mailto:contact@ukrainiancenterphila.org).

## The Orange Chronicles DVD now available for purchase!

This unique documentary film guides the viewer from the very beginning of Ukraine's history in the 20th century, through the Orange Revolution, to today's current events. This documentary features rare, never before seen footage from the Orange Revolution and a symphonic musical score composed especially for the film.

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## The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Inc. Illinois Branch

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# SPORTSLINE

## Soccer

- Shakhtar Donetsk tied 1-1 with Olympiakos on December 5, ending Shakhtar's quest for the UEFA Champions League Cup. Shakhtar opened the gap with a goal in the 27th minute with a header by Matuzalem Francelino Da Silva off a corner kick by Jadson Rodriguez. Olympiakos answered back in the second half with a shot by Nery Alberto Castillo. Shakhtar finished third in Group D of the tournament, ahead of Olympiakos (3 pts), but behind Valencia (13 pts) and Roma (10 pts).
- Dynamo Kyiv tied with Real Madrid 2-2 on December 6 in the UEFA Champions League Cup match. Maksim Shatskikh scored the first goal for Dynamo in the 13th minute of play, off a pass from Valentin Belkevich. Shatskikh capitalized on a rebound off Madrid's Diego Lopez to put in another in the 27th minute for Dynamo off a pass from Artem Milevsky. Madrid responded in the end of the second half with two goals from Ronaldo. The first goal came in the 86th minute off a corner from David Beckham, headed by Javi Garcia to Ronaldo for the goal. Picking up the penalty shot in the 88th minute, Ronaldo tied the game to drop Dynamo to last place in Group E, ending Dynamo's cup dreams.
- A survey initiated by "Match" and "TOP-Football" magazines with the participation of 90 Ukrainian newspapers on December 13 named Oleh Blokhin, the Ukrainian National Football team's coach, as the best coach of 2006, and collected 259 points out of 270 points.
- Anatoly Tymoshchuk, captain of

Shakhtar Donetsk, was named the best Ukrainian soccer player of 2006 on December 11. Over 44 soccer specialists, 100 journalists and 100 fans took part in the poll by "Ukrainsky Futbol." Andriy Shevchenko took second, and Serhiy Rebrov took third.

## Boxing

- Super-heavyweight WBC champion Oleg Maskaev confirmed on December 8 the possibility of a bout with IBF champion Volodymyr Klitchko. The Russian noted that his headquarters "has already principally agreed to the fight."
- Vitali and Volodymyr Klitchko were named "UNESCO Champions for Sport" at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on December 5. The highest award of the organization was given to the Klitchko brothers for their services in social-charitable activities including the organization's "Education For Children in Need" project in Namibia in 2006. Previously in 2004 and 2005, the brothers lent support to the UNESCO project in Romania and in 2002 helped with the program in Brazil.

## Running

Tatiana Holovchenko, 26, won the gold medal at the European Cross Country Championships in San Giorgio su Legnano, Italy, on December 10 with a time of 25:17. Holovchenko is the first Ukrainian medal winner at the championships and beat out Russian Maria Konovalova by a margin of just 1 second.

## Swimming

Oleh Lysohir won the European Short Course Swimming Championship in

Helsinki on December 11 in the 50-meter and 100-meter breaststroke events with a time of 26.5 and 58.14 seconds, respectively. Lysohir has won the 50-meter breaststroke event six consecutive times – a new championship record. Anna Khlystunova won the gold medal in the 100-meter breaststroke event with a time of 1 minute, 5.73 seconds and Iryna Ameshennikova won silver in the 200-meter backstroke

with a time of 2 minutes 4.57 seconds.

## Chess

Ukraine's Kateryna Lahno tied with India's Parimarjan Negi at the 18-game Amity Grandmasters Challenge at the Russian Center in New Delhi on December 22. Lahno dominated the second game, to give her a 3.5-2.5 victory in the six-game battle.

## European rights...

(Continued from page 2)

work of the courts and the functioning of law enforcement, including corruption and ill-treatment, even torture, of people arrested. Also, the prosecutor-general still has a broader mandate than such offices in other countries in Europe. The standards in institutions for pretrial detention and in the prisons need to be improved.

Thirdly, xenophobia is a serious problem

in Ukraine, as demonstrated by the great number of hate crimes and hate-speech incidents. Minority groups and migrants are particularly vulnerable, and I believe that racial crimes should be seen and treated as serious crimes by the authorities.

