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## Top issues for Ukraine in 2007: WTO, borders and real estate

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Joining the World Trade Organization (WTO), demarcating the Russian-Ukrainian border and regulating the exploding real estate market will be among the top issues in Ukrainian politics for 2007.

On January 10, Ukraine's three most powerful leaders – President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz – met at the Presidential Secretariat on Bankova Street for five hours to discuss this year's agenda.

At the top of their list was the ongoing debate on future constitutional reforms to further define and clarify powers within the new parliamentary-presidential republic.

"Undoubtedly, the principal issue is distributing authority and responsibility within the branches of power," Mr. Yanukovich said. "I agree with Viktor Andriyovych [Yushchenko] that we absolutely, in the soonest time, will carry all this out in accordance with Ukrainian law and the Constitution. We will discuss those issues which truly need changes or improvement in the Constitution."

Mr. Yanukovich has spent much of his prime ministership instigating a battle for authority within the Ukrainian government, particularly at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He and the president remain in conflict over that ministry and have yet to reach a resolution as to whether Borys Tarasyuk will remain as foreign affairs minister.

Mr. Yushchenko announced another roundtable discussion for February 14 and 15 to form a 2007 political roadmap based on last year's Universal of National Unity, which most political observers view as a

groundless, irrelevant document.

This year will also determine whether a pro-Ukrainian, Western-oriented Mr. Yushchenko will be able to coexist with a pro-Russian coalition government, or if the Party of the Regions' aggressive campaign of usurping power will lead to an attempt at impeaching Mr. Yushchenko.

The Communist Party of Ukraine announced on January 10 that it will submit for the Verkhovna Rada's review in February a bill to impeach Mr. Yushchenko.

The Party of the Regions stated the same day that it's not ready for impeachment proceedings and wants to work with the president.

### WTO entry

2007 will be the year Ukraine joins the WTO.

Anything short of that goal will be a political debacle for President Yushchenko, given that he set numerous 2006 deadlines for WTO entry – each of which failed either because they were unrealistic, or because the pro-Russian coalition government intentionally delayed membership.

The Parliament passed all the legislation necessary for Ukraine's WTO accession last year, and the government has signed all the necessary bilateral protocols with WTO members, with the exception of Kyrgyzstan.

That country's government claims Ukraine owes a \$27 million Soviet-era debt.

Given that the disagreement is unrelated to WTO bilateral trade rules or regulations, it may come under review at a future WTO ministers conference, according to Agro Perspective, a Kyiv-based agricultural consulting project

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## VOA axes Ukrainian radio show

by Roma Hadzewycz

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Friday, January 5, broadcast of Voice of America's Ukrainian morning radio show was its last. An announcement that the program, known as "Rankova Prohrama" and popularly referred to as the "Breakfast Show," would no longer be aired was made on the show a mere two days before its suspension.

A news release about the cut was posted on January 4 on the VOA website's Ukrainian section (<http://www.VOA.com/Ukrainian>). It was published in the Ukrainian language only. The news release did not cite a reason for the radio show's elimination.

Voice of America radio broadcasts to Ukraine are now down to one hour daily: two 15-minute segments broadcast at 6:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. Kyiv time, and a half-hour evening show at 11 p.m.

According to the VOA website, the Ukrainian Service also has TV shows that are broadcast on various channels in Ukraine: the daily program "Chas-Time," and the weekly shows "Vikno v Ameryku" (Window on America) and "Nove! Innovatsiyi Plus" (New! Innovations Plus).

By all accounts, the Ukrainian "Breakfast Show," which aired daily at 7 a.m., was the most popular of VOA's

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## Party of the Regions national deputy may stay on as rights ombudsman

by Yana Sedova

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – The Ukrainian government's leading defender of human rights may well continue to be Nina Karpachova, a national deputy highly active in the Party of the Regions, which has a history of violating the law and human rights.

Ms. Karpachova's candidacy to become the Verkhovna Rada ombudsman for human rights has support from the coalition government – despite criticism from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) that she is compromised politically.

"To our deep regret, former Ombudsman for Human Rights Nina Karpachova took an active role in party activities in conflict with her oath to act independently and unbiased," wrote Hanna Severinsen, a reporter with the PACE Monitoring Committee, in a letter to Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz published on January 10.

PACE called on the Verkhovna Rada to elect a human rights ombudsman who doesn't belong to any political party, pointing out that the post in European countries demands "a politically independent person who can maintain this independence both in relations with authorities and different political forces."

Furthermore, the ombudsman is prohibited from any political activities.



Zenon Zawada

**Verkhovna Rada Ombudsman for Human Rights Nina Karpachova is expected to remain in her position, despite criticism from Europe about her active role in the Party of the Regions.**

Ms. Karpachova, on the other hand, has moonlighted as the Rada's ombudsman for human rights while serving as a Party of the Regions national deputy fol-

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## Ukrainian World Congress seeks renaming of Kyiv street to honor Metropolitan Lypkivsky

TORONTO – Acting upon the request of the Metropolitan Vasyl Lypkivsky Ukrainian Orthodox Brotherhood from Northport, Fla., the Ukrainian World Congress has written to Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi of Kyiv requesting that a street in Kyiv currently named Uritsky Street be renamed Metropolitan Vasyl Lypkivsky Street in honor of the co-founder of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

Moisei Uritsky, for whom the street is currently named, was a Bolshevik revolutionary who headed the Communist secret police in Petrograd. He was born in Cherkasy, Ukraine, and studied at the University of Kyiv.

The Orthodox Brotherhood had originally requested that Uritsky Street be renamed in January 2003 but received a negative response from Deputy Mayor M. Poshvanov. In April 2004 the brotherhood repeated its request that the street be named in honor of Lypkivsky in a letter to Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko and again in August 2005.

In February 2006, a member of the

Kyiv Commission on street naming and site designation, Serhii Bilokin informed the brotherhood that the commission had decided unanimously on January 25, 2006, to rename Uritsky Street in honor of Metropolitan Lypkivsky.

However, recommendations by the commission were non-binding on the Kyiv City Council and no further action was taken.

The UWC says it now plans to pursue this matter vigorously.

Metropolitan Lypkivsky, born on March 19, 1864, in Popudnia, Lypovets county of the Kyiv gubernia, was one of the founders and the first leader of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

After studying at the Uman Theological School, the Kyiv Theological Seminary and the Kyiv Theological Academy, he was ordained in 1891 and at first served as dean of the cathedral in Lypovets and supervisor of the county's schools.

In 1903-1905 he taught canon law in the Kyiv Church Teachers' School. He was removed from the position for his

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## ANALYSIS

## A possible energy solution in the coal beds of Ukraine

by Roman Kuchinsky  
RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine  
and Moldova Report

In the wake of Ukraine's announced plans to reduce its dependence on imported natural gas by using more coal for power generation, Ukraine's own enormous reserves of methane have been touted as a better alternative. The problem is finding a way to harness them.

Ukraine is believed to be sitting on more gaseous fuel than its principal supplier of natural gas, Turkmenistan.

Estimated reserves of 11 trillion to 12 trillion cubic meters of coal-bed methane would give Ukraine at least three times the amount of natural gas in Turkmenistan, and four times that in Russia's Shtokman gas field.

Considering Ukraine's plans to reduce its dependence on imported natural gas, including through the increased use of coal for power generation, tapping into such a wealth of fuel would be a boon.

However, much of Ukraine's methane goes to waste – raising environmental concerns as it is released into the atmosphere.

Ukraine's government estimates that up to 3 billion cubic meters of methane escapes from its coal beds every year, contributing to Ukraine's ranking as one of the world's top-10 emitters of methane.

It is believed that taking steps to reduce methane emissions, which constitute 16 percent of all greenhouse-gas emissions globally, may help reduce the impact of global warming.

Yet, despite the potential economic and environmental benefits, little has been done to capture Ukraine's methane.

While initiative is not lacking, foreign investment, modern technology and expertise are.

Ukraine has taken steps to remedy this. In October 2006 the government began to explore the possibility of allowing Florida-based Itera Energy to develop a pilot project for extracting methane in Ukraine's Donbas coal-mining region.

Itera Energy, which has successfully extracted coal-bed methane in the United States, plans to conduct geological tests in select Ukrainian mines to determine how much gas is available and the feasibility of capturing it.

If the tests pan out, the company plans to extract some 600 million cubic meters of methane in 2007 and sell it to Ukrainian enterprises for around \$135 per 1,000 cubic meters – the same price Gazprom is charging Ukraine for natural gas in 2007.

Locally produced methane could prove to be extremely beneficial to the highly industrialized Donbas region, where chemical enterprises have demanded that the Parliament and government lower natural-gas prices in order to remain profitable.

For Ukraine as a whole, tapping into a new domestic energy resource could prove to be both profitable and beneficial. The country could potentially save millions of dollars in import costs as it works to restore its traditional role as an energy exporter.

After all, Ukraine was the largest producer of natural gas in the Soviet Union until the 1970s, when Moscow decided to shift investments in the gas industry to the Yamal Peninsula and Central Asia.

## Fukuyama on expectations created by Orange Revolution

RFE/RL

Dr. Francis Fukuyama, Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, is best known for his idea that the world settled on liberal democracy after the ideological struggle of the Cold War. After giving a lecture at the 10th anniversary of the Economic Education and Research Consortium in Kyiv, he spoke to RFE/RL Ukrainian Service correspondent Marianna Dratch about the unrealistic expectations of the Orange Revolution and the development of civil society in Ukraine. Following is a portion of that interview.

**Some time ago, you wrote that Ukrainians believe that the strongest non-governmental organization in their country is the mafia. What, in your opinion, has changed in the past few years?**

What's been very impressive about Ukraine has been the emergence of Ukrainian civil society. I think in Russia in the 1990s you had some evidence of civil society in terms of free media, civic groups and so forth. Ukraine had relatively less of that, but then all of a sudden with the Orange Revolution, it became apparent that there were a lot of groups out there that were willing to participate politically to the point that you could actually force the second election

and a change in the outcome. I think that's a positive form of social capital, as opposed to the negative form of social capital as presented by the mafias.

**But many people in Ukraine are now disappointed in the Orange Revolution and mistrust the government. The parties that led the Orange Revolution have gone to the opposition. So what happened to civil society?**

I think that the expectations that were created by the Orange Revolution were probably unrealistic, that you would have the transformation of Ukraine overnight into a well-functioning liberal democracy. I think that really takes time. And there were conflicts of interest within the Orange coalition and problems in leadership and all of that sort of thing.

It's not surprising that things haven't gone as well as people hoped back then. I think the important question for the long term is whether people can remain mobilized so that there continues to be pressure on the government to reflect the wishes of the Ukrainian people. I don't think you're at the point yet where you can say everyone is simply going back to being passive.

