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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXXV

No. 1

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2007

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Taras Shevchenko statue stolen from Ontario park

TORONTO — A five-meter-high bronze statue of the bard of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861), erected in a park in Oakville, Ontario, was reported stolen on December 30. By January 3 police had charged a local man with possession of stolen property.

The statue was a 1951 gift to the pro-Communist Association of United Ukrainian Canadians from the Kyiv-based Soviet Ukrainian Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

The theft was discovered on December 30, but the statue may have been stolen days earlier since it is located in an isolated area under recent residential development. The Canadian Press reported that a police statement said: "The statue was cut off at the legs and removed sometime between the 15th and 31st of December 2006."

On January 2 the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC) reported that the head of the two-ton statue had turned up at a nearby smelter. Andrew Gregorovich of the Taras Shevchenko Museum, which owns the statue, said he learned the head had been found in Burlington, about 25 kilometers southwest of Oakville.

That discovery supported the theory that the statue had been stolen for the value of the scrap metal, which police estimated at about \$20,000 (Canadian), according to the CBC.

On January 3 the CBC reported that Curtis Raae, 36, of Oakville, was facing charges of possessing stolen property over \$5,000. He was released from custody and is scheduled to appear in court on January 30.

A second man was arrested but later released without charges being filed.

The Burlington metal recycler where the head of the statue was recovered told the Hamilton Spectator that he bought the 80-kilogram piece from two men who told him they were disposing of it on behalf of the town of Oakville. According to CTV News, Gary Thomson of Thomson Metals and Disposal did not melt the piece down, choosing to keep it as a conversation piece. When he discovered it was stolen he contacted the police.

"We've seen statue pieces, but nothing of this quality. It was a beautiful looking piece, but it was cut up with a saw ... even the head had cuts through it," Mr. Thomson said. He paid \$3.74 per kilograms for the head and some smaller

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First 150 days of Yanukovich government harken back to PM's first term in office

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — For those Ukrainians craving the days of Kuchma-era stability, submission to the Russian Federation and a centralized, administrative economic policy, the first 150 days of the Anti-Crisis Coalition government have been a relief.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's second term as prime minister, which began on August 4, bears striking similarity to his two-year tenure under former President Leonid Kuchma, political observers said, proving true the adage about the inability to teach old dogs new tricks.

Progressive reforms are halted or altogether absent, Ukrainian dependence on the Russian Federation is reinforced, government lacks transparency and corruption remains unchecked, in the view of experts — most of whom had scant praise for the coalition government.

"It doesn't have any particular pluses, but at the same time, it doesn't have any big minuses," said Viktor Nebozhenko, director of the Ukrainian Barometer Sociology Service and former close advisor to Mr. Kuchma.

"This government's biggest advantage, at least for Ukraine, is that we know just about how it will develop further. Its economic policies are built upon the active use of administrative governing methods and, in this sense, it strongly differs from the prior Yekhanurov government."

Mr. Yanukovich set a regressive tone for his government when appointing precisely the same ministers who served with him during the Kuchma presidency, namely First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, Vice Prime Minister for Fuel and Energy Andrii Kliuyev and Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Dmytro Tabachnyk.

Although the coalition government began with seven ministers representing pro-Orange forces, only Minister of Defense Anatolii Hrytsenko remains, and observers wonder whether his days are numbered. It is unclear whether Borys Tarasyuk will remain as foreign affairs minister.

During the first 150 days, the coalition government led by the Party of the Regions was preoccupied with expanding its power, as well as capturing those government organs that will serve as future resources in retaining the party's grip on power, political observers said, particularly the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

What the coalition government presented to the public as installing order and stability was in fact the reversal and repeal of reforms made by the prior governments led by Prime Ministers Yurii



Zenon Zawada

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich during one of his appearances before the news media in Kyiv.

Yekhanurov and Yulia Tymoshenko, political observers said.

"The trouble is not even in that this government and ruling coalition don't appear capable of establishing wise taxation, a favorable business environment and a just court system," wrote Yegor Soboliev, a respected Ukrainian journalist. "Something else is scary: it can ruin the current achievements."

A return to centralization

Among the defining characteristics of the Yanukovich government has been its preference for a centralized, administrative economy.

The Socialist Party of Ukraine and the Communist Party of Ukraine, which form the government coalition with the Party of the Regions, have had significant influence in steering the country toward a command economy.

While the Party of the Regions has made efforts to portray itself in the West as supportive of free-market initiatives, its deeds thus far have largely proven otherwise.

Donbas business structures behind the Party of the Regions had benefited enormously from government subsidies provided by the Kuchma government and had many of them returned, said Oles Doniy, chair of the Kyiv-based Center for Political Values Research, which is supported by Ukrainian citizens and is seeking international financing.

Among the first such steps was the reintroduction of free economic zones, or regions with reduced taxes designed to

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Yushchenko approves 2007 budget; observers speculate about possible deal

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — After twice vetoing Ukraine's 2007 government budget for failing to provide adequate pensions, President Viktor Yushchenko approved it on December 22 after the Parliament passed a resolution that considered his demands.

Specifically, the decree agrees to consider gradual increases in the minimum wage and the minimum cost of living standard. Minimum pension increases will also be considered after the first quarter, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said.

"The president tried to win this way symbolically, but fell into the trap of owning up to responsibility for a crisis," said Andrii Yermolayev, president of the Russian-oriented Sofia Center for Social Research.

"In reaching the decision to sign the budget, he reaffirmed that the government and coalition are supposed to carry the cross of responsibility."

Some political players, particularly politicians of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, speculated that President Yushchenko agreed to approve the budget in exchange for personnel concessions from the coalition government.

Minutes after approving the resolution, the Verkhova Rada dismissed Ihor Drizhchanyi as chief of the Security Service of Ukraine, which political observers identified as another one of the president's demands.

Mr. Yushchenko has asked Mr. Drizhchanyi to serve as an assistant secretary in the National Security and Defense Council.

He dismissed Mr. Drizhchanyi at the urging of his advisors, who have questioned his loyalty and effectiveness, political observers said.

It's also possible the president approved the budget in exchange for Borys Tarasyuk remaining as foreign affairs minister, said Oleksander Turchynov, a Tymoshenko Bloc national deputy. Mr. Tarasyuk's status within Ukraine's government remains unclear.

For the third time, the Cabinet of Ministers barred him from attending its weekly meeting on December 27.

Yet, Mr. Yanukovich did not appear to oppose Mr. Tarasyuk's presence during the December 21 visit to Kyiv by Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin.

Ukraine's 2007 budget is about \$32 billion.

ANALYSIS

Quick, dirty fix to Ukraine's long-term energy problem

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Officials have recently touted plans to diversify Ukraine's energy balance by turning to a familiar and readily available resource – coal. The specifics of Ukraine's coal initiative have been made more clear since Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich first floated the idea during his visit to the United States. During his speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington on December 4, 2006, Mr. Yanukovich reasoned that Ukraine's coal reserves would be an obvious solution to the country's efforts to reduce its dependence on natural gas. Upon his return, Prime Minister Yanukovich and Coal Industry Minister Serhii Tulub announced that Ukraine plans to build seven new coal mines. "We will begin developing the technical-economic projections next year," Mr. Tulub told Interfax, adding that construction would begin in 2008. Coal Industry Ministry officials estimate that Ukraine would have to invest 20 billion hryv (\$3.9 billion U.S.) into the project at a time when it is being prodded by the West to close down inefficient mines and retrain miners. Ukraine's coal production is already significant. In 2004 Ukraine imported 6.5 million tons despite mining 59.7 million tons of washed coal of its own. The new mines would increase annual output by 17.7 million tons.

Estimates of the country's coal reserves vary. The World Energy Council estimates Ukraine's reserves at 52 billion tons – eighth largest in the world. The Ukrainian government in 2006 put its estimate at 117.5 billion tons.

Ukraine's appetite for coal is voracious. It currently accounts for 40 percent of the fuel used in power plants, 10 percent in district heating plants and 45 percent in industry.

But the country's dependence on foreign gas is equally great – and the immediacy of its need to address the issue became crystal clear early in the year when Russian gas cut-offs and price negotiations made life miserable for citizens and the politicians who represent them.

The suggestion of increasing coal production as a solution to Ukraine's overdependence on Central Asian and Russian gas is not a new one. It has been mentioned numerous times by the various administrations in Kyiv, yet none went so far as to construct new mines.

A lack of urgency – one that no longer exists – was one factor. When Turkmen and Russian gas destined for Ukraine was priced artificially low, former President Leonid Kuchma's government did not see the need to rush into expanding coal production.

Rampant corruption within the coal industry was another reason. Long regarded as one of the most corruption-prone industries in Ukraine, coal mining is the mainstay of regional coal barons and clans in the Donbas region. These powerful figures have been able to exercise their political influence by calling strikes that can threaten to cripple the national economy. Few in Kyiv have been willing to challenge the barons – or hand them more power by building new mines.

In addition, the overall inefficiency of coal mining in Ukraine has scared away foreign investors, while geological factors have made coal mining in Ukraine an expensive, inefficient and dangerous business in the Donbas region, for instance, 35 percent of the coal beds are "steep enough to make extraction of coal possible only by hand," according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). This leads to highly dangerous working conditions and

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OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation concludes its landmark 500th meeting

VIENNA – The Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) has become a major mechanism for ensuring the norms of openness and transparency work in the politico-military sphere of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). This was the main point made at a landmark 500th meeting of the forum held in Vienna on November 29, 2006.

"Since its first meeting on September 22, 1992, the FSC has remained a key negotiating body within the OSCE," said Ambassador Barbara Gibson of Canada, the FSC chair, addressing delegates and guests at the meeting at the OSCE's Hofburg venue.

"New developments in the European and global security landscape have forced us to set priorities and focus on those threats which are common to all, or which pose regional risks to some. This does not mean that the era of 'traditional' arms control and disarmament agreements has passed. The implementation of existing documents and treaties will remain a crucial element of the OSCE security architecture," she explained.

OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut added, "The FSC projects and activities enforce the organization's ability to deal with new tasks and

contribute to strengthening security in the region."

In 2006 the FSC was chaired by Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Canada. During this period, the forum held a high-level seminar which examined changes in military doctrine derived from evolving threats, changing forms of conflict, and emerging technologies and their impact on armed forces and their defense structures.

National strategies and action plans to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ways of keeping them out of reach of terrorist groups were the focus of an FSC meeting in November.

Implementing OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition was also on this year's FSC agenda, with projects being carried out in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Projects on eliminating surplus rocket fuel ("melange"), a highly toxic missile fuel component, are on the way in several states.

The FSC works closely with the United Nations, NATO, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the European Union.

NEWSBRIEFS

Ukraine offers gas transit to Europe

KYIV – Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuri Boiko declared in Kyiv on December 28 that Ukraine is ready to increase natural gas transit from Russia to Europe through its territory in the event of a break in Russian gas supplies through Belarus, Interfax-Ukraine reported. "We are capable of helping European consumers by increasing transit in amounts that could be necessary to ensure stable functioning of our neighbors in the European Union," Mr. Boiko said. But he also voiced the hope that Gazprom and Belarus will reach agreement in their current row about gas supplies and transit in 2007 to ensure stable gas transit through Belarus. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Belarus, Russia sign last-minute deal

MOSCOW – On December 31 in Moscow, two minutes before the expiration of the previous contract for natural-gas supplies, Belarus and Gazprom signed a new deal securing Russian gas supplies to Belarus and Russian gas transit across Belarus for 2007-2011, Belarusian and Russian media reported. Under the new contract, Belarus is to pay \$100 for 1,000 cubic meters in 2007 compared with \$46.68 in the previous two and a half years. The gas price for Belarus is to gradually increase to the European market level by 2011: 67 percent of the level in 2008, 80 percent in 2009, 90 percent in 2010 and 100 percent in 2011. The two sides also agreed that the price of transit via Belarus through Belarus's pipelines will increase from \$0.75 in 2006 to \$1.45 for 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers and will not change during these five years. Gazprom also agreed to pay \$2.5 billion for its 50 percent stake in Beltransgaz, Belarus's gas-distribution network, in equal installments during the following four years. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko vetoes several bills

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has imposed a veto on three bills recently adopted by the Verkhovna Rada, includ-

ing on a list of state properties subject to privatization in 2007, the Ukrayinska Pravda website reported on December 28. In rejecting the 2007 privatization list, Mr. Yushchenko said the Verkhovna Rada overstepped its constitutional prerogatives, which allow lawmakers to compile a list of prohibited privatizations, not the opposite. Presidential Secretariat Vice-Chairman Arsenii Yatseniuk told journalists on December 28 that Mr. Yushchenko is also going to veto a bill on the Cabinet of Ministers approved by the Verkhovna Rada the previous week. Mr. Yatseniuk noted that national deputies failed to take into account 86 amendments to the bill submitted by the president. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yanukovich most notable politician

KYIV – According to a recent poll conducted by the Sofia Social Research Center, 27.7 percent of respondents said Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich was "the politician of the year 2006," Interfax-Ukraine reported on December 28. Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous opposition bloc, was given this title by 22.2 percent of respondents, and President Viktor Yushchenko by 6 percent. In a similar poll, the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies had found that Mr. Yanukovich is seen as the most notable Ukrainian politician in 2006 by 26 percent of Ukrainians, Ms. Tymoshenko by 19.2 percent, and Mr. Yushchenko by 8.6 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

If pre-term elections were held...

KYIV – The Party of the Regions, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Our Ukraine Bloc and the Communist and Socialist parties would make it into the next Verkhovna Rada if pre-term elections were to be held. That was the finding of a poll conducted by the Razumkov Center of Economic and Political Studies. The poll results were as follows: 26.4 percent would support the Regions; 20.2 the Tymoshenko Bloc; 8.2 Our Ukraine, 3.9 percent, Socialist Party; 3.8 percent,

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$55; for UNA members – \$45.

Periodicals postage paid at Parsippany, NJ 07054 and additional mailing offices. (ISSN – 0273-9348)

The Weekly:

Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510

UNA:

Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:

The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

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The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com; e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, Sunday, January 7, 2007 No. 1, Vol. LXXV

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SPOTLIGHT: The generation that never knew the Soviet Union

RFE/RL Central Newsroom

On December 8, 1991, the leaders of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine gathered at a site in the Belarusian forest of Belavezhskaya Puscha to declare that the Soviet Union was dead.

They announced the formation of a new alliance, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). For those who lived through it, it was a heady but uncertain time. Hopes of social change and political freedom mixed with fears of economic freefall and the disintegration of state institutions. But what about those with no memory of that time?

RFE/RL spoke to young people born in December 1991 and living in the former USSR about their experiences as the first post-Soviet generation.

"I had heard that the Soviet Union was dissolved in December 1991. My parents tell me about that time a lot," says Jangyl Tashbayeva, who was born on December 27 in the city of Osh, in southern Kyrgyzstan. "There was a lot of hardship at that time. Instead of helping each other, people at that time thought only about their own fate. It was a very hard time."

"I know about communism through what I heard from my parents and grandparents," says 15-year-old Ayrat, who grew up in Tatarstan. "I heard that in the Brezhnev era life was easier because it was a calm time. But if you consider the period before Brezhnev, for example the Stalin and Lenin eras, it was harder for people due to mass repression. So I'd choose the Brezhnev era to live in, because that was the calmest time."

Born thousands of miles apart, the only thing these teenagers share is the month and year of their birth – December 1991.

It was the month the Soviet Union collapsed, the Commonwealth of Independent States was formed, and life as many people knew it was changed forever.

Inga Ghukasyan was born December 4 in the Armenian capital of Yerevan, where she still lives with her parents – her engineer father, Edik, and her mother, Marina, a mathematician.

A pretty 15-year-old with long dark hair, Ghukasyan is growing up in a different world than her parents. She studies English instead of Russian, is already intent upon becoming an economist, and looks to herself – rather than the state – to ensure her success in a highly competitive educational environment.

"I have heard from my parents that getting a higher education was easier and living conditions were better then than they are now. I think when my parents were my age, they had more privileges than I do. Living now is a struggle; you have to work hard to succeed," Inga says. "In their school years, my parents had no problem entering a university and gaining a profession with the base knowledge they acquired in school. But for me, though now I study hard at school, I can't enter university unless I have private classes to get prepared for my entrance exams."

Other CIS teenagers have inherited similarly positive notions of life in the Soviet Union.

Jangyl's father was a tradesman in Soviet times, but now owns a store in Bishkek. Her mother gave up her Soviet-era career as a nurse to work as a shop assistant.

Jangyl, the second of three children who says her favorite hobbies are music and dancing, says her parents sometimes speak fondly of the Soviet Union. A fam-

ily photo shows a younger Jangyl with her father.