Having said all of the above, I believe Ukraine has amazing human resources. I have met a number of dedicated, hard-working and competent individuals, both in the NGO community and in various state institutions, who I believe have the potential to make a real difference.

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Twin Cities’ ...

(Continued from page 1)

also participated in sports and was a member of the Drama Club. During her high school senior year she was assistant editor of the yearbook and was chosen the most intelligent in a class poll. She graduated as class salutatorian.

Heide also attended Saturday morning Ukrainian classes at St. Constantine’s Church in Minneapolis, where she was an outstanding student. At the age of 13, she became an active member of the parish youth organization. Heide became an eager participant in all activities, always willing to listen and to learn.

She became an outstanding dancer of the Zahrava Folk Dance Ensemble, a

keeps in touch with them.

She has remained deeply religious. Prior to the observance of the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine, she wrote an editorial for the parish youth publication Trident.

She expressed the following thoughts: “As 1988 draws near, we should take time to prepare ourselves to join in this glorious anniversary ...

Our preparation should not be limited to festive activities, but surrounded by an overall spiritual renewal of our faith in Ukrainian Christianity ... In today’s world, people are seeming to drift further and further from religion. Careers, schools and opportunities begin to take precedence over religion. Attendance in parishes and religious education is slowly decreasing ... The real shame of this outcome is the



The Ukrainian community of the Twin Cities greets Mission Specialist Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper at a reception.

member of the Troyandy Girls Vocal Ensemble, and an active member in many other youth-sponsored commemorative programs.

Many thanks are due to her mother, who never hesitated to sacrifice her time and effort to drive from St. Paul to Minneapolis for these weekly activities. After working all night at the hospital, her mother was often seen in a quiet corner of the school auditorium where she would rest while waiting for her children to complete their activities.

Heide was also a member of the local branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization from the age of 6 to 18. She was very active in the organization, was counselor to a troop of “novachky” (youngest girlscouts), and attended camps in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Montreal and Edmonton. She has not forgotten her friends from Plast, and still

effect on our youth, for they are our future ... Let us not become so involved in the material world that we neglect our Ukrainian faith and heritage ...”

During one of her recent interviews Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper stressed that her late father had a deep devotion to God and the Church, and that he frequently reminded her of the importance of faith and education.

In 1980, upon graduation from high school, Ms. Stefanyshyn received U.S. Navy and Junior achievement scholarships to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In 1984 she received a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering and the following year a master's in mechanical engineering.

During her years at MIT, she continued to stay in touch with her Ukrainian friends in the Twin Cities. At one time she wrote, “I like MIT very much. I have

“A new light...

(Continued from page 6)

instead of myrrh – good Christian deeds. Proclaiming our praise and glory along with that of the angelic powers, let us be certain that it is not just like the clanging of cymbals, which makes empty noise. Let it, rather, be praise and glory, which serves as the means of our salvation.

May the Love of the Newborn Christ Child fill your homes and lives during this holy season and throughout the coming New Year. You are in our prayers without ceasing.

Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

+ Constantine  
Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

+ John  
Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

- + Antony  
Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.
- + Vsevolod  
Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.
- + Ioan  
Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora (Australia/New Zealand)
- + Yuriy  
Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
- + Jeremiah  
Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America (UOC of U.S.A.)
- + Andriy  
Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora (Great Britain/Western Europe)



Ukrainian youth from the Twin Cities ask questions of Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper.

much studying to do. I also teach third grade Ukrainian at the school at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Parish.”

At MIT she also joined the ROTC, which led to her career in the Navy, where she received the rank of captain this past summer. She became a diver and an experienced Salvage Officer. She was at the Sea Systems Command before being accepted in 1996 by NASA into the astronaut training program. During her service in the Navy she received many awards, Commendation Medals and a Meritorious Service Medal.

In an interview with a Navy publication, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper stated that she joined the space program for the same reason she became a diver: “I was looking for something challenging that would broaden my horizons.” She added that her work as a diver gave her a chance to work in a foreign environment and that “space is the ultimate foreign environment and it really is a final frontier.”

Prior to her flight into space, Heide prayed at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Houston. She took with her a Ukrainian Scout pin, and a small blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flag. She also arranged that on their fourth day in space the crew would wake up to Ukrainian music set to the words of Taras Shevchenko.

During the mission she twice spent six hours in space installing a new solar power unit for the International Space Station. After the flight was completed, she was complemented by the mission commander for a job well done.

Because of her hard work and perseverance, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper succeeded in achieving her goal. She became the first female astronaut from the state of Minnesota and the first of Ukrainian heritage.