**The crucial question is how to build social capital. Is it possible to build up social capital from top to bottom, or**

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### President vetoes land sale moratorium

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has vetoed a bill passed by the Verkhovna Rada in December to prolong a moratorium on farmland sales for one year, until January 1, 2008, Ukrainian media reported on January 3. Mr. Yushchenko said in his veto that prolonging the land-sale ban would only widen the use of legal loopholes and shadow-economy schemes in redistributing farmland in Ukraine, as well as limit the constitutional right of citizens to dispose of their property. The Verkhovna Rada needs 300 votes to override a presidential veto. Lawmaker Mykhailo Pozhyvanov of the Our Ukraine bloc told the UNIAN news agency that he thinks Parliament may mobilize enough votes to reject the land-sale veto. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Tymoshenko Bloc for overriding veto

KYIV – The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), the opposition caucus in the Verkhovna Rada, has adopted a decision to join the ruling Anti-Crisis Coalition in voting to override President Viktor Yushchenko's veto on the prolongation of a moratorium on land sales, Ukrayinska Pravda reported on January 9. Mr. Yushchenko vetoed the bill on the grounds that the continued ban on land sales would only lead to increased corruption as Ukrainian farmland is redistributed. YTB member Ivan Kyrylenko, who announced the decision, said that the caucus is not opposed to land sales, but first of all it intends to support "the civilized land market." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Rada overrides presidential veto

KYIV – On January 9, the Verkhovna Rada overrode President Viktor Yushchenko's veto on the extension of a moratorium on land sales with 67 votes more than the 300 required, Interfax reported the same day. The extension of the moratorium was backed by the Anti-Crisis Coalition, as well as 120 deputies from the opposition Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and five deputies from the pro-presidential Our Ukraine caucus. "The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has extended the existence of the black market of land

in Ukraine," Our Ukraine parliamentary caucus leader Viacheslav Kyrylenko said. Arsenii Yatseniuk, first vice-chairman of the Presidential Secretariat, said the Verkhovna Rada's decision may be challenged in the Constitutional Court. This was the first time the Verkhovna Rada of the fifth convocation had overridden a presidential veto. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Yushchenko to veto Cabinet law

KYIV – The law on the Cabinet of Ministers, which was drafted by the government and adopted by the Parliament, will be vetoed, President Viktor Yushchenko said on January 10 following a meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz. He explained his intention by citing a provision of the Universal of National Unity in which the parties agreed to cooperate in drafting the bill on the Cabinet of Ministers. (Ukrinform)

### Yushchenko honors Leonid Kravchuk

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko decorated Leonid Kravchuk, the first president of Ukraine, with the Order of Yaroslav the Wise (second degree), the presidential press service reported in January 10. According to the presidential decree issued in conjunction with the honor, Mr. Kravchuk was recognized for his outstanding state and political activities for independent Ukraine and weighty contribution to the development of Ukrainian civil society. (Ukrinform)

### Ivchenko criticizes Belarus' energy policy

KYIV – Oleksii Ivchenko, a national deputy of the Our Ukraine parliamentary caucus and former head of Naftohaz Ukrayiny, the state-owned oil and gas monopoly, described Belarusian energy policy as incorrect, Interfax reported on January 9. "The main mistake of Belarus, as well as Moldova, was the fact that they gave their strategic gas-transportation systems to Russia," Mr. Ivchenko said. He also described Belarus' current policy toward Russia as ineffective. This policy, he said, should be implemented in time,

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### ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator (973) 292-9800, ext. 3041  
e-mail: [ukradmin@att.net](mailto:ukradmin@att.net)  
Maria Oscislawski, advertising manager (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040  
e-mail: [adsukrpubl@att.net](mailto:adsukrpubl@att.net)  
Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions (973) 292-9800, ext. 3042  
e-mail: [ukrsubscr@att.net](mailto:ukrsubscr@att.net)

# Two years after the Orange Revolution: Ukraine in a funk

by Alexander Motyl

What went wrong?

Two years ago, in November-December 2004, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians peacefully occupied downtown Kyiv in protest against the falsification of presidential elections. That popular uprising, known as the Orange Revolution, ushered in a pro-democratic government headed by President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko; it appeared to herald Ukraine's decisive turn toward democracy and the West.

Two years later, the euphoria that accompanied the revolution and the hopes that it spawned have dissipated. The popular mood ranges from despair, anger and cynicism among the revolution's supporters to confusion, disappointment and disillusionment among the revolution's opponents. Increasingly, Ukrainians are giving up on all their leaders and treating their promises as empty words.

*Alexander Motyl, Ph.D., is professor of political science and deputy director of the Center for Global Change and Governance at Rutgers University. Among his books are "Dilemmas of Independence: Ukraine after Totalitarianism" (1993) and "Imperial Ends: The Decline, Collapse and Revival of Empires" (2001). The article above was posted on openDemocracy.net on December 22, 2006. It is reprinted here with the author's permission.*

The irony is that Ukraine is actually doing well to moderately well in almost every respect. The economy is robust. GDP is set to grow about 5.5 percent in 2006 – despite a twofold increase in gas prices – rebounding from half that rate in 2005. Foreign direct investment (FDI) should exceed \$3.5 billion, a massive increase over previous years. The currency is stable, the current account deficit is manageable, disposable income has grown, and the budget deficit is under control.

Democratic institutions are also consolidating. The parliamentary elections on March 26, 2006, were fair and free and, just as important, were widely expected to be fair and free. The subsequent three-month wrangling between potential coalition partners was often-times infantile and always annoying, but it transpired according to the rules of the game. The eventual coming to power of the Anti-Crisis Coalition headed by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Party of the Regions struck the Orange Revolution's supporters as a repudiation of the revolution's gains, but it took place legally and was made possible by those very gains.

The subsequent power struggle between Messrs. Yanukovich and Yushchenko – the two dramatis personae of the Orange Revolution – testified as much to the flawed constitutional reform

that increased the powers of the Parliament and prime minister without adequately delineating their, and the president's, limits as to the power-grabbing proclivities of the Party of the Regions. In any case, that tussle is also taking place according to the rules.

The media are lively and independent. Neither Mr. Yushchenko, nor Mr. Yanukovich, nor Ms. Tymoshenko are spared constant scrutiny and criticism. A Constitutional Court empowered to resolve just the sort of power struggles bedeviling the government has finally emerged – after Parliament had refused for one and a half years to appoint its share of justices lest they declare the constitutional reform deal reached by Orange and anti-Orange forces during the revolution unconstitutional and re-empower the president.

Civil-society organizations remain vibrant – from credit unions to non-governmental organizations to rock bands to church groups to student clubs. Perhaps most important, Ukraine's young are smart, independent, cosmopolitan and cynical about authority – attitudes that bode ill for possible elite attempts to re-establish a paternalistic regime.

All this, and yet Ukraine's population remains gripped by a sense of malaise. People have lost faith in the present, and they are losing confidence in the future. Some Ukrainian intellectuals suggest that this growing passivity will either fail to resist what they believe is Mr. Yanukovich's inevitable turn to authoritarianism or, perhaps worse, at some point even welcome a strong man promising to get the country moving. Optimists counter by pointing to the growth of institutions that, they argue, will both constrain elites from acting too undemocratically and ensure that Ukrainian civil society will remain strong – even if Ukrainians believe that it is weak.

## The malaise's five sources

The malaise has five causes. The first is that popular expectations of immediate, rapid and comprehensive change

after the Orange Revolution greatly outstripped the reality of the changes instituted by the Orange governments in 2005-2006. Those governments made a difference, they did change Ukraine for the better – but that difference and that change could only be less than what the population had hoped for. Not surprisingly, Mr. Yushchenko is now widely reviled, while Ms. Tymoshenko, whom he fired in September 2005, has come to embody the hopes of those desiring radical change.

The second cause is the seemingly endless elite squabbling that has characterized Ukrainian politics since at least mid-2005. The March 2006 parliamentary elections should have produced an Orange coalition, but bad faith, excessive ambitions and the unwillingness to cut deals produced the programmatically bizarre Anti-Crisis Coalition of the pro-oligarchic and generally pro-business Party of the Regions and the antediluvian and unreformed Communist Party and the business-skeptical Socialist Party.

Mr. Yanukovich promised an end to the squabbling and forceful governance, but his government has proven equally prone to tussles over personnel, contradictory signals and policy stagnation. Unfortunately, his opponents – grouped in the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine – have done no better.

Ms. Tymoshenko and her allies in the Parliament represent the main opposition but have still to act in a critically constructive way and offer genuine alternatives to government policy. Ms. Tymoshenko's characterization of the government's planned cuts in social spending as "genocidal," for instance, showed just how far she has to go to become a mature opposition leader. Our Ukraine, meanwhile, has gone into a free fall, unwilling and unable to reinvent itself in the aftermath of its disastrous attempt to head a coalition government

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## OSCE welcomes U.N.'s adoption of resolution on protecting journalists

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

VIENNA – The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszti, on January 4 welcomed today the recent adoption of United Nations Resolution 1738 condemning attacks against journalists in conflict areas. The measure, unanimously adopted by the U.N. Security Council, comes amid numerous deadly attacks on media professionals, also in the OSCE area.

"At a time when journalists are facing increasing risks, this resolution is a necessary reminder to all governments of their obligations under international law to let media work freely. It is also a call to governments to fight against impunity too often enjoyed by those committing crimes against media professionals," Mr. Haraszti said.

"The U.N. resolution reasserts the fundamental principles of press freedom and the necessity of preventing violence

against journalists and bringing to justice those responsible for these crimes. These are the precise principles that all OSCE participating states have committed themselves to follow since the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. It is a milestone that they are reinvigorated on a global scale by the U.N. Security Council," he added.

But media can also be used to further inflame a volatile situation, and Resolution 1738 reaffirmed condemnation of all incitements to violence and the need to bring to justice those responsible for it.

U.N. Resolution 1738, introduced by France and Greece and adopted on December 23, 2006, condemns "deliberate attacks" against journalists and calls upon "all parties to put an end to such practices." It also recalls the council's demand that "journalists, media professionals and associated personnel engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflicts shall be considered civilians, to be respected and protected as such."

## Ukrainian World Congress...

(Continued from page 1)

advocacy of a separate Ukrainian Church.

With the fall of the tsarist Russian regime in 1917, Lypkivsky joined the struggle for the creation of an independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church. According to the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, he was elected chairman of the Kyiv Eparchial Sobor and of the Brotherhood of the Resurrection, which evolved into the All-Ukrainian Orthodox Church Council.

In 1919 he celebrated the first Ukrainian-language liturgy in St. Michael's Military Cathedral in Kyiv for which he was defrocked by the Russian Church. However, supporters of an independent Ukrainian Church welcomed this historic act.

In the summer of 1919 Lypkivsky became a parish priest of St. Sophia

Cathedral in Kyiv. In 1920 the All-Ukrainian Orthodox Church Council declared the establishment of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. In 1921 Lypkivsky was elected the first metropolitan of the Church.

Vilified by the Russian Church as a "non-canonical bishop," he nonetheless traveled across Ukraine visiting more than 500 parishes and overseeing the growth of the UAOC. By 1927, the encyclopedia notes, the Church claimed 36 bishops and over 2,500 priests.

Lypkivsky was persecuted by the Soviets, who arrested him several times and then put him under virtual house arrest for 10 years, 1927-1937. He was arrested by the NKVD in November 1937 on charges of anti-Soviet activity and was executed soon thereafter. Some sources give the year of his death at 1937, while others say 1938.

## Quotable notes

"For the past 15 years it has been commonly assumed that Russian leaders gave up the Soviet practice of murdering political dissidents, inside and outside of the country. Maybe not. British authorities say they are investigating the apparent poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko, an outspoken critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is fighting for his life in a London hospital after ingesting highly toxic thallium. A former agent of the KGB secret service and its successor, the Federal Security Service (FSB), who sought asylum in Britain six years ago, Mr. Litvinenko had alleged that the agency maintained a secret poisons laboratory. Along with many others, he also charged that the Kremlin was behind the 2004 poisoning of Ukraine's pro-Western president, Viktor Yushchenko.

"There's no concrete evidence as yet that the FSB or Mr. Putin is behind the poison attacks – but there is plenty of reason for suspicion. ..."

– "Political Poison," editorial, *The Washington Post*, November 21, 2006.

"...In science, there is a principle called Occam's razor. When presented with competing theories for explaining a natural phenomenon, one adopts the least elaborate. Nature prefers simplicity. Scientists do not indulge in grassy-knoll theories. You don't need a convoluted device to explain Litvinenko's demise.

"Do you think Anna Politkovskaya, the journalist who was investigating the war in Chechnya, was shot dead in her elevator by rogue elements?"

"What about Viktor Yushchenko, the presidential candidate in Ukraine and eventual winner, poisoned with dioxin during the campaign, leaving him alive but disfigured? Ultra-nationalist Russians?"

"Opponents of Putin have been falling like flies. Some jailed, some exiled, some killed. True, Litvinenko's murder will never be traced directly to Putin, no matter how dogged the British police investigation.

"State-sponsored assassinations are almost never traceable to the source. Too many cutouts. Too many layers of protection between the don and the hitman.

"Moreover, Russia has a long and distinguished history of state-sponsored assassination of which the ice-pick murder of Trotsky was but the most notorious. ..."

– Charles Krauthammer, columnist, *The Washington Post*, December 8, 2006.

## Notes from Ukraine

## Taras Kuzio's blog

December 20, 2006

## So who poisoned Yushchenko?

Last week during President Viktor Yushchenko's meeting with the media, he was asked about progress in investigating who poisoned him during the presidential elections. His answer was surprising as he said that the authorities already knew who had done this and were close to arresting them.

A day later Procurator General Oleksander Medvedko responded by saying that this was not the case. Feeling a little embarrassed at having to contradict the president, he said that prosecutors were nowhere near close to finding those who had poisoned him.

I was shocked and surprised by this claim and counter-claim. After all, Medvedko is a presidential appointee according to the 2006 Constitution. I asked others on my discussion list if they could shed some light on this troubling contradiction?