"They say good things. For instance, before 1991 they were able to buy a lot of things for one som [Soviet ruble.] It was much better than the prices we have today. A box of matches was just a tyiyn [Soviet kopek]. For one som, they used to be able to fill an entire basket. They could buy all their food for one som," Jangyl says.

For Aleh Sushko, a 15-year-old living in Belarus, it wasn't money that was a problem for his parents. It was finding something to buy with it.

"They've told me that the situation in 1991 was very difficult. In order to buy food, they needed to stand in very long lines. At that time [people] had money, but there was nothing to buy. And now it's the other way. You can buy almost everything but you don't have the money to do it," Aleh says.

Aleh's birthday is December 8, the day the Soviet Union was formally declared defunct. He lives with his parents in a modest two-room apartment in Zyalony Luh, a suburb of Miensk. The family does not have a car or a dacha, but they do have several bicycles, a piano, and shelves filled with rows and rows of books.

For children born in December 1991, the 15 years of post-Soviet life are all they've ever known. But what was it like for the parents who saw their children come into the world just as the USSR was falling apart.

In Yerevan, Inga's father, Edik Ghukasyan, said it was a difficult time to bring a child into the world.

"I remember December 1991. Awful

times. ... We had no electricity, it was very cold, and we had very bad living conditions. The Soviet Union had collapsed and Armenia had become a newly independent state," Edik says. "Everyone in Armenia was going out to join street protests. We wanted to be independent, and then we were, and we were very glad for that. ... We didn't stop to think about the impact it would have on our children's lives. It was something that needed to happen, and it happened."

Belarus under autocratic leader Alyaksandr Lukashenka has, more than other former republics, maintained Soviet-style characteristics. But it has seen dramatic changes as well.

Aleh Sushko's mother, 41-year-old Iryna, says the years following the collapse of the Soviet Union have been a mix of good and bad: "Everyday life has perhaps become better when we compare it to the perestroika years. At that time it was so difficult to get food and clothes for babies; you could only get them with coupons. But morally it was better at the beginning. [Now] the Soviet [state] symbols have returned, Stalin has once again become a hero in Belarus, [and] history and the constitution are being rewritten."

In Kyrgyzstan, Jangyl Tashbayeva's parents say that despite the difficulties of the time, they're happy to have brought a child into a rapidly changing world.

Jangyl's mother, Maria, says she and her husband saw an independent Kyrgyzstan as a chance to give their daughter a secure future.

"Now every person has started to fight for his own life. If Kyrgyzstan can stand on its own feet, we hope it will be good for the lives of our children. Now we have both the good life and hardship, coexisting at the same time."

Women leaders from Ukraine participate in seminars in Washington

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — A group of seven young women leaders from Ukraine spent the second week of December in the Capital area expanding their knowledge and experience with the goal of advancing the role of women in the economic, political and social development of their country.

The women professionals – some with positions in local and national governments; others from non-governmental organizations – participated in the latest management seminar for Ukrainian women leaders sponsored by the Open World Leadership Center and administered by Vital Voices Global Partnership.

They participated in seminars with Washington-based organizations specializing in such areas as issue advocacy and influencing policy-makers, political participation, resource development, fundraising, social marketing, effective communication, combatting trafficking and other forms of violence against women, victim protection and rehabilitation, and environmental and other issues.

The program also included a session with Ambassador Oleh Shamshur at the Embassy of Ukraine, a concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, a weekend living with host families in the community and a pre-Christmas reception hosted by Laryssa and Ambassador William Courtney.

Participating in this latest group were: Halyna Bondaruk, a local government issues specialist at the Pylyp Orlyk Democracy Institute in Lviv; Iryna Bozhych, director of the Rubizhne city



Women leaders from Ukraine participating in a recent development and management program in Washington were the guests of a pre-Christmas dinner reception hosted by Laryssa Courtney (seated left). Standing behind her (third from the left) amidst the Ukrainian visitors and other guests is Melanne Vermeer, chair of Vital Voices Global Partnership, which organized the weeklong program.

Youth and Family Affairs Department (Luhansk Oblast); Yuliya Kyrychenko, deputy head of Institutional Politics Development Services in the Secretariat of the President of Ukraine in Kyiv; Olha Shved, regional director of End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Ukraine and former Soviet countries; Valentyna Andriyishyna, director of Khmelnytskinfocenter, commu-

enterprise in Khmelnytsk; Elza Leshchenko, director of the Family and Gender Policy Department for the Kirovohrad Oblast at the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports in Kyiv; and Svitlana Yevchenko, head of the Department for Family, Youth and Sport of the Zhytomyr State Regional Administration.

Accompanying the group were two

Ukrainian "facilitators" who helped administer the program here: Mariya Shevchuk, a sales manager at the MFK Investment Bank in Kyiv, and Nataliya Mazur, animation projects manager at the ART Video Animation Production Studio in Kyiv.

This was the eighth group of Ukrainian women to participate this training program since 2001.

First 150 days...

(Continued from page 1)

stimulate business, which were eliminated by Ms. Tymoshenko's government because they had become breeding grounds for abuse and corruption.

To take advantage of similar subsidies and loopholes, the coalition government centralized the concentration and administration of budget resources and investments as much as possible, said Mr. Doniy, a member of the Socialist Party. As a consequence, many social programs had to be cut, and wage and pension increases were kept to a minimum, he said.

The Party of the Regions further subverted its pro-markets image when imposing quota restrictions on grain exports in October, drawing sharp complaints from grain industry leaders and traders.

Party leaders said the measure was necessary to keep grain within Ukraine and prevent excessive amounts from being sold abroad.

Such policy diverges from the strong support for free markets demonstrated by President Viktor Yushchenko, who interfered with Ms. Tymoshenko's use of similar government levers in Ukraine's sugar and gasoline markets.

The punctual drafting of the 2007 budget was among the coalition government's successes, some political

observers said, as was the courage to execute sharp, drastic hikes in utility bills for maintenance purposes, and to cover debts.

Critics allege, however, that the sharp utility price hikes occurred without a strategy for improving or renovating aging infrastructures, and are another example of exploiting government resources for corruption.

No economic relief

Though the Party of the Regions had advertised during the 2006 parliamentary campaign that its ties to the Russian Federation would translate into stable natural gas prices, it failed to live up to that campaign promise.

On October 24, 2006, Mr. Yanukovich inked a deal with the Russians in which Ukraine would pay \$130 per 1,000 cubic meter of natural gas – a 37 percent increase from the January 2006 price of \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters.

So, while the Party of the Regions led a January vote in Parliament to dismiss the Yekhanurov government for agreeing to a 90 percent price hike, its own deal with the Russians was poor.

For example, Mr. Yekhanurov's team was at least able to extract higher natural gas transit rates from the Russian Federation through Ukraine's system, while the Yanukovich government failed to achieve any such increase.

The Yekhanurov government would

have just as easily obtained the \$130 per 1,000 cubic meters price as the Yanukovich government did, experts said.

After the deal's announcement, President Yushchenko mocked the coalition leaders for failing to defend Ukraine's \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters price after claiming in January they could have maintained the price at \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters.

The higher natural gas prices had a multiplier effect throughout the economy, said Andrii Yermolayev, president of the Kyiv-based Sofia Center for Social Research.

Utility bills increased as much as two- and threefold throughout Ukraine, particularly in larger cities such as Kharkiv and Kyiv. Goods and services inflation, for example, was twice as high in October alone, about 2.6 percent, compared to the same month a year earlier.

Inflation during the Yanukovich months proved just as problematic as during the Yekhanurov and Tymoshenko governments, though some political observers said the current authority is merely bearing earlier inflationary burdens.

At the same time, Ukrainians aren't getting any relief from the higher costs of living from the government.

Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko fiercely criticized the 2007 budget for failing to raise minimum pensions adequately to meet the minimal cost of living standards. Meanwhile, the average income tax for Ukrainians increased from 13 to 15 percent in the 2007 budget.

"Rather than dealing with economic problems and programs, most of (the government's) time and effort is wasted on removing economic and political authority from President Yushchenko," Mr. Nebozhenko said.

Opaque governance

The lack of government transparency during the Kuchma years has returned to Ukrainian government with the ascent of the Anti-Crisis Coalition government, political observers said.

The Cabinet of Ministers released the 2007 budget just one day before the Verkhovna Rada was to vote on it, which the Tymoshenko Bloc said was a blatant attempt by the coalition to limit analysis or debate.

The October natural gas agreement disturbed many political observers because of its lack of transparency. Though Ukrainian journalists have had increasing access to government negotiations and deals, the natural gas deal was shrouded in secrecy.

The formula used to determine Ukraine's price for natural gas remains unclear, as do the criteria for price increases, experts said.

Though Mr. Yanukovich claimed the government had secured natural gas delivery guarantees from the Russian Federation through 2010, there is no document proving so.

"Even if the government gets a 'normal' price for gas in 2007, it is unlikely to convince the public that it has done so," reported a November newsletter prepared by the Kyiv-based International Center for Policy Studies (ICPS), a Western-oriented think-tank. "Most people are either confused or concerned by the limited and conflicting information they are receiving."

As an example of the disturbing regress of government transparency, Mr. Soboliev reported that former Minister of Finance Viktor Pynzenyk wasn't able to obtain government statistics from the very ministry he used to chair. He had to get the statistics from the Presidential Secretariat, Mr. Soboliev reported in the November 11 issue of *Korrespondent* magazine.

Mother Russia looms

It was no surprise that the Russian Federation expressed immediate support for the Anti-Crisis Coalition government when it was formed in August.

Mr. Yanukovich returned the favor when traveling to a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) conference in Brussels and announced on September 14 that Ukraine would not adopt a Membership Action Plan, as had been planned for the November meeting in Riga.

The announcement shocked the Presidential Secretariat and "created an impression among Ukraine's international partners that the government is disorganized and is unable to coordinate a clear policy among different domestic interest groups," ICPS reported.

In his foreign policy, Mr. Yanukovich has adopted Mr. Kuchma's "multi-vector" approach, which involves paying lip service to the West while executing policies favorable to the Russian Federation, some observers said.

In addition to business and foreign policy concessions, the coalition government has renewed Russian cultural imperialism in Ukraine.

Vice Prime Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Tabachnyk and Minister of Culture Yurii Bohutskyi are planning increased cultural cooperation between Ukraine and Russia.

During Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin's December 21 visit to Kyiv, Mr. Bohutskyi signed an agreement to cooperate in cultural activity, particularly music, theater, folk art, circus art and cinematography.

Mr. Tabachnyk, meanwhile, has shown little to no interest in supporting Ukrainian culture and the language.

When Russophiles, who dominate film distribution in Ukraine, resisted a government decree making them dub foreign films into the Ukrainian language, Mr. Tabachnyk supported them. The distributors argue the government should provide financial subsidies to perform Ukrainian-language dubbing.

"Dubbing films is supposed to be productively and financially justified," Mr. Tabachnyk said in November. "If we dub foreign films completely, then we place the economic burden on those who organize the films."

No clear strategy

Through executing its "Anti-Crisis Program," the coalition government lauded itself for "normalizing" relations with the Russian Federation, particularly in the energy sector, restraining inflation and stimulating investment in Ukraine.

Going into 2007, however, the coalition government has no clear strategy or program for the Ukrainian nation, other than Mr. Yanukovich's repeated calls for order and stability, political observers said.

The document forming the Anti-Crisis Coalition was three pages long, while the Universal of National Unity that President Yushchenko had struggled so hard to achieve is worthless because the Our Ukraine bloc left the coalition.

It's unclear whether the Party of the Regions campaign of usurping authority will extend as far the Ukrainian presidency itself.

Once the Party of the Regions extends its quest for power as far it can go, political observers fear it will use its authority to undermine Ukraine's national interests.

"Without a clear strategy for action agreed upon by the coalition partners, the government itself does not seem to know what it wants to do," noted the ICPS newsletter. "It has fueled suspicion among its opponents that it is only concerned with promoting its own business interests at the expense of most other social and economic spheres."

Taras Shevchenko...

(Continued from page 1)

fragments of bronze from the statue.

Police are continuing the search for the rest of the statue and they are analyzing the pieces found for evidence.

The statue – the oldest Shevchenko monument in Canada – had been chopped off at the feet by vandals and carted away. A ladder and pieces of rope were found at the scene, and tire tracks were evident.

Mr. Gregorovich of the Shevchenko Museum was quoted by the CBC as saying that it was "unbelievable" that such a large monument could have been removed. He surmised that large equipment such as a crane would have been required to lift the statue off its three-meter-high base.

"This was a well-planned, well-organized theft," Mr. Gregorovich told the Toronto Sun.

The statue was unveiled on July 1, 1951, to mark the 60th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada. Mr. Gregorovich estimated that the monu-

ment had a value of \$350,000.

Commenting on this theft, the director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, said: "While it is true that Ukrainians everywhere honor Ukraine's greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko, the statue stolen from Palermo [as that part of Oakville is known] was unveiled by the Soviets and fellow travelers in Canada as a propaganda exercise. It was denounced as such at the time and has been remembered for what it was, ever since. No self-respecting Ukrainian Canadian would ever have anything to do with it. So, by all means, catch and prosecute the thieves, but let's not whitewash the bandits who hid behind this statue in the first place."

The park where the Shevchenko statue stood was also home to the Taras Shevchenko Museum from 1952 to 1988, when it was burned by vandals. The museum was rebuilt on Bloor Street West in Toronto.

A smaller bronze statue of Shevchenko was stolen from the park entrance several years ago, according to the Toronto Star.

Quotable notes

"...If Russia adheres to the positions expressed in the statements of its Foreign Ministry [of October 26 and November 13, 2006 – ed.], that perpetuating the memory of the victims of the artificial Famine is an anti-Russian campaign, then we will not be able to find mutual understanding. Such an interpretation of the Famine is absurd and disrespectful of the suffering of the Ukrainian people. Ukraine is not setting for itself the goal of bringing various individuals in Russia to personal responsibility, but we also cannot ignore the memory of 7 to 10 million innocent victims – our fathers and grandfathers.

"Ukraine also believes that the statements of the Foreign Ministry of Russia regarding discrimination against the Russian language also do not correspond to reality. When Russia opens the first Ukrainian school for the 4.5 million Ukrainians living there, then we will be able to speak of at least some approximation of parity and mutual respect. The list of questions on which we hold varying points of view is considerably broader. These are topics of the division of liabilities and assets of the former USSR, delimitation and demarcation of boundaries, and fulfillment of agreements on the presence of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on the territory of Ukraine. ..."

– Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk in a November 15, 2006, interview with the Russian newspaper *Vremya Novostei*, as reported by *Transitions Online* on November 29.

Alberta inaugurates its first Ukrainian Canadian premier

EDMONTON, Alberta – Ed Stelmach, member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Alberta, was sworn in as the province's premier on December 14 in a ceremony that spotlighted his Ukrainian heritage. Mr. Stelmach is Alberta's first premier of Ukrainian descent.

Ukrainian News of Edmonton reported that, prior to the start of the official program, the Ukrainian choir Axios sang several Christmas and liturgical pieces before an audience of 1,000 gathered for the outdoor swearing-in ceremony. During the ceremony the choir sang "Otche Nash" (Our Father) and concluded with a rousing "Mnohaya Lita" (Many Years). The invocation was delivered by Metropolitan Laurence Huculak, primate of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada.

In his acceptance speech the new premier said that Alberta has the means to building a stronger province and future for its children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. "My goal is to make that future a bright one for all Albertans," he said, pledging to work for all the province's residents – north and south,

rural and urban, and young and old. Premier Stelmach said that, in addition to working with his team, he would "be looking to Albertans themselves for ideas and feedback."

The 55-year-old Mr. Stelmach called his inauguration day "one of the most humbling days of my life," as well as "one of the most exciting days of my life."

Mr. Stelmach was elected leader of the province's ruling Progressive Conservative Party on December 2. He defeated former Finance Minister Jim Dinning by a vote of 77,512 to 51,282 on the second ballot, thus becoming the premier designate.

He has been a member of the Alberta Legislative Assembly, where he represented the Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville constituency, since 1993.

He was born on May 11, 1951, and reared in the Lamont area on the homestead established by his grandparents, who arrived in Canada in 1898 from the Brody area, today part of the Lviv Oblast in Ukraine. He continues to live on the homestead with his wife, Marie. The

Stelmachs have four children and one grandchild.

Mr. Stelmach is an active member of the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Krakow, Alberta, as well as Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Mundare, Alberta, where he attends services on those Sundays when there are none in Krakow. He is active also in many local community groups, ranging from local hospital boards to the 4-H Club.