In addition to her career, she is also a dedicated wife and mother. She is married to Glenn Piper, a retired lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. They have one son, Michael, named after her father.

Thanks to her parents and her willingness to work hard, this Minnesota Ukrainian has made an important contribution to the United States, and has also brought honor and pride to the Ukrainian American community and to all Ukrainians worldwide.

Taking advantage of Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper's visit to her family, the Twin Cities Ukrainian community, under the leadership of the local Plast branch, organized a reception to honor her for her achievements as an astronaut and to express their appreciation for her pride in her Ukrainian heritage.

To accomplish this, a committee was formed of current and former members of Plast, and active fans of Heide within the Ukrainian community. The commit-

tee included Zenon and Ulana Stepchuk, Dmytro and Halyna Tataryn, Myroslav and Yvette Pawlyszyn, Slavomyr and Maria Luciw, Katria Hucal and Christina Jermihov.

The event was held on Sunday, December 3, at St. Constantine’s School auditorium. There were about 300 people in attendance, including about 50 children from Ukrainian Saturday schools from the Catholic and Orthodox parishes. Local broadcast and print media covered the event.

The day started with lunch, providing an opportunity for Heide to greet and meet many of the people attending. During this time, slides were shown of Heide participating in Plast activities and performing with the local folk dance and vocal ensembles.

Appearing on the stage after an introduction by Committee Chairman Zenon Stepchuk, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper was greeted with a thunderous standing ovation. Wolodymyr Anastazievsky served as master of ceremonies. Welcoming remarks were extended by the Rev. Canon Michael Stelmach from St. Constantine’s, Denise Tataryn from the Saturday school, Bohdan Kuchvarsky from the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) and Katria Hucal from Plast. This part of the program was concluded with a poem authored by Yaryna Zoriana in honor of the astronaut that was eloquently recited by Maria Voronchak.

In an hourlong presentation, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper recalled her efforts and hard work on the road to becoming an astronaut. She showed a video and slides of her mission into space, including activities both inside and outside the spacecraft, and talked about her impressions of the liftoff, weightlessness, space food, housekeeping and re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.

The audience was so captivated by her presentation that even a whisper would have carried across the hall. When she showed a slide of the Ukrainian flag displayed inside the shuttle, the audience broke into spontaneous, boisterous applause!

After the presentation, the Ukrainian American astronaut asked the children to come close to the stage. Addressing them directly, she encouraged the children to study hard and obtain the highest education possible, as this is the best way to achieve one’s dreams. The children listened very quietly and intently as the honored guest answered their numerous questions.

At the conclusion of the program, many people stayed on for a long time to visit with Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper and extend their congratulations, obtain autographs and have pictures taken with their hometown astronaut.

# OUT AND ABOUT

January 2-23  
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  
Washington

The Washington Group social, Leopold's Café, 703-548-8534 or 240-381-0993

January 6  
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 6  
North Highlands, CA

Ukrainian Christmas Festival, Second Slavic Baptist Church, 916-726-6153 or ukrchurch@yahoo.com

January 6  
Hartford, CT

Christmas Eve Dinner, Hartford Ukrainian National Home, 860-296-5702

January 7  
New York

Caroling at Rockefeller Center Christmas tree (bring candles), 7 p.m., 203-241-1894 or olen@olena.biz

January 8  
Washington

Lecture by Volodymyr Dubovyk, "Ukraine and NATO: Dynamics of the Relationship," Woodrow Wilson Center, 202-691-4140

January 10  
Washington

Lecture by Roman Popadiuk, "The Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Emergence of an Independent Ukraine: A View from the White House," Johns Hopkins University, 240-381-0993

January 12  
Scranton, PA

Malanka featuring music of Fata Morgana, St. Vladimir Parish Center, 570-383-9487 or 570-563-2275

January 13  
Hartford, CT

Malanka featuring the music of Hrim, Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 860-296-6955

January 13  
Glen Spey, NY

Malanka dinner and dance, Lumberland Senior Center, 845-557-6211 or 845-858-2420

January 13  
Ogden, UT

Holiday concert, Kitka women's vocal ensemble, Browning Arts Center, artsatweber.weber.edu or kitka.org

January 13  
Washington

Malanka featuring the music of Chetverta Khvyliya, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 301-593-5316 or 410-947-0913

January 14  
Mississauga, ON

SUM Malanka, Mississauga Convention Center, cym.malanka@gmail.com

January 16  
Washington

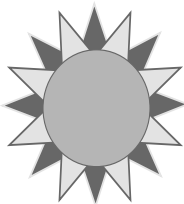
Lecture by Francine Hirsch, "Empire of Nations: Ethnographic Knowledge and the Making of the Soviet Union," Woodrow Wilson Center, 202-691-4140

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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Soyuzivka’s Datebook

- December 31, 2006**  
New Year’s Eve Extravaganza,  
Cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m.