Few responded. Probably few could understand why the president and top prosecutor would contradict each other on such an important issue as the poisoning of the opposition candidate.

The best explanation was that this was not the first time that Yushchenko had stated that arrests were close only to be contradicted. Soon after he was elected the internal affairs minister, Yuri Lutsenko claimed that the authorities knew who had brought the poison into Ukraine and which national deputy had distributed it. Again, nothing came of this claim.

The contradictions say a lot about Ukrainian politics today.

The 2006 Constitution left the president with some extensive powers. These included control over the appointment of the "sylovyky" (Security Service chairman, procurator general, National Security and Defense Council secretary, minister of defense and minister of foreign affairs). Nevertheless, President Yushchenko is clearly unhappy with the performance of the prosecutor and the Security Service chairman.

These are two key positions of influence in dealing with Ukraine's two big areas requiring reform: corruption and the rule of law. Ukraine's two top prosecutors since Yushchenko was elected, Sviatoslav Piskun and Medvedko, have been disastrous in assisting in combating corruption and improving the rule of law. They are more likely protecting senior officials than investigating them for abuse of office. We now know why the "bandits" never did go to prison.

The lack of progress in investigations of Yushchenko's poisoning is therefore due to sabotage, incompetence or a disinterest in finding those guilty of this crime.

This failed investigation is all top readily compared to the thorough British investigation of the poisoning of former FSB agent Alexander Litvinenko in London.

When I read about the intensive investigation conducted by the British police and security service into the murder of a British citizen on British soil I feel proud to be British. When I read about the botched and contradictory Ukrainian non-investigation I feel sad and depressed.

Ukrainians who froze on the maidan during the Orange Revolution deserved more from their leaders.

December 7, 2006

## D.C. comes face to face with Yanukovich

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich paid his first visit to Washington this week after returning to the post of prime minister this summer. The event proved to be a non-issue as nothing concrete came of the meetings.

Ironically, he did sign an agreement with the Millennium Challenge Corp., a U.S. government body which has awarded Ukraine a grant to combat corruption. Of course, Yanukovich was the right person to sign the agreement with as he had promised to combat this evil back home.

Washington had heard such promises many times in the past under President Leonid Kuchma and during the first Yanukovich government. And, it continues to remain skeptical about Yanukovich's promises to combat corruption and to uphold the democratic gains of the Orange Revolution.

There is great reason to be skeptical in Washington. The Party of the Regions has shown that it continues in the Kuchma era mold of saying nice phrases and then undertaking the opposite policies. These nice phrases are produced for print, as recently in The Washington Post, and for Yanukovich's foreign speeches, by his Washington-based public relations company.

Everything is beautifully choreographed, down to the free glossy brochure expounding the "successes" of the Yanukovich government's first 100 days in office.

But, when he is asked difficult questions on NATO, the unconstitutional dismissal of Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk or energy corruption, the choreography fails Yanukovich and he stumbles to take part in a live question-and-answer session.

In this regard Yanukovich resembles President George W. Bush who also has a beautifully choreographed presentation but finds it difficult to deal with live questions. But, at least Bush has had six years to practice, and he has dramatically improved.

Meanwhile, for Yanukovich the world of free media and democracy is all very new, and a little tiresome. This could be readily seen when Yanukovich cancelled a meeting at the Ukrainian Embassy with Ukrainian diaspora organizations. He had been warned that they had "difficult" questions for him about why the Party of the Regions voted against the law on the 1933 Famine, the status of the Ukrainian language and other issues. Maybe the "burly" (as the Western media describe him), Yanukovich is simply afraid of those little Ukrainian ladies?

There is though one major difference between Yanukovich and Bush. Whether you agree with him or not, Bush at least has convictions and beliefs.

Yanukovich, meanwhile, remains a blank void beyond the Potemkin choreographed smile and nice words. And this is the main problem.

Washington (and organizations like NATO) do not know what he really stands for, if anything: This means he has to prove to Ukrainians and the West that the Yanukovich of today is not that of 2004. "Ne slovom, a dilom" (not words, but deeds) as the Orange side campaigned on in the 2004 elections.

During Yanukovich's talk at the Center for Strategic and International

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## CROSS CURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

## A forgotten anniversary

Do you remember those January 22 community events, quaintly called "akademiyi," held on each anniversary of Ukraine's 1918 declaration of independence? Even on the shores of the Pacific, half a world away from the homeland, our little San Francisco diaspora would put together a Sunday afternoon program in the church hall, typically including at least an hour's worth of rambling oratory; a spirited choral performance; a vocalist with piano accompaniment; some nervous, hurried recitations by children squirming in their embroidered costumes; a few dance numbers to a scratchy record on a sound system that never seemed to work properly; and perhaps a proclamation from the mayor and greetings from Ukrainian organizations that almost outnumbered their members. At the end, all would rise for a heart-rending rendition of "Shche Ne Vmerla Ukraina." In the grip of the Cold War we all dreamed of a free Ukraine, but probably few thought they would live to see it.

Today, January 22 commemorations have been eclipsed by the celebrations of August 24, the date in 1991 when the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR declared independence from the USSR. Ukraine officially observes January 22 as Unification Day, referring to a declaration of 1919 that united Ukrainian lands east and west, not to the independence proclamation of 1918.

In fact, the two independence days commemorate events of a very different character. In January 1918, Europe was locked in a catastrophic war. Russia was disintegrating. In the wake of the tsar's abdication and the formation of a Provisional Government the previous year, the leaders of the Ukrainian National Republic had expected a federation of free and equal nations to supplant imperial Russia.

But with the Bolshevik coup d'état, the creation of a Soviet government in Kharkiv, and the advance of Red forces into Ukraine, it became clear that she must defend herself. On January 25, as Ukrainian diplomats were negotiating with the Central Powers at Brest Litovsk, the

## Our new columnist:

Andrew Sorokowski grew up in San Francisco. His first attempt at prose was in kindergarten, when he dictated the text and supplied the illustrations for a very short novel. Since then, his writing career has been interrupted by forays into law and scholarship.

He obtained degrees at the University of California at Berkeley, Harvard University, Hastings College of the Law and the University of London School of Slavonic and East European Studies. He has served on the staffs of Keston College in England, the late Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky's chancery in Rome and Lviv, and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. He has taught history at several institutions of higher learning.

A specialist in Ukrainian Church history, he is currently engaged in retrieving documents on toxic pollution by the U.S. defense industry during and after World War II for the Department of Justice in Washington.

He may be reached at samboritanus@hotmail.com.

Rada adopted the Fourth Universal (back-dating it to the 22nd). Meanwhile, Ukrainian troops were besieged by numerically superior Bolshevik forces. A few days later, the young defenders of Kruty would die for their homeland, while a Bolshevik fifth column tried to seize power in Kyiv.

The circumstances of August 1991, though dramatic, were not so heroic. A conspiracy of die-hard Communists, disgusted by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, attempted a coup d'état. The coup was foiled, but the future of the USSR looked doubtful. Seizing the moment, Ukraine's Parliament declared independence. In a December 1 referendum, Ukraine's voters overwhelmingly approved their parliament's decision. By the end of the year, the USSR was no more.

In some ways, 1991 compares favorably with 1918. As the referendum showed, Ukrainians had a much higher degree of political consciousness than in 1918 – due in large part to Soviet achievements in literacy and education, as well as communications infrastructure. Contrary to the dire predictions of some commentators, independence brought no ethnic strife or pogroms, as in 1918-1919. And there were heroic figures, like the dissident intellectuals who had paved the road to freedom, or key officials like Gen. Kostiantyn Morozov who opted for a free Ukraine.

Yet, from today's vantage point, August 1991 has lost some of its luster. According to one interpretation, the Ukrainian party elite simply seized the opportunity to rid itself of its Moscow bosses. It then took up crony capitalism as the best way to keep wealth and power. Few of independent Ukraine's subsequent leaders have lived up to the diaspora's idealistic expectations. While many still see President Viktor Yushchenko, hero of the Orange Revolution of 2004, as a man of courage and integrity, he is surrounded by inferiors. Ukraine's new class of entrepreneur politicians has earned a thuggish reputation that few even bother to disown.

Perhaps only failed revolutions can maintain a heroic aura. But the men of 1918 exhibited a high degree of political intelligence and civic courage. Are today's parliamentarians of the same moral and intellectual caliber? There are astute businessmen and clever manipulators, but is there a Hrushevsky or a Petliura among Ukraine's political class?

Meanwhile, the ideal of an independent Ukrainian nation-state remains under attack. In 1918 imperialists on the one hand and socialists on the other derided the notion. To the former it was an Austrian invention; to the latter, a bourgeois ruse to stall the worldwide revolution. To many, fascism and National Socialism discredited nationalism once and for all. In 1991 the U.S. president was expressing a widespread Western view when he warned of "suicidal nationalism." Today, prominent academics like Stephen F. Cohen still lament the break-up of the Soviet Union.

To many Europeans, national independence is a 19th century anachronism, to be supplanted by unity and regionalism. Perhaps the nation-state was just an episode in the march of history, and Ukraine is lagging behind. Recently, a

(Continued on page 44)

## 2006: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### Ukraine: Rada elections and coalitions in the news

Historic political events were taking shape the minute Ukrainians rang in the new year on January 1, 2006. On that day, Ukraine became a parliamentary-presidential republic for the first time in its 14 years of independence because of constitutional changes President Viktor Yushchenko agreed to during the tense negotiations to peacefully resolve the Orange Revolution of 2004.

The constitutional changes, therefore, elevated the March 26 parliamentary elections to unprecedented importance because the resulting government would then select the prime minister, whose powers were now significantly enhanced, as well as most of the Cabinet of Ministers. As a result, the government would control both Parliament and the Cabinet.

Relations between the Russian Federation and Ukraine also underwent historic changes on January 1, the day when Russian state-owned monopoly Gazprom cut natural gas supplies to Ukraine after the government led by Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov refused a four-fold price increase. Until then, Ukraine had enjoyed a generous price of \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters of natural gas, largely because of compliant foreign policy led by former President Leonid Kuchma.

The crisis sharply affected European natural gas supplies and ignited concern among European leaders over Russia's use of energy supplies as a foreign policy tool to pressure Ukraine's internal politics. At the time, Mr. Yushchenko's administration was asserting a highly independent Ukrainian foreign policy, which displeased the Russian Federation. Three days after the cut-off, Mr. Yekhanurov agreed to a 90 percent increase in the price Ukraine pays for natural gas, a move that drew sharp criticism from Ukraine's Parliament.

The biggest political event of the year, however, was the March 26 parliamentary elections. As expected, the Party of the Regions dominated, winning 32 percent of the vote. It was the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc that surprised political observers by finishing far ahead of the Our Ukraine bloc, winning over many of its supporters and finishing in second place with 22 percent of the vote.

The Our Ukraine bloc finished in third place with 14 percent. Two more parties surpassed the 3 percent barrier to qualify for seats in the Ukrainian Parliament: the Socialist Party of Ukraine won six percent of the vote, while the Communist Party of Ukraine managed to hang around for one more term by winning 4 percent.

Unexpected was the Party of the Regions' success in forming the parliamentary coalition government, elevating its leader and Mr. Yushchenko's Orange Revolution rival Viktor Yanukovich to Ukraine's powerful prime

ministership. It was Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz who tipped the scales in Mr. Yanukovich's favor, making the surprise announcement on July 11 that he was abandoning the coalition agreement he had signed with his former Orange Revolution allies.

The same day the Verkhovna Rada voted to approve his nomination, Mr. Yanukovich reappointed the same vice prime ministers who had worked with him when he was prime minister during the Kuchma years between 2002 and 2004. The Yanukovich coalition government successfully introduced stability into Ukrainian politics, while political observers mostly agreed that coalition leaders resorted to largely the same governing tactics, political priorities and economic policies established during the Kuchma administration.

Though Mr. Yushchenko had accepted Mr. Yanukovich's nomination as prime minister based on the Universal of National Unity signed by four of the five political parties elected to Parliament, it proved to be a flimsy agreement. Once entering office, the Party of the Regions began an aggressive campaign of usurping power within the Ukrainian government that extended as far as the president's domain of foreign policy.