He was first elected to public office as a representative in Lamont County. A year later he was appointed as a reeve (the presiding officer of the local council) and held that position for five years.

After being elected to the Legislative Assembly he was appointed deputy whip and later as government caucus whip. He joined with fellow Ukrainian Canadian MLA Laurence Decore, former mayor of Edmonton, in forming the first Alberta-Ukraine legislative group, which is credited with bringing many Ukrainian parliamentarians to Alberta on programs that allowed them to study the province's reg-

ulatory regimes.

He held four ministerial posts: agriculture (1997-1999), infrastructure (1999-2001), transportation (2001-2004), and international and intergovernmental relations (2004-2006). He stepped down from the latter post in March 2006 in order to run for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Premier Stelmach named a fellow Ukrainian to his Cabinet: Ray Danyluk as minister of municipal affairs. Janis Tarchuk, who is married to Ukrainian Canadian Byron Tarchuk, was named minister of children's services.

However, another Ukrainian, Minister of Education Gene Zwozdesky, was dropped from the Cabinet, which has been reduced from 24 to 18 members. He was replaced by Ron Leipert.

– The story above is based on materials published in *Ukrainian News of Edmonton*, including reporting by its editor-in-chief, Marco Levytsky, as well as other sources, including the *Edmonton media* and *Alberta government reports*.

Canadian Friends of Ukraine promote awareness of Famine-Genocide

by Lisa Shymko

TORONTO – As the 75th anniversary of Ukraine's Famine-Genocide approaches, the Canadian Friends of Ukraine have begun a series of activities and programs aimed at expanding international public awareness of this tragedy.

As a first step, on November 27, 2006, the Canadian Friends of Ukraine, in cooperation with the Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada, hosted a special evening titled "Gareth Jones: The Man Who Knew Too Much."

The CFU's president, Prof. Jurij Darewych, provided opening remarks, and Ukraine's newly appointed ambassador to Canada, Ihor Ostash, delivered official greetings. The guest speaker was introduced by the CFU's executive director, Lisa Shymko.

A large Toronto audience welcomed the special guest, Nigel Colley, an author and independent researcher from the United Kingdom. Mr. Colley is the great-nephew of the acclaimed Welsh newspaper journalist Gareth Jones.

Utilizing original photographs and documents in his visual presentation, Mr. Colley delivered a moving address about the historic contributions made by his great-uncle. In 1933 Jones, a brilliant and idealistic 28-year-old journalist from Wales, published the first signed exposé in the United States and Britain on Stalin's deliberately imposed famine in Ukraine. His articles appeared in *The Western Mail*, *The Times*, *The London Evening Standard*, *The Manchester Guardian*, *The Berliner Tageblatt*, *The New York Evening Post* and other U.S. newspapers through the International News Service.

Fluent in several languages, including Russian, Jones, a foreign affairs advisor to former British Prime Minister Lloyd George, took a secret train trip to Ukraine. Jones' off-limits Ukrainian trek in the snowy early days of March 1933 took him to villages where he spoke to peasants and witnessed, first hand, their hunger and despair.

Two years later, in January 1935, American press baron Randolph Hearst gave Jones a carte blanche opportunity to re-visit Ukraine. The resulting articles represent some of the most vitriolic attacks on the Stalinist regime of the time. It is believed that Jones was in fact the first journalist to use the phrase

"man-made famine" when describing Stalin's atrocities in Ukraine.

Apologist journalists like *The New York Times'* Walter Duranty tried to discredit Jones, Moscow branded Jones a liar and banned him from re-entering the USSR, and fellow journalists like Malcolm Muggeridge tried to airbrush him out of existence.

In 1934 Jones penned an ominous letter to a friend. He wrote that he had recently learned that he had become a marked man on the black list of the OGPU (secret police) and was barred from entering the Soviet Union. Soviet Foreign Affairs Commissar Maxim Litvinov sent a special cable from Moscow to the Soviet Embassy in London, filing an official complaint against Jones with former British PM George.

In 1935, on the eve of his 30th birthday, Jones was mysteriously kidnapped and murdered in the Far East. For decades he was believed to have been killed by reckless Chinese bandits. But documents recently uncovered at the British Public Records Office in London indicate that Moscow likely had a direct hand in his murder by way of two Soviet secret agents operating in China.

Recent evidence has uncovered that the vehicle in which Jones was travelling when kidnapped in Mongolia was registered to a trading front of the Soviet NKVD, whose local manager, Adam Purpiss, was associated with the Cheka (Soviet secret police). Furthermore, whereas Jones was kidnapped and killed, the German journalist who accompanied him, Herbert Mueller, was released unharmed. According to British Intelligence, Mueller was a known Communist who travelled under assumed aliases, stayed at the Soviet Consulate in China and was the Comintern's representative in China.

Authoritarian regimes have long feared the threat posed by outspoken journalists and writers. Sadly, to the list of inconvenient truth-tellers, such as Heorhii Gongadze, Anna Politkovskaya and Alexander Litvinenko, the name of Gareth Jones must be added.

The Canadian Friends of Ukraine are working to ensure that the historic contributions made by individuals such as Jones in exposing the truth about the Famine-Genocide reach a wide audience. For example, the Canadian Friends of



During a special program dedicated to Gareth Jones (from left) are: Daria Darewych (president, Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada), Jurij Darewych (president, Canadian Friends of Ukraine), Margaret Shpir (CFU vice-president), Ambassador Ihor Ostash (Ukraine's envoy to Canada), Nigel Colley (author and guest speaker) and Lisa Shymko (CFU executive director).

Ukraine facilitated several in-depth interviews on the topic, which aired on CBC Radio's "As It Happens" hosted by Carol Off and CFRB Radio's "Morning Show with Ted Woloshyn."

This past year, representatives of the Canadian Friends of Ukraine met with deputies in Kyiv from all of Ukraine's parliamentary factions to discuss various human rights issues, including the urgency to recognize the Famine as a national genocide.

On November 28, 2006, the Parliament of Ukraine passed a law recognizing the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 as a genocide. Those voting in favor (233 deputies) were primarily members of the former Orange coalition, namely, Our Ukraine, the Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialist Party. The Party of the Regions and the Communists either refused to vote, abstained or were absent. In fact, of the 186 members of the Party of Regions, only two deputies – Hanna Herman and Taras Chornovil – supported the vote.

The fact that so many politicians in Ukraine, particularly those from the eastern and southern regions, have little knowledge about the Famine should not be surprising. Many Soviet-era crimes have been visibly absent from the history curricula offered by Ukraine's educational system. That is why the programs undertaken by the Canadian Friends of Ukraine, such as the Canada-Ukraine Library Centers, Teachers' Awards Program and Crimea Project, are essential to raising public awareness of these issues.

In 2007, to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Ukraine's tragic Genocide, the Canadian Friends of Ukraine plan to expand their activities and programs in Canada and Ukraine to ensure that the international community accord the Famine-Genocide the historic recognition that has been long overdue.

For more information, or to send contributions, write to: Canadian Friends of Ukraine, 620 Spadina Ave., Toronto, ON M5S 2H4.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Fifteen years ago

Fifteen years ago, on December 25, 1991, the Soviet Union ceased to exist when its president, Mikhail Gorbachev, announced his resignation. His move followed the December 1 nationwide referendum that affirmed the independence of a key republic of the USSR – Ukraine – and the December 8 establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States by the USSR's three Slavic republics.

The Gorbachev resignation formalized what most already understood: the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had collapsed.

A month earlier, in a letter presented by a 15-member delegation of Ukrainian community leaders at a specially convened meeting on November 27 with President George H.W. Bush, Mykhailo Horyn, chairman of the Political Council of Rukh and a people's deputy of Ukraine, had written:

"The last empire in the world is dying of natural causes before our eyes. Attempts by its leader Mikhail Gorbachev to halt this process of dissolution are unsuccessful. He now understands this and is seeking help from countries in the West. ... Democratic forces in Ukraine are hopeful that the United States will support the republics on their way to independence, particularly Ukraine, which for more than 300 years has been a colony of the empire.

"On your position toward the dying empire, Mr. President, depends in great measure our future road to freedom: it can be short and peaceful, if you were to recognize Ukraine quickly as an independent state and lend it a certain amount of assistance, or long and difficult, if you were to support the dying empire, which has placed in Ukraine a one-and-a-half-million-man army."

The Ukrainian American delegation met with the president just days before Ukraine's referendum on independence and presidential election of December 1. Our community leaders came to the meeting, which was requested by noted Republican activist Taras Szmagala Sr., equipped with a position paper on U.S.-Ukraine relations and certain of the outcome of the referendum. Mr. Bush was reminded of his past support for Ukraine and his promotion of Ukraine's right to self-determination in keynote addresses at the 1974 and 1982 conventions of the Ukrainian National Association. "That independence will be a reality in four days, Mr. President," Mr. Szmagala underscored.

In the unprecedented national referendum of December 1, 1991, more than 90 percent of Ukraine's citizens voted "yes" to affirm the independence of Ukraine proclaimed just over three months earlier, on August 24. As Vladimir Ilyich Lenin once said: "If we lose Ukraine, we lose our head." And so it came to pass.

Once the referendum results were announced, Poland and Canada became the first and second countries, respectively, to recognize independent Ukraine. The United States, alas, would refrain from immediately recognizing Ukraine, doing so only after Mr. Gorbachev announced his resignation. (U.S. recognition came on December 25, just hours after Mr. Gorbachev's announcement.) A month later, on January 23, 1992, an exchange of diplomatic notes in Kyiv marked the formal extension of diplomatic recognition. Canada did likewise on January 27.

Meanwhile, meeting in Belarus on December 7-8, the presidents of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine – the latter being newly elected President Leonid Kravchuk – signed an agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States. That, observers said, was the final nail in the coffin of the dying USSR.

Back in 1991, in an editorial titled "Life after December 1," we wrote: "After the celebrations of independence cease, after the euphoria subsides, the new, free democratic state of Ukraine will only begin the long and difficult road to true independence." In many ways, that long and difficult road continues. For even after the glorious days of the Orange Revolution that took place just two years ago, Ukraine's path is not straight and smooth.

Nonetheless, as we begin another new year, – a year that will mark Ukraine's 16th anniversary of independence – it is worthwhile to recall where Ukraine has been, and how far it has traveled. And, as 2007 begins, we wish Ukraine and its people Godspeed as they continue their remarkable journey.

Jan.
10
1982

Turning the pages back...

The Ukrainian Weekly reported 25 years ago the first lawsuit against the KGB. Viktor Tomachinsky – a little-known writer, auto mechanic, Soviet dissident and would-be lawyer – went to court on December 8, 1981, to press the first known

lawsuit against the KGB, as reported by the Christian Science Monitor.

Mr. Tomachinsky's case against the KGB and the Soviet Ministry of the Internal Affairs sought a pay-out of 13,400 rubles (approximately \$19,000) because he said they reneged on a promise to provide exit visas earlier that year, causing him serious monetary loss.

Thinking he had a verbal and binding contract with the Soviet spy agency, Mr. Tomachinsky quit his job as a mechanic. He sued the agency and the ministry for monies he claimed he could have earned abroad, had the agency kept its word and let him leave. This was not Mr. Tomachinsky's first lawsuit in Soviet courts, as he had filed five other lawsuits against the authorities in as many years.

The judge took 45 minutes to reach his decision to dismiss the case against the KGB, insisting that the court did not have jurisdiction in such a suit. He did not recommend what citizens could do to protect themselves from governmental abuses of power.

Three months later, on March 11, 1982, the 36-year-old mechanic was sentenced by a Moscow court to serve a one-year jail term for parasitism and forbidden him to live in Moscow for five years after his release.

Source: "Auto mechanic sues KGB," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, January 10, 1982.

REFLECTIONS

Christmas in excelsis

by Alexander B. Kuzma

To fully appreciate the meaning of Christmas celebrated by our forefathers, sometimes one needs to reach beyond the ordinary, even at the risk of going to extremes.

It was one year ago when my wife, Irene, and I and our three little girls spent Christmas Eve in a farmhouse in the town of Olesko, on the eastern outskirts of Lviv Oblast, near my father's home village of Khvativ. It was a spectacular moonlit night with a deep frost that left us huddling under many down covers in my uncle's guestroom. At 5 a.m. on Christmas morning my uncle woke me: "Don't even think of taking your kids to Liturgy this morning," he said. "The church is not heated, and it's well below zero out there."

I was crestfallen. Here was their once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience a Christmas service in their grandfather's village, and they would have to miss it. But I had to take my uncle at his word. A tough, leathery-skinned farmer, Vuiko (Uncle) Stephan spent most of his life outdoors and could handle even the harshest elements. If he said it was too cold for the kids, I would have to trust his judgment.

Deciding to go it alone, I crept out of the house before sunrise and joined my uncle and a small cluster of neighbors as they locked elbows and shuffled with minced steps down the hard-frozen paths that led to the town square. Christmas liturgy began at 7 a.m. The sky was a crystalline indigo blue shading to turquoise on the eastern horizon. An elfish owl called out from a small hemlock as we made our way down the rutted road.

Gradually I heard more voices joining the procession: "Christ is born! Glorify Him!" The greeting was muted, more of a shuddered whisper than a cry of exuberance, as the shadowy figures braced against the lung-cracking chill. I thought of the old underground Church when Ukrainian believers celebrated Christmas in secret, in open fields and forests during the Soviet era. Even without the threat of government reprisals, subjecting oneself to this kind of arctic ordeal seemed mildly insane – the religious equivalent of polar bear club masochism.

So I was stunned when we pried the church doors open. The sanctuary was absolutely packed. Easily a thousand people. So packed that we had to muscle in like rugby players rolling clumsily through a swarm of counter-surging opponents. You could not make the sign of the cross without bumping elbows and squirming between the shoulders of the congregants around us. There was a haze of human breath hanging over the congregation and mixing with the smoke of incense as the choir roared "Z namy Boh!" (God is with us – evoking Christ's mystical name, Emmanuel.)

Bathed in a soft vanilla light, the church looked more like an Italian basilica than a Ukrainian Byzantine "khram." Everywhere in the alcoves there were statues of the saints and a mixture of incongruous decorations. Along the central aisle of the pewless sanctuary, a double row of young people held tall, embroidered banners that tilted in homage toward the altar during the Lord's Prayer and at other critical moments during the service.

The singing fell far short of the splendor and elegance of the Kyivan choirs Irene and I had heard during our first few months in Ukraine. Singing in frigid tem-

peratures can be a challenge even for conservatory-trained professionals, and for a thousand souls fighting off winter viruses and struggling to catch a warm breath, any musical deficits had to be forgiven. At times the congregation broke into a raucous Galician antiphonal free-for-all that left the parishioners and the priests scrambling to find the right pitch or tempo. But whatever the parish lacked in tonality, it more than made up for with its devotion and unbridled zeal.

"For God so loved the world that He sent His only-begotten Son..." This was the sea of humanity that Jesus entered into. Even dressed in their Sunday best, the villagers looked a bit disheveled and ungainly. For the most part, they were humble farm folk, but after all, I thought, this was just the kind of people who were most receptive to Christ's teaching: salt of the Earth, not high society. It was among the shepherds and among the cattle that He became incarnate.

Sandwiched in among this throng of worshippers, I was reminded of all that Christmas seems to lack back home in North America. In this simple church in Olesko, no one complained about the length of the service or the lack of heating. Nobody was in a hurry to get home. No one was frazzled by holiday shopping or too self-absorbed to miss the essence of the holiday. I looked around me and to my chagrin, saw plenty of children my daughters' age. They had braved the cold and did not seem too bored or too miserable to be there.

I wanted my girls to feel what these children were feeling, and I felt terrible for having deprived them of this moment. My uncle may have guessed right, that our American children are a bit too soft to endure this kind of extreme discomfort. Still, I couldn't help thinking how much they were missing as they slumbered in their warm little beds. I wanted them to experience this edgy, awkward, grueling solidarity with the faith of their ancestors.

During the past few years as I've worked and traveled in Ukraine, I've met a number of American evangelists who annoyed me with their claim that they were "bringing Christ" to this country. Aside from their ignorance of the rich legacy of Saints Volodymyr, Olga, Borys and Hlib who made Kyiv a bastion of Christianity long before Englishmen settled Jamestown or Plymouth, such comments betray a stunning cultural insensitivity that disregards 10 centuries worth of martyrs and believers who made far greater sacrifices for their faith than even the most presumptuous 20th century "born again" upstart.