**January 1, 2007**  
New Year’s Day Brunch, \$17++,  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**January 6, 2007**  
Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve  
Supper, 6 p.m., \$25 per person

**January 7, 2007**  
Christmas Day Brunch, 10 a.m.-  
12 p.m., \$12.95++

**January 19-21, 2007**  
Church of Annunciation, Flushing, NY  
– Family Weekend
- January 20, 2007**  
Kerhonkson Fire House Installation  
Dinner Banquet

**January 27, 2007**  
Soyuzivka’s 2nd Annual Malanka  
sponsored by the Ukrainian  
Engineers’ Society of America

**March 3-4, 2007**  
Plast Fraternity “Khmelnynchenky”  
Annual Winter Rada

**March 23-25, 2007**  
Plast Sorority “Chornomorski  
Khvyli” Rada

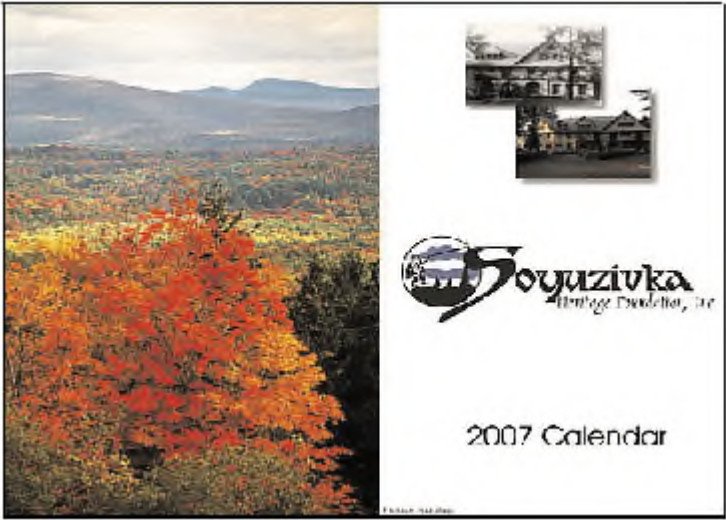


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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday-Sunday, January 6-7

**PARMA, Ohio:** St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 5913 State Road, will sponsor its 19th annual Christmas radio program for sick and shut-in parishioners on the occasion of Christmas according to the Julian calendar. The entire divine liturgy will be broadcast live from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. over radio station WERE 1300AM. The liturgy will be celebrated by the cathedral’s clergy; responses will be sung by the Ukrainian and English choirs of the cathedral. In addition, on Saturday, January 6 – Christmas Eve – the Great Compline and Matins will be celebrated. For information call 440-886-1528.

Wednesday, January 10

**WASHINGTON:** The Washington Group hosts Dr. Roman Popadiuk, deputy White House spokesman in 1991 and the first U.S ambassador to Ukraine, who will speak on “The Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Emergence of an Independent Ukraine: A View From the White House.” The talk begins at 6:30 p.m. at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, 1619 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Rome Auditorium, first floor (near Dupont metro station). Reception to follow. For more information contact Adrian Pidlusky, 240-381-0993 or events@thewashingtongroup.org.

Saturday, January 13

**GLEN SPEY, N.Y.:** The Ukrainian community of Glen Spey and the Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation invites everyone to a Malanka dinner and dance at the Lumberland Senior Center, 1054 Proctor Road. Advance tickets are \$35 per person, \$40 at the door. Cocktails begin at 7:30 p.m. and the dinner buffet at 8:30 p.m. For tickets call Nadia Rajs, 845-856-1650, or Christine Smetaniuk, 845-858-2420.

Saturday, January 13

**CARTERET, N.J.:** St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave. Music will be by Fata Morgana. Tickets are \$50, which includes admission, choice of sirloin beef or stuffed capon dinner, open bar, midnight hors d’oeuvres and a champagne toast. The center is located just blocks from Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike; there is a Holiday Inn right off the exit. Doors will open at 6 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7 p.m.; and the music starts at 8:30 p.m. For table and ticket reservations call Peter Prociuk, 732-541-5452. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Outside liquor is prohibited. Deadline to purchase tickets is January 15.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

Listings of no more than 100 words (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent a week prior to desired date of publication to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510.

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