By the year's end, a fierce political battle had erupted between President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yanukovich over the fate of Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk, whom the coalition government dismissed in a December 1 parliamentary vote. It proved the most significant test of Mr. Yushchenko's ability to defend the Ukrainian presidency. Even as the year drew to a close, it remained unclear whether Mr. Tarasyuk would remain as Ukraine's foreign affairs minister.

#### Natural gas crisis

As the majority of Ukrainians enjoyed New Year's Day at home with their families, they were treated to television news reports of the Russian Federation cutting off natural gas supplies.

The energy crisis is widely believed by political observers to have been a deliberate ploy by President Vladimir Putin to discredit the Yushchenko-Yekhanurov government in front of the Ukrainian electorate as parliamentary elections loomed less than three months ahead.

While Mr. Yushchenko and his team were wrestling with a crisis, Party of the Regions campaign ads portraying a calm Mr. Yanukovich promising Ukrainians stability dominated the commercial breaks of most networks.

Meanwhile, Italy lost 25 percent of its natural gas supply on January 1, France lost 30 percent and Poland lost a third.

The next day, Gazprom accused the Ukrainian government of siphoning off 100 million cubic meters of natural gas worth \$25 million from the transport pipelines during the 24 hours after it cut supplies.

On January 4 natural gas supplies were restored



Two Viktor on August 4: newly approved Prime Minister Yanukovich with President Yushchenko.

when officials from Gazprom and the shady natural gas trading company RosUkrEnergo stepped in and reached a preliminary agreement that satisfied both governments. Nearly four months later it was revealed that RosUkrEnergo is part-owned by two Ukrainian nationals, Dmytro Firtash and Ivan Fursin. The other half is owned by Gazprom.

Gazprom, which wanted to raise prices for Ukraine fourfold from the price of \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters, agreed to sell its natural gas at \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters to RosUkrEnergo, which agreed to combine the Russian gas with two-thirds cheaper natural gas, mostly from Turkmenistan, and resell it to Naftohaz, the Ukrainian government's natural gas distributor, for a more affordable price of \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters.

Another key provision in the agreement, which managed to offset the burden of higher natural gas prices, required Gazprom to pay a 47 percent increase in transit fees through Ukrainian-owned pipelines. The Yekhanurov government ended the tradition of bartering transit fees for natural gas, which had been employed during the Kuchma years.

Compounding the political attack from the Russian Federation was the Verkhovna Rada's vicious reaction to the natural gas deal from virtually every political force. The Party of the Regions alleged the Yekhanurov government had damaged relations with the Russian Federation, while the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc claimed the government made too many concessions.

During the January 10 session, 250 national deputies voted in favor of a no-confidence vote to dismiss Mr. Yekhanurov and his Cabinet of Ministers. Mr. Yushchenko insisted the Ukrainian Parliament didn't have the right to dismiss, even after the constitutional changes. The Verkhovna Rada's dismissal decree stipulated that the Yekhanurov government keep working until a new parliamentary coalition is formed after the March elections. The Yekhanurov government remained in place without Ukraine's Constitutional Court ever determining whether it was truly dismissed or not.

The no-confidence vote revealed the vulnerable state in which the Our Ukraine bloc found itself in the new year, without any allies among the other major political forces.

The January 10 vote was "incomprehensible, illogical and incorrect," Mr. Yushchenko said. "I don't believe Ukraine deserves this kind of a decision 80 days before the parliamentary elections."

On January 12 Mr. Yushchenko announced he was withdrawing his signature from the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government and the Opposition that he signed with Mr. Yanukovich on September 22, 2005. The opposition had violated the agreement's fundamental principle, Mr. Yushchenko said, which was "cooperation in taking common actions towards stabilizing the internal political situation in Ukraine."

#### Parliamentary-presidential republic

When the new year arrived, Ukrainians were aware that significant constitutional changes went into effect. However, many were still unclear about how far-reaching they would be. As later revealed, the January 1 constitutional changes significantly shifted the balance of power in the Ukrainian government in favor of the Verkhovna Rada and the prime ministership. The



A depiction of the array of Ukraine's political forces prepared at the time of the March parliamentary elections. Source: [http://www.politikan.com.ua/images/14\\_0\\_0/2006/02/21/plakat1.jpg](http://www.politikan.com.ua/images/14_0_0/2006/02/21/plakat1.jpg).

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changes stripped the Ukrainian president of the authority to appoint Cabinet ministers, with the exception of the foreign affairs and defense ministers, which kept foreign policy within the president's domain. Other appointments remaining in the president's power included oblast state administration chairs, the Security Service of Ukraine chair and the National Security and Defense Council chair.

During a roundtable meeting in late July with the leaders of the five parliamentary factions, Mr. Yushchenko said he wouldn't compromise on being allowed to select the minister of internal affairs and Ukraine's procurator general. However, it appears that those positions are no longer within the president's domain, after the Verkhovna Rada selected Vasyl Tsushko to succeed Yuri Lutsenko as internal affairs minister on December 1.

In the view of some Ukrainian political observers, the constitutional changes would be effective in preventing another authoritarian, corrupt president like Mr. Kuchma from abusing authority in Ukraine. Skeptics believe the changes were foisted upon Mr. Yushchenko, anxious to avoid violence during the Orange Revolution, in order to reduce his powers once it became apparent that he would succeed Mr. Kuchma as Ukraine's third president.

Ukraine's new parliamentary-presidential government was put to the test when the Our Ukraine bloc abandoned the coalition government in October as the Party of the Regions led an aggressive campaign of usurping power. Attempts to sack five oblast administration chairs belonging to pro-Orange political parties proved unsuccessful, but the Verkhovna Rada voted to dismiss Mr. Tarasyuk. A Kyiv district court ruled several days later that the Tarasyuk vote violated the Ukrainian Constitution.

At the end of the year, the coalition government passed a bill "On the Cabinet of Ministers" intended to further limit the president's powers, passing them on to the Verkhovna Rada. Among the provisions: the Ukrainian president wouldn't be allowed to give orders to Cabinet ministers, and presidential decrees would require signatures by both the prime minister and the Cabinet minister responsible for their execution. Mr. Yushchenko has indicated he will veto the bill with such limiting measures.

### Parliamentary elections

The high stakes of the parliamentary elections in March led to a fierce competition among more than 40 political parties representing such diverse constituencies as pro-Russian radicals, Ukrainian nationalists, environmentalists and loyalists of convicted felon Pavlo Lazarenko.

Political experts expected six of those parties to surpass the 3 percent barrier needed to qualify for the Ukrainian Parliament. It was clear throughout the campaign that the Party of the Regions would win the most

votes. The only question was how dominant their share of the popular vote would be.

Disgraced during the 2004 presidential campaign, the Party of the Regions underwent an image and strategic makeover after party financier and Donbas industrial king Rynat Akhmetov hired the exclusive Washington political consulting firm Davis Manafort to teach the Party of the Regions the Western-style approach to elections.

In its intense television advertising campaign, the Party of the Regions attacked the Yushchenko administration for its poor handling of the economy, while boasting of Mr. Yanukovich's strong economic record when he was prime minister. Its campaign slogans were "A Better Life Right Now!" and "Wealth to the People, Power to the Regions!" The Party of the Regions also exploited the Russian language issue heavily in its campaign – an emotional issue that rallied voters.

The Party of the Regions' decision to seek the political counsel of Rick Davis, who managed John McCain's 2000 presidential campaign, proved a smashing success. The party rebounded from its humiliating defeat in the 2004 presidential elections, establishing itself as the uncontested dominant force in Ukrainian politics. The damaged images of its leaders, including Mr. Akhmetov, Mr. Yanukovich, Yevhen Kushnariov and Borys Kolesnikov, was rehabilitated among the Ukrainian electorate, particularly in the southern and eastern oblasts.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc avoided the television airwaves and took its campaign to Ukraine's people. During the three-month campaign, Ms. Tymoshenko estimated she traveled a total of 80,000 kilometers to 400 cities, towns and villages, speaking to more than 4.5 million Ukrainians. She abandoned any images or phrases that associated her with the Our Ukraine bloc or the Orange Revolution, introducing a new logo that featured a bright red heart against a white background. She stuck to one consistent slogan throughout her campaign, "There is justice. It's worth fighting for!"

Ms. Tymoshenko's image of fighting corruption and battling for improved living conditions for average Ukrainians proved powerful. The former vice prime minister jailed by President Kuchma managed to increase her bloc's support from 7 percent of the electorate in the 2002 elections to 22 percent in 2006, finishing second place. She was the top candidate to become Ukraine's next prime minister, with Mr. Yanukovich her main competitor.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc decided to embrace the symbols and images associated with the Orange Revolution in its campaign, though many voters believed the president and his political force had abandoned the revolution's ideals and values. Slogans such as "Don't Betray the Maidan!" drew mockery and even disgust from the electorate, much of which migrated to the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. In hindsight, political observers now agree Our Ukraine's lead-

ers were overconfident in their mismanaged parliamentary campaign and misunderstood public opinion of their political bloc.

Far more modest, yet successful, campaigns were executed by the other two political parties that qualified for Ukraine's Parliament – the Socialist Party and the Communist Party. Throughout Ukrainian independence, Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz has managed to maintain a consistent, solid base of support among the Ukrainian electorate with his image as a moderate, European-oriented Communist sympathizer who defends the interests of rural and small-town Ukrainians. His leading role in exposing and pursuing Heorhii Gongadze's murderers boosted his image as a defender of the common folk. During the 2006 elections Mr. Moroz positioned the Socialists as a centrist party.

Although the Communists ran poorly produced television ads that failed in their goal of attracting younger voters, it still managed to collect more than 900,000 votes – largely from veterans and pensioners who remain loyal and nostalgic for the Soviet system. Political observers expected the Communists would barely qualify for the Parliament, which they did.

The parliamentary elections produced other surprises. Experts and pre-election polls predicted Volodymyr Lytvyn's People's Bloc would easily qualify for the Verkhovna Rada, with more than enough votes. Mr. Lytvyn had been Verkhovna Rada chair for more than four years and based his campaign on his image as a neutral, moderating force in Ukraine's highly charged politics. Despite an estimated \$6.5 million spent on an intense advertising campaign, Lytvyn's People's Bloc managed to win only 2.4 percent of the electorate.

In what came as the election's biggest shock, almost qualifying for the Parliament was Natalia Vitrenko's People's Opposition Bloc, a radical, pro-Russian political force that advocates for Ukraine to abandon its Euro-integration goals and merge into Russian political and economic structures such as the Single Economic Space (SES). The bloc finished with a result of 2.93 percent, mustering vast support from voters in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, as well as the Donetsk and Zaporizhia oblasts.

International election observers announced afterwards that the 2006 parliamentary campaign resulted in the first fair elections during Ukraine's 14 years of independence. Instead of widespread fraud and violence, Ukrainians' problems were mostly confined to polling stations opening late, voter lists with incorrect or missing names, and long lines for voting.

Despite the thumbs up from the international community, many Ukrainians were dissatisfied with the results, particularly those representing the losing parties. They complained of vote fraud, falsification and miscounts. Among those alleging falsifications and miscounts on the oblast and district levels were Lytvyn's People's Bloc, Vitrenko's People's Opposition Bloc, the Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc and the Viche Party.

Even Mr. Yushchenko himself expressed some skepticism over his bloc's results in certain oblasts. Ms. Tymoshenko alleged fraud at district election commissions, while Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko accused the Tymoshenko Bloc of stealing his party's votes, particularly in the Kirovohrad Oblast.

### Forming the coalition government

Once the election results were official, the winning blocs and parties immediately entered into negotiations to form the first coalition government under Ukraine's new parliamentary-presidential republic. The coalition would have to consist of at least three of five parliamentary factions, given that Ms. Tymoshenko announced she would not, under any circumstances, unite her force with the Party of the Regions.

Immediately, widespread expectations and hopes emerged among western and central Ukrainians that the Orange coalition would be revived to encompass the Yulia Tymoshenko and Our Ukraine blocs, and the Socialists. It was also hoped and expected among the millions who supported the Orange Revolution that Mr. Yushchenko would set aside whatever past conflicts he had with Ms. Tymoshenko and allow her to become Ukraine's prime minister, because the only other option – joining with Mr. Yanukovich – seemed unfathomable.

However, such hopes and anticipations slowly evaporated with every passing day during the laborious, tedious and dragged-out coalition talks among the three Orange forces.