That parish in Olesko reminded me that even in the darkest days of Stalin's terror and even during the mind-numbing conformity of the Brezhnev era, Christianity never really left the heartland of Ukraine. The Bible Belters and the descendants of the Puritans should be so lucky to walk into that unheated church and be swept up in its unvarnished fervor. How refreshing it would be if Ukrainians could bring their brand of gritty, self-effacing Christianity to the commercialized cathedrals of Texas and Oklahoma or the liturgically impoverished churches of New England or the Midwest.

Ukrainians held on to their faith even when a seemingly monolithic and unconquerable Soviet superpower sneered at their quaint beliefs. When cosmonauts soared through space and commissars

(Continued on page 14)

FOR THE RECORD

The 60th anniversary of Akcja Wisla

On April 28, 1947, the government of Poland commenced the implementation of a military operation, Akcja Wisla, to relocate the inhabitants of those Ukrainian ethnic territories that had become part of the post-war Polish state, and dispersed them in non-concentrated numbers throughout western and northern Poland. When Akcja Wisla was completed, some 150,000 Ukrainians had been forcibly relocated and several thousand Ukrainian civilians, including women, children and clergy, had been interned in the Central Labor Camp in Jaworzno, at the site of what had once been a branch of the Nazi death camp in Auschwitz.

To date no serious attempt has been made by the government of the now democratic Republic of Poland to redress this wrong.

In 1990 the Polish Senate condemned Akcja Wisla as the evil doing of a Communist totalitarian regime. In 2002 Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, in a letter to a scholarly conference, condemned the action as well, acknowledging Polish guilt but offering no redress. The Polish Sejm (Parliament), the most powerful legislative organ, has refused to address this issue.

Some Polish officials have justified the ethnic cleansing during Akcja Wisla as a necessary step in liquidating the remnants of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, a guerrilla formation operating in Ukraine as well as in Ukrainian ethnic territories, which became part of post-war Poland. This argument must be rejected as unacceptable, since in the post-war period in Poland various and more numerous Polish guerrilla movements were active, but ethnic cleansing of the entire population was used only against the Ukrainian population.

Other officials have justified it as "payback" for Ukrainian atrocities against Poles on Ukrainian territory. However, this argument is of recent vintage and began to appear in publications some 50 years after Akcja Wisla. Such justification was not used in contemporary documents and propaganda.

Compensation has been offered to many Polish inmates of the Jaworzno concentration camp, but none to Ukrainians. The lack of compensation to Ukrainian inmates of Jaworzno has been justified officially by the assertion that compensation is due only to those who were persecuted for political or religious

activity related to the struggle for an independent and sovereign Poland. The consequence has been that even Ukrainians sent to the Central Labor Camp in Jaworzno without any proof of guilt or court sentences are deemed not to qualify for rehabilitation or compensation.

The ethnic cleansing of all Ukrainians during Akcja Wisla from the most westerly parts of the Ukrainian ethnic territory is a major tragedy suffered by the Ukrainian people, following the Great Famine of 1932-1933 and the terrible losses of World War II. The avowed refusal of the government of the Republic of Poland to condemn, redress and compensate Akcja Wisla is being addressed by the Ukrainian World Congress to the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the United Nations. The UWC believes that significant pressure must be imposed on the Polish government by governments of other countries before Poland does what is right.

For this reason, we appeal to the president of Ukraine and Ukrainian communities throughout the world: join your Ukrainian brethren who suffered this injustice in commemorating this tragedy with requiems and conferences. To the president of Ukraine in particular we say: make this issue a component of contemporary Ukrainian-Polish relations. To our communities throughout the world we say: bring this matter to the attention of your governments so that they may impress upon the government of the Republic of Poland the need to address and redress in good faith and with reasonable tangibility.

Akcja Wisla is not merely a remnant of a nefarious past. It is very much a part of the lives of the contemporary Ukrainian community in Poland. The government of Poland must recognize that the Republic of Poland is not merely the home of a largely homogeneous Polish population but the indigenous homeland of other nationalities, including Ukrainians.

Toronto-New York
December 30, 2006

For the Ukrainian World Congress:
Askold S. Lozynskyj, president
Jurij Darewych, chair
Commission on Human
and Civil Rights

To The Weekly Contributors:

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

- Persons who submit any materials must provide a complete mailing address and daytime phone number where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- Unsolicited materials submitted for publication will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

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Any questions? Call 973-292-9800.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Remembering Gerald R. Ford fondly

I have fond memories of President Gerald R. Ford. He was a healer, the right man at the right time in the right place.

An unassuming man of the people all of his life, Gerald Ford's presidency was not an easy one. His predecessor had resigned. People were incensed with the Nixon pardon. The nation was in turmoil. Anti-Vietnam War activists were demonstrating. The Democratic Congress refused to allocate more money to help South Vietnam beat back the Communist onslaught. The economy was slumping. The press was preaching doom and gloom.

The White House was divided. Composed of Nixon holdovers as well as Ford staffers from his days as House minority leader and vice-president, agendas often clashed. Press leaks were common. My appointment as the president's special assistant for ethnic affairs was one of the few new positions created by the president.

President Ford's most urgent domestic priority was the restoration of a healthy, stable economy. Did he succeed? Yes. Inflation went from an annual rate of 12.2 percent to 6 percent during the first six months of 1976. The GNP rose by 10 percent. Housing starts rose by 40 percent. Four million more Americans had jobs in 1976 than in 1975. Over 60 federal budget-busting bills put forward by Congress were vetoed. Was President Ford ever credited for any of this? No.

Growing up in Grand Rapids, Mich., a multi-ethnic city, President Ford was more sensitive to ethnic America than any other president before or since. Four separate White House conferences were devoted to ethnic concerns such as neighborhood revitalization, the Ethnic Heritage Studies Act, mental health and the 1980 census. Thanks to these conclaves, a high-level federal commission was created to deal with neighborhood renewal; ethnic studies dollars returned to the federal budget; and the 1980 census included national origin questions for the first time in American history.

Some 30 points behind Jimmy Carter

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

at the onset of the 1976 presidential race, Mr. Ford's election campaign was all uphill. He faced a formidable primary challenge from Ronald Reagan who, after losing the nomination, refused to help. Jimmy Carter tried to tag Mr. Ford with the Watergate debacle by consistently talking about the "Nixon/Ford administration" and the press lapped it up. Despite these handicaps, Mr. Ford lost his presidency by less than one percentage point.

Political pundits have offered many reasons for Mr. Ford's loss: the Nixon pardon, a divided GOP, Watergate, a sluggish economy, White House leaks, the Vietnam War, debate stumbles, etc. I believe the main reason was the loss of the conservative white ethnic voter. The people behind that loss, in my opinion, were Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and his cabal.

Dr. Kissinger's "détente circle" included National Security chief Brent Scowcroft, and State Department counselor Helmut Sonnenfeldt. Mr. Sonnenfeldt went to Europe in 1976 and, in a secret seminar, explained to American ambassadors that the United States had reached a quiet, unwritten compromise with the Soviets regarding Europe. Central and Eastern Europe would remain in the Soviet sphere of interest, Western Europe in the American sphere. Neither side would try to influence changes in the status quo.

For many ethnic Americans, the so-called "Sonnenfeldt Doctrine" only confirmed the Brezhnev Doctrine, which declared that "world socialism is indivisible and its defense is the common cause of all Communists." President Ford's decision to sign the Helsinki Accords in 1975 strengthened the ethnic perception of a sell-out.

The bane of my tenure in the White House was Mr. Scowcroft who was forever cautioning the president against meeting with Eastern European ethnic Americans. Fortunately for me, the president did the right thing. He never refused to meet with any ethnic Americans I recommended.

The most significant meeting for

(Continued on page 14)



At the White House in 1976 (from left) are: Bishop Ivan Prashko, Bishop Basil Losten, Cardinal Josyf Slipyj, President Gerald R. Ford, Brent Scowcroft and Myron B. Kuropas.

Lviv commemorates anniversary of Hrushevsky's birth

by Olha Ternavska

LIVIV – Scholars from various Ukrainian regions as well as from the diaspora gathered on October 4-6 in Lviv to mark the 140th anniversary of the birth of Ukraine's greatest historian, Mykhailo Hrushevsky. Jointly sponsored by scholarly institutions from Ukraine and the diaspora, the three days of commemorative events were a reflection of the cooperative working relationship existing between the organizations.

Sponsors from the diaspora included the World Scholarly Council of the Ukrainian World Congress, the Ukrainian Historical Association, and the Historical Section of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A.

Much of the organizational work can be attributed to Maria Mahun, director of the Mykhailo Hrushevsky National Memorial Museum of Lviv, which hosted most of the events. Other participating academic institutions from Ukraine included the Ivan Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Institute of Archeography of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine in Kyiv, the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, and the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Prykarpatskyi Institute.

The anniversary commemorations officially began with the laying of flowers at Hrushevsky's statue, followed by the first scholarly conference held at the Scholars Building. Ms. Mahun welcomed

Olha Ternavska is curator of the Mykhailo Hrushevsky National Memorial Museum of Lviv.

all participants and presented an overview of the important accomplishments of the museum as a cultural and research center, emphasizing its role in popularizing among the various segments of Ukraine's populace Hrushevsky's legacy as a historian, and as a political, cultural and social activist.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Lubomyr Wynar, professor emeritus of Kent State University, who extended greetings from the Ukrainian Historical Association, the World Scholarly Council, and the Historical Section of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A.

His presentation focused on a detailed evaluation of the multiple roles played by Hrushevsky in the development of the Ukrainian nation. He also noted the role played by Ms. Mahun and the Hrushevsky National Memorial Museum in Lviv in educating the public about Hrushevsky. As an acknowledgement of the importance of this work, he presented Ms. Mahun with the status of Honorary Member of the Ukrainian Historical Association.

Dr. Leonid Zashkilniak, professor of history at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, provided an overview and analysis of Hrushevsky and European historiography at the beginning of the 20th century.

Dr. Yaroslav Isajevych, director of the Ivan Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the National Academy of Science, explored the extensive research on the history of Lviv that is part of Hrushevsky's scholarly legacy.

Hrushevsky's work with the Shevchenko Scientific Society was examined by its current president, Dr. Oleh Kupchynsky. Dr. Ihor Hyrych from the Institute of Archeography of the



The anniversary commemorations begin with the laying of flowers at Lviv's monument to Mykhailo Hrushevsky.

National Academy of Science in Kyiv discussed the various aspects of the relationship between Hrushevsky and Ivan Franko.

A newly published scholarly work by historian Lubomyr Wynar, "Mykhailo Hrushevsky and the Shevchenko Scientific Society: 1892-1934," was presented to the participants by Dr. Evhen Pshenychnyj, professor of literature at the Drohobych National Pedagogical University, who discussed the importance of this new publication that includes newly discovered source materials that further define and highlight the nature of Hrushevsky's interaction with the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

The scholarly session ended with the

presentation by Ms. Mahun to members of the presidium of a newly minted limited-edition medal by the Hrushevsky National Memorial Museum in Lviv marking the 140th anniversary of Hrushevsky's birth.

The second session of the conference continued at the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Memorial Museum which prepared a wide-ranging exhibit of rare and original publications, sources, personal objects and other unique materials from the Hrushevsky and Franko collections.

The first day of activities concluded with a specially arranged excursion to the various sites in Lviv that were significant in the

(Continued on page 15)



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Plastova Vatra

2006

a publication of the U.S. Plast Ukrainian
Scouting Organization National Executive Board



Dear Readers!

The members of the U.S. National Executive Board of Plast, Ukrainian Scouting Organization, invite you to read our renewed "Plastova Vatra" - Plast Campfire publication. After a long pause, we are bringing it to our readers, in order to introduce you to some of our youth activities, training seminars and acquaint you with some of our most interesting members. Since the election of a new National Executive Board in October 2005, we have strived to organize various camps and numerous yearly activities. We urge those parents with young children, to enroll them in Plast, where they will not only gain character and leadership skills, but also will benefit from being in a Ukrainian environment.

For more information on Plast, its year-round activities, camps or membership requirements, log on to www.plastusa.org.

SKOB!

The National Executive Board of
Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, U.S.A.

2006 marked the 120th anniversary of Plast's Founder



Archive Photo

Dr. Oleksander Tysovsky, founder of Plast, was born in 1886 in Lviv, Ukraine. Often referred to as "DrOT" by Plast members, Dr. Tysovsky became interested in scouting after reading Lord Bayden Powell's book *Scouting for Boys*. He saw great potential in an organization that would utilize scouting principles while retaining a distinct Ukrainian character. The year 2006 marked the 120th anniversary of his birth and prompted reflection from Plast members worldwide on his incredible dedication to scouting and Ukraine. As a student and teacher at Lviv University in Ukraine, then in numerous other European cities, Dr.

Tysovsky studied many disciplines. Among them philosophy, sociology and natural sciences. He also taught biology. A year after he earned his doctorate (1910) he founded Plast, along with other Ukrainian scouting enthusiasts. His life is truly inspirational and his many published works - specifically *Zhyttia v Plasti* (Life in Plast) - serve as a guide for all members of our organization.

Astronaut brings Plast scout emblem on space journey

As the first Ukrainian-American astronaut into space aboard the shuttle Atlantis, Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, of St. Paul Minnesota, realized a life-long dream and brought along with her a little memento from her city's Plast group - a Plast scout emblem (lileyka). It was here in Minnesota, that Commander Piper was active in the broader Ukrainian community in addition to Plast, where she served as a counselor in her local branch. We at the Plast U.S. National Executive Board congratulate Heidi on achieving her goals and safely and successfully completing the Atlantis mission, and are very proud of all of her accomplishments.



Stefanyshyn-Piper
Photo courtesy Pl. Shliakh



Photo courtesy
B. Pechenyak

Meet Our Members: Bohdan Pechenyak

"Lisovi Chorty" fraternity member Bohdan, who hails from Lviv, Ukraine has been living in Philadelphia for the last couple of years and studying sociology at Arcadia University. Although Bohdan is a full-time student, he is the U.S. Plast Starshi Plastuny (Young Adult) Scout Leader. After graduation, he plans to find work in Ukraine and continue his studies by pursuing a master's degree. His proposal for a slogan for Plast for the year 2006 was "Change Comes From You" (Zmina Pochynayetsia vid Tebe). This seemed appropriate, Bohdan explains, since 2005's catchphrase was "Razom Nas Bahato" (Together We Are Many). "I wanted to think of a slogan that would continue the theme of change and revolution and which would apply to every one of us."

A look at a year's worth of Plast activities

The Plast activity roster begins with every school year in September, with opening ceremonies at all U.S. branches. The organization's youth - novatstvo (ages 7-11) and yunatstvo (ages 11-17) prepare for merit badge challenges, day trips (prohulky) and various weekly meetings with their counselors (vykhovnyky). In October, yunatstvo visits the UNA's "Soyuzivka" resort for an annual weekend of challenges known as "Orlykiada," founded by the Plast fraternity "Orlykivtsi." Each branch's participants are judged on their creativity and knowledge of a selected theme ("Ecology of Ukraine" was the theme for 2006). In November, branches often recognize the November Days (Lystopadovi Rokovyny) with official gatherings in uniform and with various remembrances. The end of fall has yunatstvo counting down the days until the annual ski camp in upstate New York organized by the Plast fraternity "Burlaky."



Novatstvo from the New York Plast branch and Yonkers Plast group at "Sviato Yuriya" 2006 in Hartsdale, N.Y.

Photo courtesy L. Lopatynsky

This camp, and the 10-year-old Winter Adventure Camp in the Adirondacks (Zymovyj Tabir), led by the "Lisovi Chorty" fraternity, have become favorites among the teenage Plast members.

In December, St. Nicholas pays a visit to various Plast branches where novatstvo and their counselors often stage plays to welcome him. During the Christmas season plastuny like to go caroling. They also gather in their branch headquarters for "Svichechka" - a symbolic lighting of candles and caroling to usher in the season. Some branches organize ski outings for their members and families and friends, while others stage maskarady (masquerades) for



Members of the Cleveland Plast branch at their annual ski trip to Peek 'n Peak, NY.

Photo courtesy of the Cleveland branch's web site

novatstvo where they enact a magical story before an audience. In March, many branches commemorate the birth of Ukraine's bard and poet, Taras Shevchenko, and prepare younger and older youths for "Sviato Yuriya" (Feast of St. George) which usually takes place in May. This event, a three-day weekend (for the 11-17 year olds), is an outdoor education competition, in honor of the patron of Plast - St. George - whose heroic life serves as an example for Plast youth.

From June-August Plast members have an array of summer camps, specialty camps and training seminars to choose from, where knowledge gained from an entire year of activities is put to the test.

This page was prepared by Halyna Kuzyszyn-Holubec, press secretary for the U.S. Plast Ukrainian Scouting National Board.
pressa@plastusa.org

Illustrations were provided by Olenka Czerwoniak-Terleckyj. Both are members of the "Lisovi Mavky" Plast sorority.