Just days after the election results were official, both Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Moroz accused the Our Ukraine bloc of stalling negotiations and backing out of



Roman Bezsmertnyi (left), head of the Our Ukraine faction, Yulia Tymoshenko of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, and the leader of the Socialist Party, Oleksander Moroz, after the announcement of an Orange coalition deal on June 22.

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a revived Orange coalition. The initial proposal presented by Mr. Yekhanurov and Our Ukraine Political Council Chair Roman Bezsmertnyi didn't distinguish who would receive which government posts, including the prime ministership. Ms. Tymoshenko would not accept any agreement that didn't make her prime minister.

By mid-April it had become apparent that the Our Ukraine bloc was intentionally stalling the coalition-forming process and clearly didn't support Ms. Tymoshenko becoming prime minister again. Close Yushchenko confidante Petro Poroshenko, whom some blamed for causing the Orange government's collapse via his fighting with Ms. Tymoshenko, once again was viciously battling with a key Orange leader, this time Mr. Moroz, for the Verkhovna Rada chair.

Mr. Poroshenko and many of his Orange colleagues believed he was entitled to become Verkhovna Rada chair because their bloc had finished ahead of the Socialists in the vote count. Mr. Moroz had coveted the position ever since he lost it in 1998. In the view of some political observers, Ms. Tymoshenko planted the seeds for the Orange coalition's demise because she encouraged Mr. Moroz to believe he deserved to become Rada chair. Meanwhile, the Our Ukraine bloc was doing everything possible to prevent Ms. Tymoshenko from returning as prime minister, some observers believe, even intentionally denying Mr. Moroz the Rada chairmanship so as to drive him away and sabotage the Orange coalition.

With the Orange electorate growing increasingly restless and disgusted with the stalled talks, Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Moroz held a press conference on May 25 to announce they had reached a preliminary coalition agreement, a public relations move meant to demonstrate that it was Our Ukraine resisting the revived Orange coalition. Then, in mid-June, Mr. Yanukovich announced that the Party of the Regions was close to forming a coalition with the Socialists and certain members of Our Ukraine.

When Ms. Tymoshenko, Mr. Bezsmertnyi and Mr. Moroz finally emerged with a signed 120-page coalition agreement on June 22, almost three months after the elections, Ukraine's Orange electorate breathed a collective sigh of relief. However, the announcement proved to be a red herring planted by Mr. Moroz, who feigned the appearance that he was willing to relinquish the Verkhovna Rada chairmanship he had desperately wanted for nearly a decade.

The revived Orange coalition appeared to support Mr. Poroshenko's candidacy as Verkhovna Rada chair, but Mr. Moroz announced on June 29 that his party wouldn't support him, stating that the Orange Revolution envisioned separating politics from business. "In society's consciousness, Petro Poroshenko's candidacy is inseparably tied to big business," Mr. Moroz said.

The refusal directly violated the coalition agreement, which explicitly stated that no party's or bloc would oppose another party or bloc's nomination.

On June 26 the Party of the Regions launched a blockade of the Parliament, demanding separate voting for the prime ministership and Rada chairmanship, as well as secret balloting. Tymoshenko Bloc National Deputy Mykola Tomenko accused the Party of the Regions of creating a \$250 million slush fund in order to bribe deputies to select Mr. Yanukovich as prime minister in a secret ballot vote.

Two weeks later, on July 6, Mr. Moroz shocked the Orange electorate and Ukrainian political observers by announcing that he had abandoned the Orange coalition and united his Socialist Party with the Communists and the Party of the Regions to form an Anti-Crisis Coalition government in which he would become Verkhovna Rada chair. That evening, the coalition mustered 238 votes to return Mr. Moroz to the helm of Ukraine's Parliament after an eight-year absence.

A delicate agreement that took the Orange coalition almost three months and a 120-page document to create was trumped by a sudden, hasty announcement and a three-page document forming the Anti-Crisis Coalition.

In opening the Verkhovna Rada's July 11 session, Mr. Moroz immediately declared the Orange coalition null and void, throwing the Parliament into chaos as Our Ukraine and Tymoshenko Bloc deputies began brawling, playing ear-piercing sirens and resorting to any measures possibly to obstruct the day's business.

Fist fights and deafening police alarms couldn't prevent Mr. Moroz from submitting Mr. Yanukovich as the Anti-Crisis Coalition's Committee's nominee for the prime ministership to the Presidential Secretariat.

The next day Mr. Yushchenko invited Messrs. Moroz and Yanukovich to the Presidential Secretariat for coalition discussions.

A second vote on July 18 reaffirmed the Anti-Crisis Coalition's nomination of Mr. Yanukovich, which awaited Mr. Yushchenko's approval. During the next several weeks, the president weighed the option of allowing his Orange Revolution nemesis to become prime minister, or dismissing Parliament in order to hold pre-term elections.

With the country mired in a political crisis, Mr. Yushchenko invited the leaders of Ukraine's five parliamentary factions to find a way out during a roundtable meeting held on July 27 at the Presidential Secretariat.

President Yushchenko and acting Prime Minister Yekhanurov called for a broad coalition government that would include the Our Ukraine bloc.

In what he described as a historic moment to unite a deeply divided nation, President Viktor Yushchenko accepted the parliamentary coalition's nomination of Mr. Yanukovich as Ukraine's prime minister on August 3 during a nationally televised signing ceremony of the so-called Universal of National Unity by the five parliamentary faction leaders.

The president announced the formation of a National Unity Coalition based on an eight-page declaration signed by four parliamentary faction chairs, as well as Messrs. Yushchenko, Moroz and Yekhanurov. Critics said the universal's policies and conditions were too vague, and it was therefore a largely meaningless document that would be unenforceable.

Ms. Tymoshenko scoffed at the Universal of National Unity and declined to sign it, referring to it as "an act of political capitulation on behalf of the Orange camp." She immediately declared herself the leader of the parliamentary opposition.

"Unfortunately, the last days have shown that political betrayal is a contagious disease which spreads very quickly," Ms. Tymoshenko told reporters after the ceremony. "It's unknown exactly how it spreads, but it

affects men exclusively. Women don't suffer from this disease."

The next evening, the Verkhovna Rada cast 271 votes affirming Mr. Yanukovich as Ukraine's prime minister.

Mr. Yushchenko's approval ratings dropped even further after his August 3 announcement, further affirming his reputation as a kamikaze president apparently determined to commit political suicide, and possibly destroy the Our Ukraine bloc and the Our Ukraine People's Union party.

After two months, the Universal of National Unity proved an utter failure. Mr. Bezsmertnyi announced his bloc was withdrawing from any coalition with the Party of the Regions, accusing it of violating the declaration's principles and behaving aggressively toward Our Ukraine politicians.

To political observers, the remaining Anti-Crisis Coalition, which bizarrely united Communists with wealthy Donbas businessmen, was strung together with a single, distinct thread – namely, a Russian-oriented political, economic and cultural agenda.

The coalition government's policies and voting record during the following months confirmed this theory.

Just two months after signing the Universal of National Unity, Mr. Yushchenko was accusing the Party of the Regions of delaying Ukraine's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) beyond 2006, neglecting to begin discussions on creating free trade zones with the European Union and failing to progress on integrating Ukraine into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

### *The Yekhanurov government*

In selecting longtime ally Yuri Yekhanurov as his second prime minister, Mr. Yushchenko was seeking a low-key politician to act as a technocrat within the government, handling the details of legislative, policy and personnel issues. Mr. Yekhanurov's political and economic program was in lock step with that of his superi-

## Quotable notes

"Of course, in the conditions of the current diarchy, it is improper and, I would say, a bit shameful to noisily celebrate the Orange Revolution anniversary. ...

"From the perspective of the fall and early winter of 2004, we are now living through a counter-revolution. The Orange-camp windbags (the do-gooders who seemed to be forming an Orange coalition for three months but never succeeded) are certain to lose to the 'tough guys' from Donetsk. Why?

"Because the latter know what they want, whereas the Orange ones are unlikely to understand what they should have done and what they should never do from now on. ...

"It is Yushchenko to whom the question 'What is to be done?' should be addressed above all. Well, I am prepared to prompt him with the answer: 'Having come to power, you should have wielded it.' "

– Prof. Yuri Shapoval, Ph.D., historian.

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"It is also very important to understand that it was not some specific people or political forces but democracy in the finest sense of the word from which the maidan drew its true inspiration.

"It was democracy that gave a springtime flavor to that fall event. And it is unforgettable that absolutely different people stood up for freedom.

"But, unfortunately, this also caused the ensuing rift. The former allies stopped understanding each other. But it is not their lack of understanding that will determine our future but the call to freedom that we all heard at the time."

– Myroslav Popovych, philosopher, corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and director of the Institute of Philosophy.

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"Who is to blame for what happened? The Orange people and the opposition. The revolutionary leaders failed to turn their power to advantage, put things in order, and put the revolution's ideals into practice. Time was lost and no concrete actions were taken.

"The opposition also bears the blame, but to a lesser extent: they took advantage of the Orange government's mistakes, and they did not even have to make a major effort to form a majority in both Parliament and the Cabinet, as well as in the regions."

– Dmytro Ostroverkh, World War II veteran, retired lieutenant-colonel from Kharkiv.

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"Today, the maidan electorate is deeply disappointed – of course, not with the ideals for which they stood, defying the bitter cold and snow.

"They are obviously disgruntled with the fact that the actors on the maidan stage have not met the expectations and hopes of this electorate. The enormous vote of confidence and major opportunities for implementing the proclaimed slogans were forgotten and stupidly lost."

– Volodymyr Hazin, associate professor, Kamianets-Podilskiy State University.

All as quoted in "President Viktor Yushchenko: 'Having Come to Power, You Should Have Wielded It,'" *The Day Weekly Digest*, Kyiv, November 14, 2006, and reproduced in *Action Ukraine Report*.

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or, including support for free-market economics, a foreign policy in Ukraine's interests, reducing energy dependence on the Russian Federation and a Euro-Atlantic integration course.

Foreign policy accomplishments with the U.S. were the distinguishing marks of Mr. Yekhanurov's tenure as prime minister. For seven months Mr. Yushchenko had the luxury of working with a Cabinet of Ministers that agreed with his policy goals and worked towards achieving them. As a result, the U.S. government granted Ukraine market-economy status and signed a bilateral market accession agreement critical to Ukraine's bid for World Trade Organization (WTO) membership.

Unfortunately for Mr. Yekhanurov, his tenure as prime minister is most synonymous with the New Year's natural gas crisis, which triggered significant inflation throughout the economy.

### *The Yanukovich government*

Immediately after being elected Ukraine's prime minister on August 4, Mr. Yanukovich announced his Cabinet of Ministers: the majority of them belonged to the Party of the Regions, and five represented the Our Ukraine bloc. Mr. Yanukovich brought back three of the vice prime ministers who served with him during

the Kuchma years, namely First Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mykola Azarov, Vice Prime Minister for Fuel and Energy Andrii Kliuyev and Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Dmytro Tabachnyk.

Former Donetsk Mayor Volodymyr Rybak became vice prime minister for construction, architecture and residential-communal management.

While Mr. Yushchenko portrayed the new government as a diverse body in which political forces would make compromises, Party of the Regions leaders made clear that reaffirming Ukraine's relations with the Russian Federation was a priority not up for concession. "We will have to untangle those knots that were artificially tied in the previous governments, particularly in 2005," Mr. Azarov said in an August 8 statement.

Mr. Yanukovich began implementing the coalition's Anti-Crisis Program in order to "normalize" relations with the Russian Federation, restrain inflation and stimulate investment in Ukraine.

To some degree, the coalition government was successful in achieving these goals, though some programs to stimulate investment appeared mediocre and prone to corruption.

Inflation during the Yanukovich months proved just

as challenging, though some political observers said the new government was merely bearing the burden of spiraling inflation that began during the Tymoshenko and Yekhanurov governments.

Goods and services inflation, for example, was twice as high in October alone, about 2.6 percent – compared to the same month in 2005.

Among the defining characteristics of the Yanukovich government was its preference for a centralized, administrative economy. The Socialist Party and the Communist Party which form the government coalition with the Party of the Regions have had significant influence in steering Ukraine toward a command economy.

Among the first such steps was the reintroduction of free economic zones, or regions with reduced taxes designed to stimulate business that 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, political experts said. As a consequence, many social programs had to be cut, and wage and pension increases were kept to a minimum.

The Yanukovich government's first five months, however, will be most recognized for the Party of the Regions' aggressive campaign of usurping and consolidating power within the Ukrainian government.

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

In their first direct threat to Mr. Yushchenko's authority, Party of the Regions Faction Deputy Chair Kushnariov announced on September 13 that he intended to ask his faction to introduce constitutional changes enabling the Parliament, instead of the people, to elect the president.

Further laws are necessary to implement constitutional changes that would transfer more of the president's powers to Parliament, Mr. Kushnariov said, which he claimed would resolve a dangerous situation of conflict within the diarchial government.

The Party of the Regions was unlikely to implement such constitutional changes because 300 votes are necessary.

A week later, the Cabinet of Ministers announced it planned to introduce a bill requiring that any presidential decree bear signatures from the prime minister and Cabinet minister responsible for the decree's execution. Presidential decrees are otherwise invalid, Mr. Yanukovich said.

To prove it was serious, the Cabinet returned seven presidential decrees to the Presidential Secretariat on September 21, alleging they violated constitutional procedure because they lacked the necessary signatures.

Despite these attempts to require the prime minister's signature, little progress has been made in proving that requirement in the courts, or making it law.

Officials in the Yanukovich government also repeatedly ignored presidential orders and decrees. For example, the Cabinet of Ministers decided on August 30 to keep the Institute of Ground Forces in Odesa, ignoring Mr. Yushchenko's proposal to transfer it to Lviv.

In its campaign to control the Ukrainian government, the Party of the Regions managed to cleanse the ranks of the Cabinet of almost all pro-Orange ministers. Of the seven pro-Orange ministers in government when the Anti-Crisis Coalition took over, only Minister of Defense Anatolii Hrytsenko remained, while Mr. Tarasyuk's status was unclear.

Minister of Health Yurii Poliachenko abandoned the Our Ukraine People's Union, choosing to remain in the Yanukovich government while his three colleagues resigned.

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

The Cabinet of Ministers announced on September 28 that it would ask the president to dismiss them "for unsatisfactorily resolving problems, which restrain the nation's social and economic development."

Oblast state administrations chairs, commonly referred to as "governors," are appointed by the Ukrainian president.

The Cabinet's power play failed. Mr. Yanukovich announced on September 29 that he would pursue legislation in Ukraine's Parliament that would cancel oblast

## *Famine of 1932-1933: recognized as genocide*

In a historic vote, the Verkhovna Rada followed President Yushchenko's directive and approved a law on November 28 declaring the Holodomor of 1932-1933 a genocide against the Ukrainian people.

Rada Chair Moroz and his Socialist Party of Ukraine broke ranks with the pro-Russian factions that comprise the coalition government and joined the Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko blocs to cast 233 votes in favor of the bill – seven more votes than what was needed.

The next day, President Yushchenko signed the Holodomor bill into law, declaring it a historic moment in Ukraine's history. "The vote does not target anyone," Mr. Yushchenko said. "It restores our national dignity. We will renew our national memory of those 10 million innocent victims killed in 1932-1933."

The Holodomor of 1932-1933 was an artificial famine launched by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin with the goal of breaking Ukrainian resistance to forced collectivization and eliminating Ukrainian national consciousness, resulting in the genocide of an estimated 10 million Ukrainians.

Previously, on May 13, 2003, the Verkhovna Rada had just barely passed a resolution declaring the Holodomor an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people.

In the drive to get the Famine-Genocide recognized by Ukrainian law, its advocates stressed the moral need for the nation to come to grips with its terrifying, tragic past in order to move forward.

But there was pragmatic reasons as well.

Efforts to gain further international acknowledgement of the Holodomor will progress significantly, particularly with regards to United Nations recognition.

With the law, Mr. Yushchenko wanted to make it an illegal offense to deny the Holodomor in Ukraine, subject to criminal punishment and a petty fine. However, Mr. Moroz's compromise eliminated such a provision.

Most fiercely opposing the Famine-Genocide bill was the Communist Party of Ukraine, which blames the Famine of 1932-1933 on crop failure and refers to the Holodomor as an American-sown myth. Joining the Communists in voting against the bill was the pro-Russian Party of the Regions, with the exception of two deputies, Taras Chornovil and Hanna Herman.

The Party of the Regions acknowledged the Famine as man-made disaster intentionally created by the Stalin government. However in its version of the bill, the Party of the Regions referred to the Holodomor only as a tragedy, not a genocide, and blamed Stalin's regime and not the Communist government.

When asked why the party opposed referring to the Famine as genocide, Party of the Regions National Deputy Vladyslav Zabarskyi said the Holodomor applied to all those living on Ukrainian territory, regardless of their ethnicity. "In the understanding of genocide according to international law and national legislation, we can't say this was genocide considering

that it hasn't been defined to this day that these actions were taken exclusively against Ukrainians," he said.

He added that the very same year famines occurred in many parts of the Soviet Union, including the central and lower Volga regions, the Ural Mountain region, the northern Caucasus and in Kazakhstan, among others.

Party of the Regions deputies accused their opponents of exploiting the tragic deaths of millions for political gain and re-igniting ethnic tensions within Ukraine.

Votes on both the president's and the Party of the Regions' bills failed, leading Rada Chair Moroz to offer his compromise.

A top-ranking Communist until Ukrainian independence, and a supporter of Marxist and Communist principles afterwards, Mr. Moroz's decision to support the genocide designation may lie in his own personal history.

Though he was born in 1944, Mr. Moroz told reporters during a November 21 visit to Lviv that he was well aware that his native village of Buda in the Kyiv Oblast suffered greatly from the 1933 Famine. "Regarding the Holodomor, more than half the people in my village died," Mr. Moroz said. "People ate other people. That's why, for me personally, it was a genocide."

Two days later, Mr. Moroz publicly suggested that any Holodomor law consist of the phrase "genocide against the Ukrainian people" ("narod" in Ukrainian), instead of "genocide against the Ukrainian nation" ("natsiya" in Ukrainian).

In his address on the day of the vote, Mr. Moroz explained that the 1948 United Nations Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines genocide as the destruction of a "national, ethnic, racial or religious group." Therefore, referring to the "Ukrainian people" instead of the "Ukrainian nation" would be adequate to gain U.N. recognition for the Holodomor.

As to why the Socialist Party insisted on the Ukrainian word "narod" as opposed to "natsiya," as preferred by the president, deputies explained to reporters that the term "narod" can refer to various ethnicities victimized by the Holodomor that had inhabited Ukraine at the time. Using the word "natsiya" would have only referred to ethnic Ukrainians.

To some deputies, the difference was largely meaningless.

However, Our Ukraine National Deputy Yaroslav Kendzior pointed out that Ukrainian villages targeted by the Holodomor were 95 percent ethnic Ukrainian, at minimum.

Another compromise on Mr. Moroz's behalf involved laying blame for the genocide on the "totalitarian, repressive Stalinist regime," instead of the Communist Party, to the dismay of patriotic deputies. "Communist, totalitarian regime should be underlined, the cessionaries of which are sitting in that wing of the Supreme Council," Mr. Kendzior said, pointing to the section occupied by the 21 Communist deputies.

The president's clause on criminal prosecution of Holodomor deniers was removed.



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and district state administrations altogether, replacing them with locally elected oblast executive committees.

When it became apparent the coalition government had no interest in honoring the Universal of National Unity, Mr. Bezmertnyi announced on October 4 that the Our Ukraine bloc was entering the opposition. Subsequently, Minister of Justice Roman Zvarych, Minister of Culture Ihor Likhovyi, Minister of Family, Youth and Sport Yurii Pavlenko and Mr. Poliachenko submitted their resignations.

In the following weeks, the Cabinet of Ministers plucked the Orange ministers out of government one-by-one, voting to approve their resignations, with the exception of Mr. Poliachenko.

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

### Controlling law enforcement

The coalition government had long sought to dismiss Mr. Lutsenko, one of the Orange Revolution's heroes and among those who launched the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement in 2000.

Under Mr. Lutsenko's directive, authorities arrested former Donetsk Oblast Council Chair and Borys Kolesnikov, a top Party of the Regions operative charging him with threatening to kill a businessman. He was eventually released. As a national deputy Mr. Kolesnikov is shielded by parliamentary immunity.

Just three days after becoming prime minister, Mr. Yanukovich met with Mr. Lutsenko and informed him that he was creating a new structure to ensure Mr. Lutsenko would "coordinate" his work with the Cabinet of Ministers. The ministry is a critical power base in the Ukrainian government because it controls all law enforcement activities.

"We will work on a model of relations in which the Cabinet will control the situation in the nation, in every region," Mr. Yanukovich told Mr. Lutsenko on August 7. "I hope a constructive cooperation will begin between the Cabinet and the ministry."

The Party of the Regions was particularly interested in limiting Mr. Lutsenko's newly launched criminal investigations, particularly in the Donetsk Oblast and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, both rats' nests of politicians with criminal backgrounds. Specifically, party leaders were concerned with Mr. Lutsenko's investigations in Crimea, during which up to 250 bodies of victims of gang violence were unearthed.

Among those suspected in the murders was gang leader Oleksander Melnyk, who was elected as a deputy to Crimea's Parliament in the 2006 elections representing the "For Yanukovich" bloc. In September Mr. Lutsenko had Mr. Melnyk arrested and transferred to Kyiv to face charges for murdering two Crimean businessmen.

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

Numerous cases like the attempted Kolesnikov and Melnyk prosecutions drew the Party of the Regions' wrath against Mr. Lutsenko. After the Parliament sacked him on December 1, the coalition government replaced him with Socialist Party National Deputy Vasyl Tsushko.

Soon enough, the Cabinet of Ministers approved a list of appointments of assistants and other ministry officials with close ties to the Party of the Regions.

Among the most disturbing appointments was the new Vice Minister for Personnel and Internal Safety Mykola Plekhanov. He was the Sumy police chief who ordered the assaults on Sumy university students during their protests against election falsifications in 2004, an event now recognized as among the critical sparks of the Orange Revolution.

At the time, Mr. Plekhanov was serving under Volodymyr Scherban, the former Sumy Oblast Administration chair accused of extortion and abusing power who was found in October, under an Interpol arrest warrant, hiding in Florida. Mr. Scherban has since returned to Ukraine without being arrested; he is unlikely to be prosecuted with Mr. Plekhanov in a position of influence.

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

## Babyn Yar: the 65th anniversary



Cutty Sark Co.

On the 65th anniversary of the German Nazis' slaughter of 34,000 Jews over a two-day period in September 1941 at Babyn Yar, representatives of 46 countries arrived in Kyiv to commemorate this episode of the Holocaust. During the next two years, the Nazis would go on to execute more than 150,000 Jews, Ukrainians, Gypsies and members of many other ethnic groups at Babyn Yar. Holocaust researchers list 50,000 Jews among them. Partisans, Soviet prisoners of war and Ukrainian nationalists were among the victims. Above, Israeli President Moshe Katsav, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko attend the solemn anniversary ceremony at Babyn Yar's Menorah Monument on September 27, 2006.

### The Tarasyuk conflict

The conflict between the Presidential Secretariat and the coalition government reached a climax when the Verkhovna Rada began exploring the idea of dismissing Mr. Tarasyuk, finally voting to do so at its December 1 session.

Tension between Prime Minister Yanukovich and Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk had been brewing since the very first days of the coalition government, when foreign policy differences were already apparent.

Mr. Tarasyuk harmed relations with Mr. Yanukovich when he neglected to arrange a meeting between the prime minister and Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis, who had visited Kyiv in November. It remained unclear whether the failed meeting was an intentional stunt by Mr. Tarasyuk.

However, clearly stung by Mr. Yanukovich's September 14 surprise statement in Brussels postponing Ukraine's adopting of a NATO Membership Action Plan, Mr. Tarasyuk appeared determined not to allow the prime minister to make another foreign visit and subvert Ukraine's foreign policy goals.

In preparation for Mr. Yanukovich's December 3 trip to the U.S., Mr. Tarasyuk sent a message to the Cabinet of Ministers requesting that Mr. Yanukovich submit a list of his foreign policy directives for the trip. After receiving no response for several days, Mr. Tarasyuk sent a letter to U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor informing him that Mr. Yanukovich's trip was canceled.

Mr. Tarasyuk's letter was the last straw for Mr. Yanukovich, who sent the order for his faction to dismiss the minister for subverting his authority.