Servant of God Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky remembered in Philadelphia

by Nicholas Rudnytzky

PHILADELPHIA – A five-week-long series of academic lectures on the life and works of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky was officially concluded on Sunday, November 19, 2006. Sponsored and organized by the St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics in cooperation with the local chapter of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the series comprised lectures and video presentations, offered by both laity and clergy, on various aspects of the metropolitan's life.

Dr. Jaroslav Zalipsky, the head of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, opened the series with an overview of the metropolitan's activities on behalf of art and scholarship. The lecture, which showed the metropolitan as a generous patron of the arts, was illustrated with a series of videos on the metropolitan's life produced by Oksana Hayova of Lviv, Ukraine.

Osip Roshka, editor of the Ukrainian Catholic weekly America, shared with the audience his diligently researched paper on Sheptytsky's activities during the years

of the German occupation of Ukraine. Based on the collection, "Mytropolyt Andrey Sheptytsky u Dokumentakh Radianskykh Organiv Derzhavnoyi Bezpeky 1939-1944" (Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky in Documents of Soviet Organs of State Security), published in Kyiv in 2005, as well as on memoirs and secondary literature, the author offered an analysis of the archbishop's activities, both within the Ukrainian and the international communities.

Mr. Roshka stressed Sheptytsky's diplomatic skills and his unmitigated courage in acting on behalf of the Ukrainian and Jewish populace in his dealings with the German invaders.

Prof. Leonid Rudnytzky, who delivered two lectures in this series, analyzed the relationship between the metropolitan and the great Ukrainian poet-scholar Ivan Franko, whose sesquicentennial jubilee was duly celebrated this year, both in the diaspora and in Ukraine.

Prof. Rudnytzky offered many parallels in the thinking of the two men, stressed their intellectual affinities and



At an event remembering Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky (from left) are: Prof. Leonid Rudnytzky, Msgr. James Melnyk and Dr. Jaroslav Zalipsky.

their untiring efforts on behalf of their people. He also analyzed in great detail Franko's commentary on the archbishop's epistle titled "O Kvestiyi Socialni" ("On Social Issues") published in the Lviv-based journal The Literary-

Scientific Herald in 1904.

The series of lectures, which was coordinated by Dr. Alexander Lushnycky of the St. Sophia Religious Association,

(Continued on page 15)

Serbyn speaks on the Famine in light of the U.N. Convention on Genocide

by Mark Sokolsky

TORONTO – Definitions can be decisive, the verbal wrangles at the United Nations being a case in point. This year's Ukrainian Famine Lecture at the University of Toronto focused on one such definition – that of genocide – and its relation to the events of 1932-1933.

Speaking to a sizeable crowd on November 6, 2006, Dr. Roman Serbyn (Université du Québec), discussed this tragic occurrence with reference to the U.N.'s Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Famine is not currently recognized as a genocide despite the magnitude of dead – up to 10 million – and the issue has been debated for years.

Though few would argue that the Famine was merely an unfortunate incident, the burden of proof seems to be on those who advocate for the official "genocide" designation. Prof. Serbyn made reference to the U.N. convention that identifies genocide as an act with the "intent to destroy" part or all of a national, ethnic, religious or racial

Mark Sokolsky is affiliated with the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto.



Prof. Roman Serbyn

group through killing, physical pressure, birth control and/or forceful displacement.

The key word here is "intent," which unfortunately in Soviet history can be a slippery thing. How much can be blamed on the caprices of nature and bureaucracy, on low-level functionaries "dizzy with success," or on simple ineptitude?

Another sticking point Prof. Serbyn

mentioned is the political status of Ukrainians, whose status as a "national" or "ethnic" group can be ambiguous.

Dr. Serbyn attempted to illustrate that the Famine was indeed the result of a deliberate policy. Its primary cause was forced grain procurement, when the Soviet authorities exported grain despite acknowledged scarcity. This was not just "terror by famine," an effort to break the back of the peasants, Prof. Serbyn argued, collectivization having been mostly accomplished in 1930-1931. Rather, it was an effort to exterminate.

Grain procurement was not a purely Ukrainian phenomenon, causing hardship in other Soviet regions, but effects in Ukraine were much worse. Prof. Serbyn argued that Ukrainians – even those living in Russian territories – were targeted specifically. Given the fluidity of the situation on the ground, the targeting of ethnic Ukrainians within Russia is a difficult assertion to prove, but Prof. Serbyn did make some valuable suggestions.

Prof. Serbyn stressed Stalin's personal knowledge of events on the ground, pointing to documents showing his complicity in the purges. He showed one document in particular which seemed to illustrate Stalin's aim to destroy

Ukrainian nationalism, and noted a speech in which the "vozhd" referred to Ukrainians as the "agents of Pilsudski."

The crux of Prof. Serbyn's argument focused on the specifically anti-Ukrainian measures. The Famine coincided with Russification efforts in schools and attacks on the local intelligentsia. The OGPU (secret police) made widespread arrests, particularly among desperate refugees fleeing afflicted areas. The magnitude and specificity of this persecution was, Prof. Serbyn said, "clearly a genocidal measure targeting [the] Ukrainian national group."

Revisiting the history of the famine is a valuable exercise, though actually getting recognition at the United Nations is sure to be difficult. Academic consensus, Prof. Serbyn acknowledged, is the first step, but Russia is unlikely to support any such motion, even if these grey areas are more clearly defined.

The 2006 annual Ukrainian Famine Lecture was sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Toronto Branch, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine at the Munk Center for International Studies, University of Toronto.

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Ukrainian cultural events and courses offered at Columbia University

by Diana Howansky

NEW YORK – Ukrainian Canadian artist Natalka Husar presented a slideshow of her work at Columbia University back on November 2, 2006, commenting that she often paints self-portraits where she is the image of a stewardess, because she feels her role is that of a cultural guide leading viewers from one reality to another.

While Ms. Husar was referring to her own artwork – in which she keenly explores today's post-Soviet Ukraine and the personal relationship she and other diaspora members have with it – her comment might resonate with contemporaries at Columbia's Ukrainian Studies Program, who have recently been promoting Ukrainian culture. Through both extracurricular events, including Ms. Husar's presentation, and upcoming

Many of Ms. Husar's paintings are collages of images, such as "Our Lady of Mississauga" (1987), which features a middle-class Ukrainian Canadian woman wearing a fur hat and coat, holding a baby with an adult male head under the halo of a plate of pierogies, next to a car with the specialized license plate "UKE." Likewise, in "Guilt Quilt" (1992-1993), Ms. Husar's images include men with dozens of Soviet-style medals pinned to their suits, a woman whose red-dyed hair morphs into beets, and rings of kielbasa alongside hunks of fatty ham.

Ms. Husar describes her work as interweaving political reality with personal fictions in order to create "contemporary history paintings." This reality of Ukrainian life is visible in such paintings as "Chernobyl Barbie" (1997), depicting a bald girl affected by nuclear radiation



Natalka Husar's "Guilt Quilt."



"Midnight Stroll" by Natalka Husar.

spring 2007 courses featuring Ukrainian art, music and film, the Ukrainian Studies Program is trying to guide students and others through the world of contemporary Ukrainian culture.

"Ukraine is very exciting now, and it's very grotesque. Ukraine's, like, on hormones. It's sort of growing too fast. It's very ripe for subject matter," Ms. Husar said during her presentation at Columbia. "I always want to know why I'm attracted to it. Why I've wanted to paint about it for 30 years."

Ms. Husar, who was born to Ukrainian immigrant parents in New Jersey, received her bachelor's degree in fine arts from Rutgers University and later moved to Toronto, where she currently works. Over the years, her artwork has been exhibited in numerous private and public Canadian collections, including the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Art Gallery of Alberta, the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the National Gallery of Canada.

In her earlier paintings, Ms. Husar depicted themes relating to the Ukrainian diaspora, but in 1992 she switched her focus and started creating paintings about "new Ukraine." The inspiration for her artwork comes from images which she sees, in some way, as awkward, kitschy or difficult to understand, she said at Columbia.

Diana Howansky is staff associate at Columbia University's Ukrainian Studies Program and liaison to the Ukrainian Studies Fund.

Tradition and Avant-Garde," Ms. Husar's work uniquely subjects Ukrainian themes to contemporary critical thought.

Yet another group of artists who, in the music sphere, blend tradition with innovation is the premier Ukrainian acoustic folk ensemble in the United States, Cheres UFO (Ukrainian Folk Orchestra). Led by music director Andriy Milavsky, Cheres performed its brand of fiery folk music at Columbia on October 2, 2006. Cheres' past performances also include such venues as Lincoln Center, the Smithsonian Institute and the Winter Garden Theater.

Maria Sonevytsky, a Ph.D. candidate at Columbia's Center for Ethnomusicology, introduced the ensemble with a short talk titled "Seeking an Unmitigated Authenticity: Tradition, Innovation and Experience in Carpathian Mountain Music."

In this introduction, Ms. Sonevytsky raised the issue of what, in terms of musical performance, is "authentic," and posited that one's own, personal experience – such as the time she first heard Hutsul music in the Ukrainian mountain town of Rakhiv – can be considered authentic. She also maintained that Cheres' music remains faithful to its ori-

gins in Ukrainian villages, while still allowing freedom to diverge from tradition and space for improvisation.

Cheres' mountain music, which comes not just from Ukraine, but from Romania, Moldova, Hungary and elsewhere, incorporates instruments like the clarinet, wooden flutes, violin, double bass, tsymbaly and accordion. Mr. Milavsky interspersed the ensemble's lively performance with educational facts and explanations about the rare instruments.

For those students and community members interested in Ukrainian music, Columbia's Ukrainian Studies Program also will be offering a course during the spring 2007 semester titled, "Music and the Post-Socialist State," taught by Dr. Adriana Helbig in coordination with the department of music and the Center for Ethnomusicology. Dr. Helbig has been invited to teach for a semester at Columbia as a Petro Jacyk Visiting Scholar.

"The objective of this course is to familiarize students with the ways in which scholars (in the West) have analyzed musical processes during the post-socialist 'transition' period and to think critically about the relationships between music, politics and identity in nation-states under-

(Continued on page 18)

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The Washington Group hosts authors of two books spawned by Orange Revolution

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON — The 2004 Orange Revolution and its aftermath received many millions of words in worldwide media coverage. It also spawned two

English-language books about Ukraine last year, which were the focus of a recent “Meet the Author” evening at the Ukrainian Embassy here.

Organized by The Washington Group Cultural Fund and the Embassy, the evening featured the books’ two British

authors: journalist Askold Krushelnycky, who wrote “An Orange Revolution: A Personal Journey Through Ukrainian History,” and travel writer Andrew Evans, who recently completed the second edition of his “Ukraine: The Bradt Travel Guide.”

Mr. Krushelnycky’s journalistic career, which spans more than a quarter century with *The Sunday Times*, *Telegraph*, *Independent*, *Mail* and other British newspapers, took him to hot spots in South Asia and to dramatic political developments in Eastern Europe, including Ukraine. In the late 1990s he also served as the editor-in-chief of *The Kyiv Post*, the Ukrainian capital’s English-language newspaper.

The impulse to write the book, he said in his presentation, came while he was covering the Orange Revolution that erupted in conjunction with the 2004 presidential election in Ukraine. Originally, he had planned to spend only two weeks in Ukraine just covering the election, he said, but the Orange Revolution protests became “a turning point” in the life of the country.

The Ukrainian people saw an opportunity to change the way they lived, he recalled. They found a “sense of optimism and hope” they had not had before.

He could not break away from this story, he said, so he stayed on through President Viktor Yushchenko’s inauguration and was compelled to go beyond just press reporting and write a book.

The author declined a questioner’s request for his prediction about how things will develop following what many people see as a dramatic undoing of much of the promise of the original Orange Revolution.

He added, however, that he firmly believes that it has left “an indelible mark not only on Ukrainian political life but all aspects of life.” The Ukrainian people showed that they could effect change in how they were governed and not just accept decisions made behind closed doors as before, he said.

Mr. Krushelnycky noted that the old “them-and-us” aspect of life still exists in Ukraine, as does the great divide between the haves and the have-nots. “But now (the have-nots are) equipped with a confidence and a courage they did not have in managing their affairs and destiny.”

“And, again,” he said, “I think this is something that will be very difficult if not impossible — in fact I hope it’s impossible — to erase.”

His book is not just about the Orange Revolution. It is presented in the context of the history of Ukraine and — on a more personal level — of his family, he explained. And it is not dispassionate, he admitted.

“I’ve always tried to be an honest journalist,” he said, “but I’ve never claimed in writing this book that it was a dispassionate book. Because of my background, that would be impossible.”

Nevertheless, he added, “I hope that I’ve spoken honestly” in the book.

Mr. Krushelnycky was born in London to Ukrainian parents who immigrated there after World War II. While working in Kyiv he met and married Irena Chalupa, then a Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty correspondent there and now deputy director of the RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service in Prague, where they now live.

His book, published by Random House, has been available in the U.K. and Canada for some time now but, as yet, not in the United States.

Andrew Evans is not a newcomer to the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington. Indeed, he presented his first edition of



Yaro Bihun

Andrew Evans presents the first edition of his Ukraine travel guide at the Ukrainian Embassy in 2004.



Yaro Bihun

Askold Krushelnycky reads excerpts from his book.

“Ukraine: The Bradt Travel Guide” during the Embassy’s Independence Day reception in August of 2004, just before the Orange Revolution.

Since then, he noted in his presentation, “things have really changed. It’s a different country.”

He knew he had to update his first edition following Ukraine’s development after the Orange Revolution, but on his eight-week return trip to Ukraine in early 2006 he was surprised at how much things changed and realized that a simple update would not suffice.

“I had to rewrite the whole book. Ukraine has just changed so significantly that it was like writing about a new country,” he said. The second edition contains 75 percent new material and has grown from the first edition’s 330 pages to 450.

Things are now constantly changing for the better in Ukraine, he said. The number of hotels has doubled, if not tripled, and still more are under construction. There are many surprises for the traveler — as was a smoke-free coffee shop in Zaporizhia for him.

Mr. Evans said he visited many more villages this time and he “fell in love” with Zakarpattia, where in some areas people are living much as they lived 300 years ago. He was impressed with the individuality of Ukraine’s cities and towns, its boundless plains, the uniqueness of places like Chernivtsi, Khortytsia, Crimea.

Overall, it was a joy to travel to and around Ukraine, he said, noting that even the border guards now say “please” and “thank you.”

Admitting that he was preaching to the choir, he told the Ukrainian Americans in the audience who had not been to Ukraine for a few years to pay a return visit. “You should go back, you should rediscover it, because it is changing so much, and there’s so much there to see and do now,” he said.

And for those wanting to know the “best” and “worst” in Ukraine, Mr. Evans named his winners and losers in two categories: The very best bathroom is in the business-class lounge at Boryspil Airport outside Kyiv, he said; the worst is in the basement of the Chernivtsi train station. The best taxis and the most honest drivers are in Lviv and Donetsk; the worst are in Zaporizhia and Symferopol.

Bradt is a British travel guide publisher known for covering not only the popular travel destinations but some out-of-the-way points on the globe as well, including places like North Korea and Eritrea.

Workshop on the collective memory of World War II in Ukraine held by CIUS

by Bohdan Klid

EDMONTON, Alberta — More than 60 years after the end of World War II, historical memories of that war often elicit emotional and highly politicized disputes in Ukraine. Disagreements and divisions over the nature of the war and the roles of its combatants are reflected to some degree in the current geopolitical and ideological orientations of Ukraine’s political parties and geographical regions.

The idea of organizing a workshop, called “World War II in Ukraine: Collective Memory in the Light of History,” arose when the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) invited Vladyslav Hrynevych, a senior research associate at the Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, to Edmonton.

His publications on World War II, especially his article “Mit Viiny i Viina Mitiv” (The Myth of the War and the War of Myths), which appeared in the May 2005 issue of the periodical *Krytyka*, attracted the attention of scholars in the West to this topic. In the article Mr. Hrynevych outlined the construction of the Soviet myth of the war and, following Ukraine’s independence, its partial deconstruction and the creation of a competing national myth. The deep divisions in the collective memory of the war among Ukrainians today reflect a situation in which neither competing myth — the Soviet or the national — holds sway throughout the country.

The workshop, which took place on November 29, 2006, was sponsored by CIUS and co-sponsored by the department of history and classics at the University of Alberta. It was organized into four panels and a final roundtable session. Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Leslie Cormack, chair of the department of history and classics, and Dr. Zenon Kohut, director of CIUS.