In justifying Mr. Tarasyuk's dismissal, Party of the Regions National Deputy Vasyl Kyseliov accused him of poor performance, harming relations with the Russian Federation and, of all things, failing to implement Ukraine's Euro-integration course.

The Verkhovna Rada vote to dismiss Mr. Tarasyuk on December 1 marked the transition from what had been dubbed a "cold war" in the bipolar government to an overt battle between the two Viktor's.

Mr. Yushchenko viewed the dismissal as Mr. Yanukovich's attempt to seize authority in a domain

clearly designated for the Ukrainian president – namely, foreign policy. A Kyiv district court agreed several days later, ruling that Mr. Tarasyuk's dismissal violated the Ukrainian Constitution.

Nevertheless, the Cabinet of Ministers led by First Vice Prime Minister Azarov denied Mr. Tarasyuk access to its meeting the next day. On December 20 the Cabinet of Ministers again denied Mr. Tarasyuk access to its meeting, prompting a scuffle among Mr. Tarasyuk, Our Ukraine National Deputy Mykola Katerynchuk and Party of the Regions National Deputy Vladyslav Lykianov.

The Cabinet denied Mr. Tarasyuk access a third time on December 27, and the status of the leadership of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs remained unclear when the year drew to a close.

### Defending the presidency

Speaking at a December 14 press conference in Kyiv, Mr. Yushchenko was visibly upset with Mr. Yanukovich's aggressive conduct. He acknowledged that his relationship with Mr. Yanukovich was increasingly conflicting, "but I want to emphasize I am not the author of these conflicts." "The new team came, and they have the feeling that the whole world is under their feet," adding that they are "attempting to seek out revenge, attempting to see everyone defeated."

A silver lining to the conflict is that Mr. Yanukovich is providing a valuable test of presidential authority following the January 1 constitutional reform.

Mr. Tarasyuk's firing remained a particularly critical test of presidential authority, because at issue is the president's ability to set and control Ukrainian foreign policy. In Mr. Yushchenko's view, appointing and dismissing the foreign affairs minister is strictly within his authority, and the president was confident that the Constitutional Court would side with him.

### Our Ukraine woes

Mr. Yushchenko's political challenges weren't limited to dealing with an aggressive coalition government and foreign policy quandaries.

Significant problems emerged within the Our Ukraine bloc, which consists of six political parties, including the Our Ukraine People's Union, of which

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AP/Efrem Lukatsky

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko pays tribute to the victims of the Pawlokoma massacre in Poland in front of the monument erected in their memory during ceremonies on May 13.

Mr. Yushchenko is the honorary chair.

These problems surfaced once Mr. Yushchenko announced on August 3 that the Our Ukraine bloc would sign the Universal of National Unity and unite in a coalition government with the Party of the Regions, the Socialists and perhaps even the Communists.

To many Ukrainians, the notion that the Our Ukraine bloc could unite in a coalition with the Communists was inappropriate, if not outrageous. Parties such as the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, the People's Rukh of Ukraine, the Christian-Democratic Union and Sobor Ukrainian Republican Party wouldn't join such a coalition, and the Our Ukraine bloc faced disintegration.

Meanwhile, popular Our Ukraine National Deputies Katerynchuk and Viacheslav Kyrylenko announced they wouldn't join the coalition government, indicating there was significant opposition to the coalition within Our Ukraine.

A rift between OUPU's leadership and Mr. Yushchenko was revealed on October 4 when Mr. Bezsmertnyi called on the party to go into opposition to the government coalition, while Mr. Yushchenko simultaneously urged OUPU to go back to the negotiating table with the coalition leaders.

Though it had been known that Mr. Yushchenko preferred that Mr. Bezsmertnyi lead coalition negotiations on his own, it became apparent at that point that Mr. Bezsmertnyi and his entourage had gotten so carried away in their agenda that they were beginning to ignore Mr. Yushchenko's directives, political observers said.

Mr. Yushchenko's lack of control over OUPU's direction grew worse when he delivered a speech to the party congress on November 11 calling for a change in leadership. Immediately after the president's words, Mr. Bezsmertnyi dismissed the party congress in order to prevent a vote to oust him. OUPU was under the control of Mr. Bezsmertnyi and a tight inner circle of wealthy businessmen consisting of Mr. Poroshenko, Mykola Martynenko and Oleksander Tretiakov.

Following this meeting, Mr. Katerynchuk announced he was quitting OUPU, citing a lack of a political future for the party.

On December 7 Mr. Yushchenko called a closed-door meeting of OUPU's Political Council and persuaded the leadership to appoint Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha to replace Mr. Bezsmertnyi as acting chair of the Political Council.

### *Feodosiya protests*

Among the more explosive events of 2006 were the Feodosiya protests against American soldiers staged by Ukraine's pro-Russian forces, namely the Party of the

Regions, Communists and Progressive Socialists led.

Hundreds of protesters swarmed the main gate of the Crimean port of Feodosiya on May 29 after local leaders learned the American cargo ship USS Advantage had docked days earlier.

Pro-Russian politicians raised alarm that the Verkhovna Rada hadn't authorized foreign troops on Ukrainian soil, a requirement for every such occasion. The Verkhovna Rada's ombudsman for human rights Nina Karpachova demanded that Ukraine's procurator general hold accountable those who gave permission for an American ship to dock in Crimea. Ms. Karpachova, a Party of the Regions national deputy, said the rights of Feodosiya residents had been infringed upon by such a brutal violation of the Ukrainian Constitution and fundamental nation-building documents.

More than 220 U.S. Marine reservists from the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Selfridge, Mich., had arrived in Feodosiya on May 27 in order to set up a training base near the town of Staryi Krym, the U.S. Embassy reported. The Marines' planned exercises merely involved installing latrines and showers, and setting up tents in preparation for an international naval exercise, Sea Breeze 2006, set to begin on June 14. The U.S. Marine reservists had no military purpose in Staryi Krym, the U.S. Embassy said. They were also going to build barracks that would eventually house Ukrainian soldiers at the base.

However, the Verkhovna Rada had denied permission for the Sea Breeze exercise in a February vote, giving the pro-Russian forces in Ukraine enough cause to launch the anti-NATO protests once the U.S. ship arrived.

Despite the claim it had no military purpose, the Marines unloaded bulldozers, graders, containers, medical supplies and some arms and light weapons, including mortars, smoke grenades, machine guns and ammunition.

Ukraine's Foreign and Defense ministries issued a joint statement in which they pointed out that the USS Advantage is a commercial ship and therefore wouldn't require parliamentary approval. However, the statement didn't account for the weapons and soldiers on board.

Crimean Russophiles blockaded access to the Feodosiya port and the Staryi Krym training base, preventing the Marines from entering either site.

A separate group of about 100 Marine reservists had arrived in Symferopol on June 2 and boarded a bus bound for a Defense Ministry sanatorium in the village of Partenit. Dozens of anti-NATO protesters ambushed the bus at 4 a.m. Yelling anti-American slogans such as

"Yankee, Go Home," rocking it back and forth, and even shattering a window, they managed to stall the bus, which switched its destination to Alushta with the help of Ukraine's Naval Security Forces.

President Yushchenko and his political allies accused Russian political forces of inflaming Ukraine's internal conflicts, exploiting a military operation that has been conducted in Ukraine every year since 1997.

In addition to declaring Crimea a "territory without NATO," the Parliament demanded that U.S. troops, NATO representatives and engineering, technical and military equipment should be kept out of the republic until a vote is held.

The Sea Breeze exercises were ultimately canceled.

Yushchenko's critics alleged the Feodosiya incident was yet another example of his government's inability to lead the nation.

When the Feodosiya protests erupted, Mr. Hrytsenko had maintained that the USS Advantage had only brought in construction materials. Days later, he admitted that weapons were also part of the cargo. Mr. Tarasyuk, meanwhile, claimed there were no "foreign military units" on the Advantage. When the public learned that Marines were on the ship, he explained that the Reservists are U.S. civilians.

The outcome was a major setback for President Yushchenko in his effort to draw Ukraine closer to NATO, largely because of the public relations damage inflicted.

### *Pawlokoma massacre*

On March 1-3, 1945, 366 Ukrainians were systematically murdered by Polish soldiers in the village of Pawlokoma, situated 25 miles west of Peremyshl in the Nadsiania region that is now the Podkarpackie province of Poland.

Six decades later, on the very same soil, the presidents of the two nations opened a memorial on May 13 honoring those who perished, urging reconciliation and declaring a new era in Polish-Ukrainian relations embodied by the Orange Revolution.

"I can only imagine what a difficult road has been traveled by tens of thousands of people to this act of reconciliation which we are witnessing today," said Ukrainian President Yushchenko. "But I am convinced of one thing: that only the strong are capable of forgiving. I am convinced that the memory of one's own history, historical memory, is an imperative for contemporary times."

Polish President Lech Kaczynski acknowledged that the massacre was covered up for decades by past Polish and Soviet governments, which forbid crosses and prayers for those who perished. "The time has now come to not hide the truth and to speak of the wrongs that have not been righted," Mr. Kaczynski said.

Attending the day's prayers and ceremonies were more than 1,000 Ukrainians who arrived from the Lviv Oblast of Ukraine and the Nadsiania region of Poland that includes Peremyshl and Jaroslaw, cities once heavily populated by Ukrainians. A handful of them were survivors of the Pawlokoma massacre, who remain as living eyewitnesses to the brutality humans are capable of in an atmosphere of war.

### *October's natural gas deal*

Soon after becoming prime minister, Mr. Yanukovich declared that his top priority during his first visit to Moscow would be to possibly renegotiate Ukraine's natural gas agreements with Russia so that they are transparent and meet international norms.

He expressed confidence he would obtain the "optimal price" for natural gas on behalf of Ukrainians. "We won't be working [any]more for any other nation, only Ukraine," Mr. Yanukovich said. "Our politics won't be pro-Russian, or pro-Western."

The prime minister failed to deliver on most of these statements, political observers said.

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

On October 24 Mr. Yanukovich inked a deal with the Russians in which Ukraine would pay \$130 per 1,000 cubic meters 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 proved nearly as poor.

Mr. Yekhanurov's team was at least able to extract high-

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er 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, political experts said.

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 October 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 the price increases, experts said.

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

### Lviv celebrates 750 years

Laser lights illuminated the majestic Franko Opera House and Lviv skyline by night as more than 1 million estimated Lviv residents and visitors on September 30 and October 1 celebrated the 750th-year anniversary of the city known as the gateway to Europe.

Among those visiting were President Yushchenko, President Kaczynski and Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus, as well as Ukrainian celebrities Vitalii Klitschko, Vasyl Virastyuk and Bohdan Stupka.

At the official opening ceremony and concert at the Franko Opera House on September 29, Mr. Yushchenko honored Lviv and its history with heartfelt words. "In the name of Ukraine, I bow my head before every Lvivian who gave his or her life and died for our nation's independence – from the Sich Riflemen and the Ukrainian Galician Army to Ukrainian Insurgent Army soldiers," the president said.

Mr. Yushchenko honored the Ukrainian Catholic Church, "which forms one of the most important national supports to our people."

The Ukrainian president also recognized the critical contributions of Lviv residents to the Ukrainian independence movement of 1991, as well as the "achievement of social freedom in 2004."

Mr. Yushchenko said Lviv sets the example for his notion of a distinct and consolidated national character. The city lies on Ukraine's road to Europe and is called to remain Ukraine's motivator in that direction, he said.

## U.S.-Ukraine relations: taking a step back

In the early months of 2006, U.S.-Ukraine relations were still developing in the afterglow of the 2004 Orange Revolution, as the United States took a number of steps to help realize President Viktor Yushchenko's promised integration of Ukraine into Euro-Atlantic structures.

The Verkhovna Rada elections in late March, however, which resulted in the political resurrection of Viktor Yanukovich as the new and increasingly powerful prime minister brought about a period of political uncertainty in Ukraine and inactivity in the bilateral relationship as Washington seemed to pause to let the two Viktor work out the supremacy issue between them.

President George W. Bush's planned summer visit to Ukraine was "postponed" and the sheen on the Washington visit by the new prime minister in December was marred by a tug-of-war in Kyiv over the attempted firing of Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, among other things.

The Embassy of Ukraine in Washington began 2006 with a new ambassador, Oleh Shamshur, who filled its top diplomatic position, which had been left vacant since July 2005 when the Yushchenko government recalled his predecessor, Mykhailo Reznik. The appointment of the former vice minister of foreign affairs was announced on December 20; he presented copies of his credentials to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice a

month later, but only in mid-March did he officially present his credentials to President Bush.