The first session featured papers by Drs. Serhii Plokhii and Serhy Yekelchuk. Dr. Plokhii of CIUS and the department of history and classics spoke on recent

attempts to commemorate the 1945 Yalta Conference, focusing on the proposal to erect a monument in Crimea where Stalin would be featured. The other panelist, Dr. Yekelchuk, from the departments of history and Germanic and Russian, University of Victoria, spoke on the initiation of Soviet mass political rituals in Kyiv in 1943-1945 and the formation of a collective memory of the war.

In the second panel the first paper was given by Dr. Bohdan Harasymiw, professor emeritus of political science, University of Calgary. He spoke on how views of World War II were used by political forces in the recent Ukrainian electoral campaigns of 2002-2006. Mr. Hrynevych, the second panelist, spoke on the historiography of World War II as a factor in contemporary Ukrainian politics, focusing on the literature produced since independence.

Per Anders Rudling, a graduate student in the department of history and classics, University of Alberta, then presented a paper on “The Great Patriotic War” and the making of modern Belarus, in which he showed how the Soviet myth of the war has remained virtually unchallenged in today’s Belarus.

The third session featured Dr. David Marples, affiliated with the department of history and classics and CIUS, who gave a paper reviewing recent literature on the SS Division Halychyna that has appeared in Ukraine. Dr. Peter Potichnyj, professor emeritus of political science, McMaster University, spoke on the Litopys UPA as a source for the study of the national liberation struggle in Ukraine. To date, about 60 volumes of the chronicle have been published in three series. A quite detailed description of the Litopys UPA can be found on the Internet at <http://www.litopysupa.com>.

The fourth panel was opened by Jars Balan of CIUS, who spoke about working on his father’s memoir on World War II. Dr. John-Paul Himka of the department of history and classics shared his thoughts on Daniel Mendelsohn’s book

(Continued on page 14)

Carpathian winter rituals come alive on Fifth Avenue

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – The soulful sound of Carpathian mountain horns and the blare of shepherds' horns rolled across Fifth Avenue and East 79th Street into the nearby hills and ravines of Central Park.

It was the signal to begin "Koliada," the age-old celebration of the winter solstice in the Carpathian Mountain region of southwest Ukraine. Standing on the steps of the landmark mansion that houses the Ukrainian Institute of America, four Hutsul musicians in colorful Carpathian garb posed a traditional question, "May we enter your house?"

The "koliadnyky," or winter song singers, from the village of Kryvorivnia in the Carpathians, reprised ancient winter rituals that comprise the area's most important event of the year. Carols are sung to everyone in every home, since villagers believe that spring and harvest will not come unless the songs are heard in every household.

For this December 15 evening, organized by the Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Institute of America, the Hutsul musicians were joined by Canadian songstress Alexis Kochan, New York bandurist Julian Kytasty, guitarist Ilya Temkin, Yara singers Jina Oh and Vira Slywotzky, and violinist Valeriy Zhmud.

Brooklyn chef Olesia Lew simulated a Carpathian Christmas Eve supper with mini versions of kutia and other Christmas foods. Works by 15 artists, taking inspiration from the texts of Ukrainian carols, formed a colorful backdrop throughout the historic building.

It was an evening of tradition, drama, artistry and surprises as the program unfolded from doorstep to lobby to ballroom to dining room. Close to 200 guests, leaning over staircases to watch the carolers' entrance, eventually settled into ballroom chairs to absorb further segments of the program. Later, they viewed the art exhibit which began in the first-floor library and flowed up two stairways to third-floor galleries.

A carol for everyone

Shedding mountain horn (trembita) and shepherd's horn (rih) in the elegant lobby, the carolers paused to vocalize "Ples," a piece usually performed as a winter dance outside the home. That done, "bereza," or lead singer, Ivan Zelenchuk, his brother Petro, his son Mykola (the best trembita player in the village), and master fiddler and volynka (bagpipe) player Dmytro Tafiychuk proceeded up the wide stairway to the ballroom.

The foursome led with carols, as they

do at home, to the master of the house, about prosperity and hard work; to the lady of the house, about skill and diligence; to young ladies, about great beauty capable of magical feats. Songs to a young man referred to heroic deeds, courage and strength.

The clear, melodious voice of Ms. Kochan drew eyes to the second-floor stairway as she slowly descended, singing a haunting koliada from the Bukovyna region. As she entered the ballroom, Mr. Kytasty and Mr. Temkin joined in with bandura and guitar accompaniment.

Offering songs from Ms. Kochan's popular Paris to Kyiv albums, the trio presented carols that blended ancient Ukrainian ritual carols with contemporary sounds. "In the Woods" and "Peacock" described the bird goddess and a young woman who gathered peacock feathers as she followed. "Handsome and Bright," from the Sumy region, was a princely era carol about a handsome young man.

Ms. Slywotzky and Ms. Oh, carrying peacock feathers as they circled the stage in a slow mesmerizing procession, sang of flying peacocks and offered an incantation-like "Koliada to a Young Woman."

Mr. Zhmud, who provided spirited violin melodies toward the end of the program, accompanied the audience in its fervent rendition of "Boh Predvichnyi" (God Eternal), the carol dear to all Ukrainians as they celebrate Christmas.

Food for Christmas Eve

Ms. Lew's interpretations of Hutsul Christmas Eve fare focused on eight dishes: kutia, a ceremonial dish of wheat, poppy seeds and honey, served in fluted pastry shells; borsch, presented as beet relish on crisp crackers; banashi, a cornmeal porridge formed into petite pancakes; kapushniachky, sauerkraut-mushroom filled pastries; medivnyk, honey cake, presented in cube form; and fruit compote composed of diced dried fruits. Spiced walnuts, almonds and chestnuts were served as food indigenous to the Carpathians, and seasoned popcorn signified kokoshi, a Hutsul dish of dried corn.

The art exhibit featured sculptures, paintings, photographs, videos and several installations, the work of Larissa Babij, Anya Farion, Annette S. Friedman, Roman Hrab, Peter Ihnat, Volodymyr Kaufman, Mark Kehoe and Alexander Khantaev, along with works by Margaret Morton, Andrea Odezynska, Christina Saj, Joel Schlemowitz, Stefan Tur and Lviv graphic artist Halyna Zakhariasevych-Lypa (1910-1968).

Displayed in the exhibit were dozens



Stefan Tur

Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia outside the Ukrainian Institute of America.

of elaborately designed Easter eggs by Sofika Zielyk and the work of Olga Maryschuk, who co-curated the showing with Yara Arts Group founding director Virlana Tkacz.

Describing the winter song rituals still practiced in Kryvorivnia, Ms. Tkacz said that the ancient customs which now coincide with Christmas are much older in origin, traditions and symbolism than the Christian holiday.

"The words (of ancient carols) exhibit traces of the worship of sun, ancestors and nature. The songs are incantations that assume the magical power of words: What is said will be so," she told the audience.

Before the family sits down on the eve of Koliada to a 12-course ritual dinner, household animals are fed a little of each dish. The head of the household invites sorcerers, thunder, storms, wolves, bears and foxes to dinner, as well as the spirits of the dead and those lost at sea, she said.

Ms. Tkacz spoke of koliadnyky gathering together in a circle on Christmas day and singing a song, then splitting up into groups, each with a lead singer and fiddler. The groups kneel, swear to behave appropriately and to visit every allotted house, then head toward the first home.

Invited into a home, koliadnyky sit at a food-laden table and address themselves to each member of the household with a long repetitive song chosen specifically for that person by the lead singer.

Ms. Tkacz said that after several hours of singing, the koliadnyky stand and dedicate a solemn song to the household's deceased members, in the belief that the spirits of the recently deceased will help forge a greater community that would include both living beings and ancestral spirits. Afterwards, a winter dance is performed outside the home.

On the 12th day of Christmas

After 12 days of singing, the koliadnyky gather at church and the entire community is led by the village priest to the river, where a hole has been cut in the ice. Blessing the water, the priest dips candles and blows into the water, follow-

ing the belief that ancestral spirits invited to the Christmas Eve supper were now being sent off to their homes.

Homeward-bound villagers carry buckets of water to use on special occasions throughout the year. In the evening, koliadnyky gather for the "rozkoliada," an openly emotional parting for the men who have spent two weeks together as winter song singers, and the time of Koliada is over until the next year, Ms. Tkacz said.

Koliadnyky leader and village head Ivan Zelenchuk, the best-known winter song singer, considers his involvement in Koliada his personal mission. His father's handwritten notebook of winter songs has helped to preserve this tradition for future generations, despite intense persecution under 50 years of Soviet rule.

His brother Petro, who preserved their father's notebook at great personal risk, leads the Tsaryna caroling group in Kryvorivnia.

Song writer and trembita player Mykola Zelenchuk, Ivan's son, makes the singers' traditional costumes.

Mr. Tafiychuk, virtuoso volynka player and master fiddler, learned to make traditional musical instruments from his father, a musician and musical instrument maker. The Tafiychuk family's music has been recorded in a two-CD set by Koka Records of Poland.

Ms. Kochan and her collaborators, songwriter Richard Moody and singer/bandurist Mr. Kytasty, drew on the deep musical traditions of Eastern Europe to create their core Paris to Kyiv sound. Paris to Kyiv's fourth album, "Fragmenti," is available on Olesia Records.

Yara Arts Group, which began its collaboration with traditional artists from the Carpathians in 1995, sponsored the 2006 tour of the Kryvorivnia carolers, including performances at The Ukrainian Museum in New York and the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, and an appearance on a radio show aired by WFMU. The show included a talk by Mr. Kytasty about modern interpretations he has done with Ms. Kochan, illustrating his discussion by playing selections from their albums.



Stefan Tur

Alexis Kochan (standing) with bandurist Julian Kytasty and guitarist Ilya Temkin of "Paris to Kyiv."

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Quick, dirty fix...

(Continued from page 2)

accounts for the high mortality rate among coal miners in Ukraine. These realities have led the World Bank and other lending institutions to suggest for years that Ukraine would be better off giving up on trying to rehabilitate its aging and injury-plagued mines. The construction of seven new large mines would mark a complete reversal of this thinking. More miners would be needed, requiring the construction of housing, medical facilities, sports and recreational clubs, schools and transportation networks. A determination would also have to be made on whether the new mines would be state-owned or private.

In 2001 the government launched a program whereby it would first denation-

alize mines, then corporatize them and finally auction them off to strategic investors. By 2003 privatizations were delayed and the mines were reorganized into state enterprises. An underlying, and potentially more serious long-term issue, however, is Mr. Yanukovich's readiness to resort to a quick fix to Ukraine's energy crisis when the opportunity to implement conservation programs and find efficient fuel alternatives has presented itself. Ultimately, the increased use of its coal reserves will reduce Ukraine's dependency on Gazprom and Turkmen gas. But that success will come at the expense of efforts to lower carbon emissions and to correct environmental damage incurred from past abuses. In addition, the country will be missing the chance to adopt a forward-thinking solution to the problem of ensuring future energy supplies.

Christmas...

(Continued from page 6)

asked "Where is your God?," Ukrainians answered "Z namy Boh!"

To be sure, the Soviet era has taken its toll on the spiritual heritage of Ukraine. Still, there was something very special about that Christmas in Olesko. It reminded me of the core of goodwill and hospitality and reverence for things outside of themselves that Ukrainians have nurtured in their families and in their communities.

Here in North America, that fervor may have waned, but you can still hear it in the carols and "schedrivky" we sing: their explosively beautiful harmonies, their celebration of Nature's bounty, their interwoven threads of joy and sorrow. Ukrainians celebrate Christmas without sugar-coating its mystery or the bleak reality the Holy Family endured. When they sing "Z namy Boh!" Ukrainians do not forget the slaughter of the Innocents or the malignant vanity of Herod. But they revel in the ultimate triumph of Good over Evil, of innocence over self-importance.

Later that day, I witnessed some of the "vertepy" - the wandering theater troupes in which droves of youngsters dress up in various costumes portraying King Herod and death, angels and devils and goats and shepherds and Roman soldiers and re-tell the Christmas story in ornate rhymed poems they often compose themselves.

Perhaps it is their innate awareness of their natural surroundings, their profound respect for the wonders of

Creation that makes rural Ukrainians more receptive to God's presence in their world, even in its humblest manifestations: a stalk of wheat on a windswept field, the faint cry of a bird in the dead of winter. The Word made Flesh.

Here in America, we may be far removed from the spiritual realm of our ancestors. We all suffer from the relentless commercialism that seeks to pound us into submission - the constant demand for cheap sophistication and the "next big thing" and that obsessive need to prove that we are nobody's fool.

But there is still a part of us that is genetically wired to that same chromosomal thread of spiritual yearning that draws us closer to our humbler roots. And that thread is easily entwined with some of the more profound insights offered by some of America's nobler minds. To see the world from the perspective of those frigid villagers in Olesko, we can dwell on the verses of Shevchenko's American contemporary Walt Whitman who summed it all up nicely when he wrote:

"I believe that a leaf of grass is no less than the journeywork of the stars,
and the pismire is equally perfect, and a grain of sand, and the egg of a wren, ...
and the narrowest hinge in my hand puts to scorn all machinery, ...
and a mouse is miracle enough to stagger sextillions of infidels ..."

When we remind ourselves of these simple truths, even on the most bitterly cold day of the year, we can still find our joy rekindled and our hearts warmed.

Remembering...

(Continued from page 7)

Ukrainians was President Ford's sit-down with Cardinal Josyf Slipyj, Ukraine's revered dissident-martyr. Despite resistance from Mr. Scowcroft, the meeting took place in the high-profile Oval Office.

Today, President Ford is being lauded retrospectively for the Nixon pardon. He should also be credited for signing the

Helsinki Accords which, again in retrospect, provided the lever Soviet dissidents needed to expose Moscow's human rights hypocrisy.

I had the privilege and honor to spend time with President Ford on a number of occasions. Each time Mr. Ford projected honesty, integrity and grace. I remain very proud of the opportunity afforded me to serve in his administration as America's first and only special assistant for ethnic affairs.

Workshop...

(Continued from page 12)

"Lost," which describes the author's attempt to understand the killing of six of his relatives in Ukraine in the context of the Holocaust. Dr. Bohdan Klid of CIUS gave the last presentation, in which he analyzed texts of songs on World War II in Ukrainian rock music.

During the final session Mr. Hrynevych spoke on recent historical writings on World War II in Ukraine and on identifying areas where additional research is needed.

In addition to the 10 panel partici-

pants, the workshop was attended by other members of the academic community and local community members. The sessions were chaired by Drs. Natalia Kononenko, Serge Cipko, Natalia Pylypiuk and Oleh Ilnytskyj.

Several days before the workshop, on November 24, 2006, CIUS sponsored the screening of a three-part series on World War II, "Zvorotnii Bik Viiny" (The Other Side of the War), which had been shown on Ukrainian TV. Mr. Hrynevych, who was the historical consultant for the much-discussed series, introduced the film and then answered questions from the audience following its showing.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Communist Party. Other parties polled as follows: Lytvyn's People's Bloc, 2.1 percent; Natalia Vitrenko Bloc, 1.9 percent; Pora-Party of Reforms and Order, 1.7 percent; Viche Party, 1.4 percent; 0.8 percent, Kostenko Pliusch Bloc; 2.6 percent, other; 9.4 percent, none; 9.2 percent either did not want to reply or said they did not intend to vote; 8.5 percent could not respond. The poll was conducted in all regions of Ukraine on December 15-21; the margin of error was 2.3 percent. (Ukrayinski Novyny)

PM expects WTO membership in February

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said at a press conference summarizing the achievements of his Cabinet's work during 2006 that he expects Ukraine to join the World Trade Organization in February. He added that the process now depends upon the work of WTO committees that are preparing recommendations on the issue. Meanwhile, Minister of the Economy Volodymyr Makukha predicted that Ukraine would enter the WTO by July. (Ukrayinski Novyny)

PM says coalition brought stability

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said on December 27 at a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers that the Anti-Crisis Coalition had succeeded in stabilizing the situation in Ukraine. He noted that during 2006 the government had succeeded in entering the home-stretch toward constitutional reform. "We were able to do much this year, and the rest we will do in 2007," he said. The prime minister added that reforming local government is a continuation of constitutional reform. He also pointed out that 80 percent of the laws reviewed by the Verkhovna Rada were proposed by the government, adding that this demonstrates that there is good cooperation with the Parliament. (Ukrayinski Novyny)

U.S.-Ukraine trade over \$2 billion

WASHINGTON – Trade turnover between Ukraine and the United States of America exceeded \$2 billion over the

first 10 months of 2006, Ukrinform's correspondent learned from the trade-economic mission at the Ukrainian Embassy in the U.S. The general cost of Ukrainian exports to the U.S. amounted to \$1.378 billion, and the sum of American imports to Ukraine reached \$627 million. Based on observed trends, the 2006 trade turnover will exceed the 2003 performance by 2.5 times. The main factor for positive change was improvement of the trade regime between the two countries. Ukraine's efforts in combating piracy were noted and a series of sanctions, which had been in place for Ukraine since 2002, were repealed. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative resumed the regime of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for Ukraine. In early 2006 the U.S. Department of Commerce recognized Ukraine as a market economy and the Congress revoked the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Furthermore, Ukraine and the United States concluded negotiations on Ukraine's membership in the WTO and signed a bipartite protocol on reciprocal access to markets of goods and services. (Ukrinform)

15 million foreign visitors in 2006

KYIV – Since early 2006 Ukraine has been visited by 14.9 million foreign tourists, which was 8 percent more than in the same period of 2005. This was the principal topic of a meeting between Ukrainian Minister for Culture and Tourism Yurii Bohutskyi and European Travel Commission President Arthur Oberascher. Ukraine is mostly visited by Russians (30 percent), Poles (28 percent), Moldovans (16 percent), Hungarians and Belarusians (8 percent each), Slovaks (3 percent), Romanians and Germans (1 percent each), Americans (0.5 percent) and Turks (0.4 percent). For the second year in a row, Ukraine had witnessed a rapid increase in the number of tourists from countries that had never shown a particular interest toward Ukraine. The trend is explained by the invalidation of the visa regime for those countries. The pace of growth of the number of tourists from Austria in the second half of 2006, if compared with the first half of 2005, reached 50 percent; from the Czech Republic and Latvia, 43 percent; Great Britain, 41 per-

cent; Italy, 30 percent; and France and Lithuania, 24 percent. (Ukrinform)

Over 16,000 children adopted by foreigners

KYIV – A total of 16,314 Ukrainian children are registered to be adopted by foreign families, the president's representative to the Verkhovna Rada, Roman Zvorych, told the Parliament on December 12, as he presented a bill on Ukraine joining the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in International Adoption. Citizens of the United States adopted 6,271 children; Italy, 4,467; Spain, 2,410; France, 868; and Israel, 776. As many as 26,000 children are supposed to be adopted in the near future; 20,000 of them are predetermined for international adoption. (Ukrinform)

Council of Europe notes problems

KYIV – Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe's commissioner for human rights, has said that Ukraine's main problems are the spread of AIDS, corruption in the justice system and xenophobia, Interfax reported on December 18. Mr. Hammarberg recently

visited Ukraine in order to study the human rights situation. The full report by the Council of Europe Human Rights Committee will appear in April 2007. Mr. Hammarberg advised the Ukrainian government to cooperate with non-governmental organizations in trying to counter the spread of AIDS as well as protecting HIV-infected people. He added that cracking down on corruption in the courts will restore the public's confidence in the justice system. Xenophobia, according to Mr. Hammarberg, requires changing Ukrainian legislation to provide for harsher punishments for hate crimes. (RFE/RL Newline)

Ambassador to Vatican is named

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has appointed Tatiana Izhevskaya as Ukraine's ambassador to the Vatican. This follows from Presidential Decree No. 1062/2006 dated December 11. On June 14, 2006, the president had dismissed Hryhorii Khoruzhyi from that post. Ms. Izhevskaya is the wife of Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Oleh Shamsur. (Ukrainian News Agency, Action Ukraine Report)



ПЛАСТ - УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛІЧНА ОРГАНІЗАЦІЯ
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Короткий життєпис покійного о. Павла Когута

Народився в селі Конюхи, Бережанського повіту, 25 березня 1926 р. Народню школу закінчив у рідному селі. Відтак почав навчання в славній гімназії у Бережанах. Через воєнні жорстокі часи навчання перервалось, німці забрали будинок гімназії для військової лікарні. Отож закінчив середню освіту, щойно 1946 р. в гімназії, в таборі переселенців, Карльсфельд, біля Мюнхену. Після того пішов студіювати богословію. Спершу в Німеччині – Гіршберг, відтак в Голляндії – Кулемборг та знову повернувся до Німеччини м. Фрайсіг, де перебував у семінарії разом в одній кімнаті з сьогоднішнім Папою Бенедиктом 16-им. На священика висвятив його 1 липня 1951 р. Владика скитальців Кир Іван Бучко.

Осінню того самого року був назначений на пароха у Схід. Франції в департаментах Альзасії та Люттерингії, з осідком у Стразбурзі.

Зразу береться шукати вірних на тому розлогому терені, що простягався від Франко-Люксембурського до Франко-Швейцарського кордону. В час візити побачив, що є багато дітей та молоді. Тому вже літом 1952 р. почав першу оселю – табір для дітей та молоді, що продовжував кожного року аж до 1993 р.

У 1955 р. закупляє, дуже дешево, в малому селі Альзасії – Маквілер старий замок з великою площею та городом (понад 2 гектари).

Для старших людей організує кожного літа прощу до відпустового міста Люрд. На початку сімдесятих років виринає ідея збудувати власну церкву в нашому стилі, а біля неї закупити готель, де наші прочани мали б власне приміщення. Для тої цілі о. Павло збирав охотників до праці при будові, з Альзасії та Люттиренгії. Були роки, також подорожей до Люрду було по десять та більше. То були виснажуючі „прощі“, бо зі Стразбургу до Люрду, то понад 1400 км. Остаточно той великий проєкт було завершено, і 1982 року при великому звізі народу з діяспори (понад дві тисячі) відбулося торжественне посвячення церкви. Україна в той час ще була в московсько-більшовицькому ярмі.

Кожного року в час Зіслання Св. Духа (Зелених свят), за Григоріанським календарем, о. Павло організує масову зустріч українців зі Схід. Франції, а також з Німеччини та Швейцарії і навіть з Бельгії. Такі зустрічі мали завжди якусь ціль; роковини Тараса Шевченка, Івана Франка, Лесі Українки, „Голодомор“, відвідини Блаженнішого Йосифа Сліпого, Ювілей „1000-ліття Хрещення Руси-України“ та подібні імпрези.

Від часу відновлення нашої державності майже кожного року о. Павло побував кілька тижнів в Україні, де відвідував рідних, а також вів переговори з різними церковними та свідськими достойниками, навіть цього року в місяці жовтні, ще відбув подорож в Україну.

Lviv commemorates...

(Continued from page 8)

life of Hrushevsky and his family. A unique booklet prepared by the Museum, "Lvivski Adresy Mykhaila Hrushevshkoho," was presented to the participants.

The following day, a second jubilee scholarly conference, "Mykhailo Hrushevsky: History and the Present," was held at the Hrushevsky National

Memorial Museum, in which scholars from Kyiv, Ostroh, Kremenchuk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Drohobych, Lviv and Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, as well as from the United States participated in a round-table of presentations and discussions.

A third scholarly conference held at the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Prykarpatskyi Institute was the final and concluding event of this three-day commemoration of the renowned historian's birth.

against the Germans, when most of the world was silent.

Prof. Rudnytsky offered the audience an image of the Servant of God Andrey in Ukrainian literature. Reading from the works of such poets as Vasyl Makovey, Bohdan Lepky, Vasyl Barka and many others, he demonstrated how literary studies sometimes successfully supplement and complement historical research by providing the reader with an insight into the spirit of bygone times. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer series and discussions.

In the Spring of 2007, the St. Sophia Religious Association, U.S.A., is planning a lecture series on the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America, with special emphasis on Bishop Soter Ortynsky (1866-1916), the first Ukrainian Catholic hierarch in the United States.

Servant of God...

(Continued from page 10)

concluded on November 19, with a solemn Liturgy and panakhyda celebrated by Msgr. James Melnyk, pastor of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, in Melrose Park, Pa.

Following the church services, the large audience, which included both young people and senior citizens, was treated to two arresting lectures. Father Melnyk, who spoke both in Ukrainian and English, offered a concise analysis of the Metropolitan's Christian virtues, citing numerous compelling testimonials from both Ukrainians and foreigners.

He dwelled at length on Metropolitan Andrey's valiant, successful attempts to save the Jewish people from Nazi persecutions, and on his courage to speak out

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Naughty and nice

It turned out the rumors of Keith Tkachuk's decline or demise as a hockey player have been greatly exaggerated. The St. Louis Blues left winger continues to pile up points like never before and insists he's playing the best hockey of his long and colorful career.

When wondering who best represented the holiday season – someone a little bit naughty and a little bit nice – Tkachuk immediately came to mind.

Speaking of which, Tkachuk definitely speaks his mind, speaking from the heart with a passion about the game and his desire to be a success. "Sometimes it gets me into trouble," he says. "At least I'm honest."

Following are excerpts from a chat between Mike Brophy of The Hockey News and Keith Tkachuk.

• On being satisfied with his play: "I feel pretty strong right now. Unfortunately we're not winning games, but the puck is going in for me. I'm playing a lot of minutes and to be truthful, I'm feeling better than I have in my entire career. Obviously with the new rules, it benefits a guy like me."

• About the new NHL's affecting his game: "I think you're always skeptical because it's such a huge change to the way the game is being played. You hate to see too many changes, but I think this allows offensive players to do their thing. It opens the game up to more skating. It's obviously more difficult for defensemen, but you don't have to worry about getting hooked and grabbed when you go through the neutral zone. You still battle, which is great."

"You don't want to take that out of the game. But if you put a stick on a guy, you go to the penalty box. In our game the other night there were a lot of calls late. Eventually guys are going to learn the calls will be made no matter what the score is or what time it is in the game."

• On the advantages of driving hard to the net: "It was a little weird at first because you could actually get your balance once you got to the front of the net instead of trying to deflect something or get a rebound when you are off balance from being cross-checked. It's a little bit nicer on the body."

• About reporting to camp last year too heavy and out of shape: "There was a lot of speculation about what shape I was in, and there were a lot of rumors being spread about me by people who don't even know me. The lockout hurt me and I wasn't as prepared to start up again as I should have been, but a lot of people didn't realize when the season got canceled, at my age it's a little tougher to get back in shape. I know I was bigger and stronger than I ever had been because I was doing a lot of lifting [weights], but I was also carrying some extra weight that I had to lose. When I got suspended, it was a difficult time for me."

• On Keith Tkachuk the person: "I'm not sure if there's a side of me that people don't get. The guys I play with know I'm honest. If I don't like something I'm going to let you know. Some people can handle that and some people can't. I don't think people who don't know me well understand my sarcasm. I can be pretty sarcastic."

• About having fun playing hockey: "It's absolutely true. I mean, it's tough

right now, because we're not winning, but you have to make the best of it. Playing in the NHL is a privilege, and to do this for a living is amazing. When I stop having fun, you won't see me on the ice anymore. My plan is to stay in St. Louis as long as I can. I enjoy playing here."

Second opinions

Opponents and teammates offered their comments on Keith Tkachuk.

• Flyers' defenseman Derian Hatcher: "He's like a big bear out there. He's awfully hard to handle in front of the net – and with the way the rules are now, you can bet one of two things are going to happen against him: Either he's going to get a great scoring chance and you won't be able to do anything about it or you're going to have to try to pull him down."

• San Jose Sharks defender Scott Hannan claims positioning is the key to keep Tkachuk out of the slot in front of the net: "If you let him dictate where he is going to be, you have no chance to stop him. ... He's so strong and he protects the puck so well with his big body. When he's determined to get to the net, you just have to hope it isn't his night."

• Kings' blueliner/captain Mattias Norstrom went even further in the accolade department: "Keith Tkachuk is by far the toughest player in the league for me to play against. He's a warrior. He pushes his way to the front of the net – and when you push back, he usually has one more push than you do."

To recap the above superlatives directed at Tkachuk from three very competent NHL defensemen: nearly impossible to handle. Warrior. Determined and almost unstoppable. Definitely no push-over.

• Teammate Barret Jackman gets this funny look on his face when asked about the real Tkachuk: "He has something to say to everyone as they arrive – and some

of it is pretty funny. He'll tease a teammate about a haircut or the clothes he's wearing or a play that he might have botched up the night before. He's relentless. But, the bottom line with Keith is that he loves this game and cares for his teammates. ... He wants to be the best. He's got that swagger ... and he deserves it. When he's on the ice, he wants the puck, he wants to be the go-to-guy. And he drives everybody else to be the best."

• Teammate/captain Dallas Drake on how last season's suspension hit Tkachuk: "Keith is a very proud person. He took the suspension real hard. He was embarrassed for himself and his family. He was worried what kids might say to his kids at school, what others might say to his wife. One thing about Keith Tkachuk: I think this adversity made him a better player, a better man."


Islander bond brings back Bossy

Legendary Islanders right wing Mike Bossy has returned to the organization in an official capacity for the first time since his retirement as a player in 1987. The 49-year-old of Ukrainian descent was named the team's new executive director of corporate relations.

"It's wonderful to be back with the Islanders," said Bossy in a press release on October 13. Bossy's No. 22 was retired by the Isles in 1992. "This franchise and Long Island hold a special place in my heart. I made a commitment to (Islanders owner) Charles Wang to do everything in my power to make the Islanders successful. A big role will be establishing partnerships with local and national businesses. A major professional sports team like the Islanders needs the support of corporate sponsors."

In his first week on the job, Bossy

(Continued on page 19)



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Ukrainian cultural...

(Continued from page 11)

going 'democratic development,' " Dr. Helbig writes in her course syllabus.

"Emphasis falls on tracing the influence of privatization on formerly state-controlled entertainment industries, the influx of technology from the West, the influence of new media such as the Internet on music composition consumption and dissemination, and the emergence of new popular music genres that reflect the complex changes that people continue to undergo in light of communism's fall. Of particular interest is the role of such popular music in the context of recent violent wars (Serbia) and peaceful revolutions (Georgia, Ukraine). This course emphasizes a strong listening component and will focus on popular music genres such as chalga, popsa, Turbo folk, chanson, as well as appropriated Western music genres in the post-socialist sphere," according to the syllabus.

Additionally, the Ukrainian Studies Program will offer a course on Ukrainian film titled "Cinema and the Emergence of Modern Ukraine," taught by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk in coordination with the department of Slavic languages.

Dr. Shevchuk teaches Ukrainian at the department, as well as directs the Ukrainian Film Club at Columbia University. Since October 2004 the club has been showcasing both new and classic films from Ukraine each month during the academic year and inviting Ukrainian filmmakers to speak at Columbia.

"Over more than a hundred years of its existence, Ukrainian film has reflected the complex, dramatic and often tragic ways of its people. In a very important sense what Ukraine has become today was determined by cinema, and how Ukrainians were allowed to express and see them-

selves on the screen. To scholars interested in Ukraine, cinema offers a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between the traditional fields of history, literature and language and the newer ones like sociology, political science and anthropology into which the studies of Ukraine have actively expanded since its independence," Dr. Shevchuk writes in his course syllabus.

An overview of Ukrainian cinema history will be presented in the course, and followed by analysis of some major Ukrainian Soviet and post-Soviet films and by exploration of the tension between their Ukrainian and Soviet aspects. Special attention will be paid to Ukrainian cinema since independence and its quest to liberate itself from the legacies of the Soviet empire.

During the spring 2007 semester (which begins the week of January 16), the Ukrainian Studies Program is also offering courses about Ukraine and the United Nations; human rights in the post-Soviet space; as well as three levels of Ukrainian language instruction.

Many of these courses are open to students from other universities in the New York metropolitan area, as well as to outside individuals interested in non-credit continuing studies. (Undergraduate and graduate students from New York University, for example, can register directly with their school for Ukrainian language classes at Columbia, while Ph.D. candidates from universities which are part of the Columbia University Consortium, e.g., NYU, the City University of New York and The New School, can register for non-language courses by obtaining appropriate approval from both their home school and Columbia. For more information readers may contact Diana Howansky at 212-854-4697 or ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu.

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CONCERT REVIEW: Oleh Chmyr, baritone, Victor Markiw, piano

by Roman Hurko

Classical Ukrainian art song is a somewhat hidden treasure. The recent release, by Musica Leopoldis, of the CD: "Kyrylo Stetsenko: The Art Songs," featuring bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka, is an attempt to remedy this state of affairs. Another step in this direction, was a very pleasurable concert on October 29, 2006, in New Haven, Conn., featuring Ukrainian art songs as performed by Oleh Chmyr, baritone, and Victor Markiw, piano.

A varied program was given that presented works in four languages ranging from the Baroque to the modern period. The program opened with a set of songs by Robert Schumann (1810-1856). With such a great master of German song, Mr. Chmyr's rich baritone had no problem creating beautifully lyrical moments in "Du Bist Wie Eine Blume" (You Are Like a Flower), and a quiet intimacy in "Zum Schluss." (To The End) As an aside, it would have been helpful had there been a translation of the

Roman Hurko is a composer of sacred music and an opera stage director who is currently enrolled in a master's program at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

German text in the program. Many in the audience had to content themselves solely with the beautiful singing.

Following Schumann, came three masterful compositions by Franz Schubert (1797-1828). In these pieces Mr. Chmyr's use of head voice, or falsetto, was used to great advantage. Mr. Markiw's playing really shone in the set's energetic final song "Halt!"

This was a good prelude to a solo piano set by Mr. Markiw in which he surprised me by playing a very moving arrangement of Giacomo Puccini's aria "Visse d'Arte" from the opera Tosca. Mr. Markiw really made the piano sing, and his sensitive playing created some magical moments. This was followed by a very dark and brooding rendition of Sergei Rachmaninoff's Prelude in B minor.

Returning to conclude the first half of the program, Mr. Chmyr sang a rather incongruous set made up of songs by the Baroque composer Alessandro Scarlatti (1659-1725), the classical composer Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835), and the 20th century composer Maurice Ravel (1875-1937). Ravel's "Chanson a Boire" was a real tour de force for Mr. Chmyr, and Mr.

Markiw's playing was exceptional. It made for a good closer to the first half.

The second half of the concert moved to Eastern Europe and started with a discovery for me: Frédéric Chopin's songs. Three of the four were in Polish and one in German. The Polish songs seemed to be lighter in tone and treatment, while the harmony in the German setting was very adventurous. It made me wish that Chopin had written an opera or two. Alas, like so many other composers in his day, his life was tragically short – only 39 years.

Mr. Chmyr was very at home with the Polish language and brought out the sweetness of these songs with ease. To compliment the Chopin set, Mr. Markiw proceeded to play a Chopin Nocturne, while Mr. Chmyr rested. The playing was both delicate and sensitive.

Next came a set of Russian songs by Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff. Mr. Chmyr seemed most at home in this repertoire. Clearly he was now singing in a style that was close to his heart. The songs themselves are masterful, and coupled with Mr. Chmyr's deep

understanding of the texts, and contexts, of these songs, the effect was magnificent.

Finally, and most fitting for a concert given by two Ukrainian musicians, came a set of Ukrainian art songs. The interpretation given these songs was very beautiful, although I would have preferred a more adventurous selection of pieces. Both Ihor Sonnevitsky, (1926-2006), and Myroslav Skoryk (born 1938) are modern composers. However, the works chosen from among their compositions, "Your Eyes" and "Oy, Huk Maty," respectively, were neo-romantic in nature. Perhaps the advantage of programming such songs was that they fit well with the style of the other, older Ukrainian composers on the program, Semen Hulak-Artemovsky (1813-1873) and Stanislav Liudkevych (1879-1979).

Ukrainians today are uncovering more and more treasures from their neglected store of high art. It is indeed a great service when two artists of Mr. Chmyr's and Mr. Markiw's calibre bring this type of music alive for our appreciative audiences. May they continue in their good work.

Ukrainian pro hockey...

(Continued from page 17)

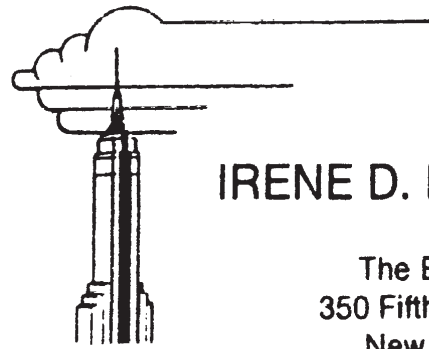
worked with Islanders Senior VP Mike Milbury on closing a multi-year deal with the New York Lottery.

"Charles Wang's dedication to the Islanders and the Long Island community makes the team a good partner us," said New York Lottery Director Nancy Palumbo in the same Islanders' press release. "We think it's fantastic that the

Islanders are welcoming their heroes like Mike Bossy back into their organization."

Bossy is the second Islanders Hall of Famer to rejoin the team. This past summer, Hall of Fame center Bryan Trottier – a close friend and teammate of Bossy's – was named executive director of player development.

Bossy and Trottier had the honor of taking part in the ceremonial face-off at the Islanders' home opener against Boston on October 14.



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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Physician cited for volunteer work

CHICAGO – The Chicago Tribune recently featured the work of Olga Ivanov, 30, an attending surgeon at Little Company of May Hospital and Health Centers in Evergreen Park, who spent a month this summer volunteering at the Kyiv Oncological Hospital as part of the Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Program.

Dr. Ivanov, who immigrated to the United States at age 16, was consulted on 250 cases of women with breast cancer and operated on 30 of them, demonstrating standard techniques used in the U.S. One technique required less invasive surgery, allowing more of a patient's lymph nodes to remain intact. "It cuts down on how radical the surgery needs to be and reduces mortality," she said.

In addition to the procedures and consultations, Dr. Ivanov educated the

women on the importance of mammograms and early cancer screenings. However, there is a lack of resources for such screenings and limited knowledge of the disease in Ukraine. "Some women in Ukraine are not even aware of the need for a mammogram or the importance of performing monthly breast self-exams," she explained.

According to Dr. Ivanov, cases of breast cancer have increased as people begin to feel the latent effects of the Chernobyl disaster. "Breast cancer is becoming much more of a problem there. They are still feeling the effects of something that happened 20 years ago," she said.

Dr. Ivanov enlisted the help of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program to help her fight breast cancer in Ukraine. Currently, the program is organizing fund-raisers for the purchase of mammography equipment for hospitals in Ukraine. Donations can be made to CSCIP-Ukrainian Breast Cancer Fund, Attn.: Kate Heilman, 78 E. Washington St., 4th Floor, Chicago, IL 60602.

N.J. teacher helps usher in the holidays



Tom Hawrylko

CLIFTON, N.J. – Sophia Capar has been a music teacher in the public schools of Clifton, N.J., for decades, but she is still motivated and young at heart. She is seen above with her accordion, some students and her mother, Irena, at a Saturday afternoon Christmas celebration in downtown Clifton on December 2. She led the students and the audience in various songs to usher in the holidays.

Another award-winning book translated by Tracz

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – Orysia Tracz translated another award-winning book into English, the introduction and notes of "Ukraine and Ukrainians: Historic-Ethnographic Album of Ivan Honchar" (Kyiv: Ukrainian Center of Folk Culture Ivan Honchar Museum and Oranta Publishers, 2006).

The book won the grand prix at the 13th Lviv Book Fair in Ukraine. Another

book that Ms. Tracz translated, "Painted Wood/Maliowane Derevo" by Lidia Orel, won first prize at the 2004 Lviv Book Fair.

A story about this latest achievement by Ms. Tracz, who also happens to be a columnist for The Ukrainian Weekly, was recently published in the staff newsletter of the University of Manitoba.

The first book Ms. Tracz translated for Rodovid was "Ukrainian antiquities in Private Collections: Folk Art of the Hutsul and Pokuttia Regions," which was published in 2002.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Delivers address at United Nations

UNITED NATIONS – Ukrainian American John Hewko, who is vice-president of operations for the Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), recently had an opportunity to address the United Nations.

On September 18 Mr. Hewko spoke during the high-level meeting on the mid-term comprehensive review of the implementation of the Program of Action of the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

Mr. Hewko stated that “The people of the United States, and their government, know that it is in our national interest to help lift from poverty those in the economically least developed countries.”

“Under this administration,” he added, “development has become a pillar in our national security strategy.” He went on to note that U.S. Official Development Assistance had nearly tripled from 2000 to 2005, from just under \$10 billion to nearly \$27.5 billion. He pointed out also that U.S. bilateral aid to the least developed countries increased by over 40 percent from 2004 to 2005 to nearly \$5 billion.

“The United States, including those of us at the Millennium Challenge Corp., will stand shoulder to shoulder with the least developed countries as they strive to better the lives of their citizens, “ he



John Hewko, vice-president of operations for the Millennium Challenge Corp., addresses the United Nations.

underscored.

The MCC focuses on providing “support to those poor countries which are indeed taking steps to invest in their own people, to promote economic freedom and opportunity, and to encourage accountable and inclusive governance, where individual rights and free expressions are respected,” Mr. Hewko said at the U.N.

Prior to joining the Millennium Challenge Corp., Mr. Hewko was an international partner with the law firm Baker & McKenzie (B&M), specializing in international corporate transactions in emerging markets. He worked in the firm’s Central and Eastern European offices. After an assignment in Moscow, he founded and served as managing partner of the Kyiv office, followed by almost six years managing the Prague office.

Earlier, Mr. Hewko worked in Buenos Aires and Sao Paulo for leading Argentine and Brazilian law firms and then with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Washington and New York handling South American and project finance transactions.

In 1991-1992, he was executive secre-

tary to the International Advisory Council to the Ukrainian Parliament. In that capacity he advised various Ukrainian parliamentary commissions in drafting the initial Ukrainian laws on foreign investment, anti-competition and corporations. He also assisted the working group which prepared the initial draft of the Ukrainian Constitution.

Mr. Hewko received a bachelor’s degree from Hamilton College, a master’s from Oxford University (St. Antony’s College), where he studied as a Marshall Scholar, and a law degree from Harvard University. In 2001-2002, he was a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and was for several years an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center.

Organic farmers in the spotlight

ELLENVILLE, N.Y. – Oleh and Nadia Maczaj were featured in an article for the August 8 issue of Catskill Mountain Region Guide for the success of the 36-acre farming property outside of Ellenville, N.Y. Through their Rusty Plough Farm, the Maczajs have made a name for themselves in organic farming.

Both are Ukrainians from the New York/New Jersey community, and neither had a farming background when they initially bought the property in 1988. Oleh was a computer specialist liaison, while Nadia was an archaeologist.

According to the magazine, they began growing on small plot of land for

themselves, but soon realized that they were growing more than they could consume. Originally they farmed as a part-time hobby, and went public 10 years ago.

They fell in love with their hobby, moved out of the city in 2003 and dedicated themselves fully to their thriving business. Their produce ranges from root crops, greens and brassicas to herbs, strawberries and flowers.

The Maczajs supply produce to several area restaurants and fill weekly produce orders for individual customers. Produce may also be bought at the farm.

For more information about the Rusty Plough Farm, readers may call 845-647-6911 or log on to <http://www.farmtocity.org/Home.asp?mname=Rondout+Valley+Organics>.

Quebec government honors clergyman

VAL-D’OR, Quebec – Msgr. Lev Chayka was honored by the government of Quebec for his many years of hard work in the development and construction of spiritual and national Ukrainian monuments within the province. He was named a laureate of the Cultural Communities of the province of Quebec.

Msgr. Chayka has participated in such projects as Ukrainian parish halls, churches, cultural centers and, most recently, the Multicultural Ukrainian Museum.

The museum, now being reconstructed in Abitibi, Quebec, will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the arrival of Ukrainians to northwestern Quebec, many of whom became instrumental in the development of the mining industry in the province. In fact, this will not be the first Ukrainian museum

in Quebec, which is why Msgr. Chayka prefers to use the term “reconstructed.”

Father Josephat Jean completed an earlier museum in 1928. It was the renowned Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky who originally sent Father Jean to Quebec to serve the 10,000 Ukrainian residing at a colony named “Sheptyckyj” after the metropolitan.

The early settlers constructed, in addition to the museum, a community center, school, monastery, chapel and residence. The original museum, containing artifacts and exhibits from Ukraine representing Ukrainian history, culture and religion, was destroyed in a fire.

Msgr. Chayka, as successor to Father Jean, is seeking to honor the memory of those past generations of Ukrainians by bringing back the museum dedicated to the Ukrainian community of northwestern Quebec and northeastern Ontario.

For information readers may contact: Ukrainian Museum in Abitibi, 1095 3rd St., Val-d’Or, PQ J9P 4A9; 819-824-9313.



Msgr. Lev Chayka (right) with Patriarch Lubomyr Husar.

Ukrainian American Youth Association
Branch 49 in Whippany, NJ
cordially invites the Ukrainian Community
to a
Traditional CYM Yalynka
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OUT AND ABOUT

January 8 Washington	Lecture by Volodymyr Dubovyk, "Ukraine and NATO: Dynamics of the Relationship," Woodrow Wilson Center, 202-691-4140	January 20 Philadelphia	Ukrainian American Nautical Association Inc. gathering at Strictly Sail Philadelphia boat show, Pennsylvania Convention Center, info@uanai.com or 215-680-7787
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 20 Calgary, AB	Malanka featuring music by Zolota Bulava, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Calgary Petroleum Club, info@calgaryucc.org
January 12 Scranton, PA	Malanka featuring the music of Fata Morgana, St. Vladimir Parish Center, 570-383-9487 or 570-563-2275	January 20 Edmonton, AB	15th anniversary of Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, performance of "The Legend Unfolds," Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, 780-451-8000 or Ticketmaster outlets
January 13 Hartford, CT	Malanka featuring the music of Hrim, Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 860-296-6955	January 20 Carteret, NJ	Malanka featuring the music of Fata Morgana, St. Demetrius Banquet Center, 732-541-5452 or 732-541-6163
January 13 Glen Spey, NY	Malanka dinner and dance, Lumberland Senior Center, 845-557-6211 or 845-858-2420	January 20 San Bruno, CA	Classical Guitarist Arina Burceva, St. Andrew Church, info@arinaburceva.com or www.arinaburceva.com
January 13 Ogden, UT	Holiday concert, Kitka women's vocal ensemble, Browning Arts Center, artsatweber.weber.edu or kitka.org	January 20 Baltimore	Malanka featuring the music of Halychany, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-675-7557 or 410-248-0359
January 13 Los Angeles	Malanka featuring music by Mriya, Ukrainian Culture Center of Los Angeles, 323-665-3703	January 20 Warren, MI	Malanka dinner and dance featuring the music of Vorony, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 586-757-8130 or 586-558-8508
January 13 Washington	Malanka featuring the music of Chetverta Khvyliya, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 301-593-5316 or 410-947-0913	January 20 Jenkintown, PA	Malanka dinner and dance featuring the music of Hrim, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-969-4101, 215-379-2676 or 215-638-4103
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		
January 19 Calgary, AB	Malanka dinner and dance, Thorncliff/Greenview Community Center, 403-274-6840 or info@suzirya.com		
January 20 Whippany, NJ	Malanka featuring music by Luna, Ukrainian Cultural Center of New Jersey, advanced tickets only, 973-540-9144		

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. 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

<p>January 7, 2007 Christmas Day Brunch, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., \$12.95++</p> <p>January 19-21, 2007 Church of Annunciation, Flushing, NY - Family Weekend</p> <p>January 20, 2007 Kerhonkson Fire House Installation Dinner Banquet</p>	<p>January 27, 2007 Soyuzivka's 2nd Annual Malanka sponsored by the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America</p> <p>March 3-4, 2007 Plast Fraternity "Khmelnychenky" Annual Winter Rada</p> <p>March 23-25, 2007 Plast Sorority "Chornomorski Khvyli" Rada</p>
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 13

HARTFORD, Conn.: Join us in a 55-year tradition - the Hartford Malanka or Ukrainian New Year's Eve Dance - at the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 961 Wethersfield Ave., at 9 p.m., featuring the Hrim band. Donation: adults, \$25; students (to age 22), \$15. Tickets and table reservations can be made by calling the Cooperative SUMA Ukrainian Gift Shop, 860-296-6955.

GLEN SPEY, N.Y.: A Malanka dinner-dance will take place at the Lumberland Senior Center, located in the Town Hall building on Proctor Road. Cocktails are at 7:30 p.m., the dinner buffet at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person when purchased by January 8, or \$40 at the door; \$10 for children age 5-16. There will be a cash bar by donation. Music will be provided by Musical Entertainers from Lviv. The Malanka is sponsored by the Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation, with all proceeds going to the Verkhovyna Restoration Fund. For information call Stephan Palylyk, 845-557-6211, or Christine Smetaniuk, 845-858-2420.

Saturday, January 20

JENKINTOWN, Pa: The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) sincerely invites everyone to attend a fun-

filled Malanka, a traditional Ukrainian New Year welcoming dance featuring the popular Hrim band from New England. The Malanka will be held at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, beginning at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for adults when purchased in advance; \$40 at the door; \$25 for students and seniors. Admission includes a delicious hot catered buffet; champagne will be provided at midnight. For information and advance tickets call Walter, 215-379-2676; John, 215-638-4103; or Leo, 215-969-4101.

CARTERET, N.J.: St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary's 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 submission) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long; longer submissions are subject to editing.

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

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

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