In the meantime, during a visit to New York and meetings with Ukrainian Americans in February he stressed that his Embassy would "cooperate fully with members of the diaspora," particularly on issues involving investment in Ukraine, recognition of the Ukrainian Famine Genocide of 1932-1933 and the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

In early 2006 Ukraine also appointed a new consul general for New York, where Mykola Kyrychenko replaced Serhiy Pohoreltsev. Mr. Kyrychenko had previously served as consul general in Istanbul, Ottawa and Toronto.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration announced its new ambassador to Ukraine, William Taylor Jr., in May. Unlike his recent predecessors, who were career Foreign Service officers, he is a career member of the Senior Executive Service, last serving as senior consultant to the Coordinator of Reconstruction and Stabilization at the State Department. Earlier, he served as director of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office in Baghdad, as coordinator of U.S. and international assistance to Afghanistan in Kabul and as Afghan coordinator in the Bureau of South Asian Affairs at the State Department.

His arrival in Ukraine in June followed protests in Crimea by pro-Russian groups against the visit there by a U.S. naval vessel that was bringing technical aid supplies for Ukraine. The issue of what role Washington would play in helping President Yushchenko's NATO membership aspirations came up in his first news conference in Kyiv on June 22. The new ambassador said he hopes to sponsor discussions, conferences and roundtables on the positives and negatives of membership.

"We want to help with that informed discussion," Ambassador Taylor said. "Then, if that's the decision of the Ukrainian people, then we will certainly be supportive."

The first major U.S.-Ukrainian bilateral relationship issue being discussed in Washington in 2006 was a continuation of the previous year's effort to get the U.S. Congress to "graduate" Ukraine from under the Soviet-era Jackson-Vanik Amendment so that Ukraine could enjoy permanent normal trade relations with the United States. The U.S. Senate had passed the necessary legislation in November, but the House ended its session without taking action.

The removal of these outdated restrictions, aimed initially at pressuring Moscow to allow the emigration of Soviet Jews, was being pushed by a coalition of more than 250 businesses and Ukrainian American, Jewish American and non-governmental organizations, co-chaired by two former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine, William Green Miller and Steven Pifer. The House finally passed the resolution to that effect sponsored by Representative Jim Gerlich (R-Pa.) on March 8 by a vote of 417 in favor, two against and three abstaining. There was a surprise among those answering present but not voting: Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), who was the minority co-chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus.

In a joint statement released later by Rep. Kaptur and Ohio Democratic colleague Dennis Kucinich, they

noted that while democracy was on the march in Ukraine, "We also know that the conditions for a fully functioning democracy are not in place." They pointed out that there were several conditions — including issues related to labor rights, trafficking of women and drugs, freedom of the press, legislative reforms, restitution of religious property, rule of law, environmental protection, transparency of elections, settlement of trade disputes and acts of anti-Semitism — that should have been met before the bill was passed.

The Senate passed the House version of the bill, which differed slightly from the earlier Senate version, on the following day, March 9. President Bush signed it into law two weeks later, on March 23, which authorized the establishment of permanent normal trade relations with Ukraine.

"It's a good bill, and it's going to strengthen our ties with our friend, Ukraine," the president said before signing it. The Jackson-Vanik Amendment was passed during the Cold War in response to "widespread Communist deprivation of human rights," he said. "Times have changed. The Cold War is over, and a free Ukraine is a friend to America and an inspiration to those who love liberty," he added, pointing to the many reforms instituted after the Orange Revolution.

The president also noted that in three days "the Ukrainian people will again have the chance to cast a ballot in parliamentary elections, and they have a chance to continue to shape their own future."

While the Jackson-Vanik Amendment issue was being played out, other steps toward normalizing U.S.-Ukrainian economic relations were being taken as well. While visiting Kyiv, U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman on January 23 announced that the United States will reinstate Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits for Ukraine and lower Ukraine's designation under Special 301 from Priority Foreign Country to Priority Watch List. The move came in response to Ukraine's "sustained efforts" to crack down on copyright piracy, he said, and urged the Ukrainian government to continue its efforts.

One week later, on February 1, the U.S. government granted Ukraine market economy status, which improved its chances for membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The decision was announced on February 17 by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce David Sampson while in Kyiv for meetings with Ukrainian government officials.

Within a month, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative announced that the two countries had concluded their WTO negotiations, and on March 6 in Washington Ukrainian Minister of the Economy Arsenii Yatseniuk and U.S. Trade Representative Portman signed the WTO accession agreement.

"It's a good, solid agreement that will create closer trade ties between our two countries," Ambassador Portman said at the signing. "Many benefits will flow from more open trade between our two countries."

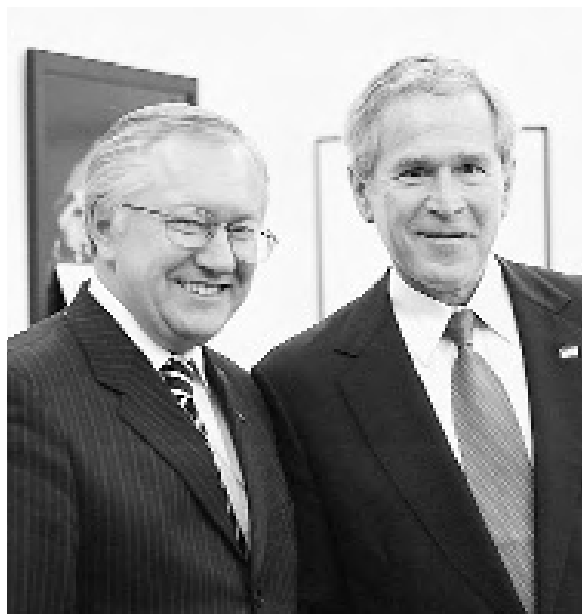
Minister Yatseniuk said the agreement served the mutual interests of both countries. While opening the Ukrainian market to U.S. imports, he added, "We strongly believe that we'll sometime export something to the United States, too."

Expectations expressed at that time by President Yushchenko and other senior members of his government were that Ukraine would join the WTO before the end of 2006. Those expectations were not fulfilled, however.

Three days after the WTO signing and on the day the House voted to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk came to Washington for two days of talks (March 9-10) with Secretary of State Rice, Vice-President Dick Cheney, Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England and other U.S. officials.

He also met with representatives of American businesses, many of whom, along with Ukrainian American groups, had lobbied Congress to get rid of the Jackson-Vanik constraints, with prominent members of Congress and Ukrainian American leaders, and addressed a foreign policy audience at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think-tank. It turned out that on his second day here, the Senate passed the House version of the Jackson-Vanik related resolution.

"I cannot recall such an exceptionally constructive and positive atmosphere in our relations," was how Minister Tarasyuk — who noted that in one way or another he has been involved in Ukraine's foreign affairs since independence — characterized the U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relationship with one meeting left on his schedule of talks.



Website of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk during his unexpected meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush on March 10.**

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That last meeting — with the president's national security advisor, Stephen Hadley — turned out to include another, unscheduled participant, President Bush himself.

On March 20, six days before the elections to Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, U.S. Ambassador John Herbst addressed the Wisconsin International University in Kyiv, where he was awarded an honorary degree. He spoke about the "profound change in the level of freedom" in Ukraine, especially after the Orange Revolution, and touched on the growing disenchantment with more recent political developments.

"The Orange Revolution," he told the audience, "was not so much a victory for a certain political party or coalition, as it was a victory for the Ukrainian people, who took back control of their country. Viktor Yushchenko was elected president, but it was the people of Ukraine and the country's democratic institutions that gained power."

"On March 26 you will vote for delegates to the Verkhovna Rada, who under new constitutional provisions will choose a prime minister empowered with more authority than any predecessor. You must take destiny into your own hands by carefully choosing whom you want to lead your country during the coming years." As for the United States, he added, "we will be happy to work with whatever government you elect."

When election results indicated a victory for the Yanukovich forces, observers began questioning the westward leading aspirations of the Yushchenko administration, including its stated intention of joining NATO.

Secretary of State Rice touched on that issue in a statement April 27 in Sofia: "The Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian people will have to decide whether or not this is something that they wish to pursue, and they will also have to work very hard, I think, to meet the criteria." She noted that the NATO-Ukraine Council would be meeting on the following day and that "people are looking forward to hearing from Foreign Minister Tarasyuk as to Ukraine's intentions."

As the mid-year came around, two prominent visits were in the news: one, by Ukraine's first lady, Kateryna Yushchenko, went on as scheduled from May 30 to June 4; the other — President Bush's planned visit to Ukraine — did not.

Mrs. Yushchenko came to the United States in search of American private sector support for the "From Hospital to Hospital" project, which, among other things, plans to build a maternity and childhood health center in Kyiv. Her itinerary included a meeting with U.S. First Lady Laura Bush in Washington, being honored at the annual meeting of the World Affairs Council in Philadelphia and visits to children's hospitals in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

On June 8 White House Press Secretary Tony Snow announced President Bush's planned trip later in the month to Vienna, for the U.S.-European Union Summit, and to Budapest, to participate in the commemoration of 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Asked by a reporter why the president was not also going to Kyiv, as had been planned earlier, Mr. Snow replied: "The president will be going to Kyiv. We've

just postponed the trip."

With the Jackson-Vanik Amendment out of the way, some of the organizations that comprised the coalition for its elimination formed a new coalition to support steps to further strengthen U.S.-Ukraine relations.

The Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine has the stated intention to engage on an array of issues, with a priority focused on promoting the establishment of a closer institutional relationship between the U.S. Congress and Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada and fostering the integration of a democratic, market-oriented Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic community.

Member-organizations in the coalition include the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, NCSJ, SigmaBleyzer, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, Ukrainian-American Environmental Association, The Bleyzer Foundation and the Ukrainian Federation of America. Former U.S. Ambassadors to Ukraine Miller and Pifer are co-chairs of this coalition as well.

In mid-June, the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC) approved \$45 million for a two-year anti-corruption initiative in Ukraine.

The initiative, which will be administered by the United States Agency for International Development, aims to reduce corruption in the public sector by strengthening civil society's monitoring and exposure of public corruption; reforming the judiciary; increasing government monitoring and enforcement of ethical and administrative standards; streamlining and enforcing regulations; and combating corruption in higher education.

The MCC, a U.S. government corporation designed to work with some of the poorest countries in the world, is based on the principle that aid is most effective when it reinforces good governance, economic freedom and investments in people that promote economic growth and elimination of extreme poverty.

As for the state of Ukraine's economy and trade relations with the United States and Canada, representatives of some U.S. and Canadian firms and institutions involved in it say that things have been looking up in recent years.

A Washington roundtable discussion of the prospects and challenges of trade and investment in Ukraine ended on that optimistic note by Morgan Williams, the Washington representative of SigmaBleyzer, an emerging markets private equity investment firm active in Ukraine.

"In spite of the fact that they haven't done very many reforms, in spite of the political fighting that they've had, Ukraine continues to grow economically," he told the Business Development Forum of The Washington Group in October.

A similarly optimistic assessment was expressed by Bohdan Myndiuk, treasurer of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce and president of Mytram Consulting Inc., and other participants. The upturn came after the Orange Revolution, he said, pointing to the growth of Ukraine's small and medium businesses, highly skilled workers in the computer services industry, improved communications and transportation, and the appearance of what he called "a semblance" of

commercial law.

The developing U.S.-Ukraine relationship in 2006 was summed up in early December, when Prime Minister Yanukovich came to what many saw as a restrained reception in Washington influenced by growing political tensions in Kyiv.

While in Washington for two days of meetings on December 4-5, he met with Vice-President Cheney, Secretary of State Rice, National Security Advisor Hadley, Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab, World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) and Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack denied that the United States was deliberately downplaying the meeting with the Ukrainian prime minister.

"We said that when Mr. Yanukovich was elected that we were ready to work with him and his government on a variety of different issues, that he won the election the old-fashioned way. He went out there and campaigned for the votes of individual Ukrainians, and they chose him in terms of giving him a certain percentage of votes and he was able to form a government. So there's no slight that's intended and we're absolutely ready to work with him as well as his government," Mr. McCormack said.

The prime minister addressed an overflow audience at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, outlining how his government would tackle issues of energy security, accession to the World Trade Organization, corruption, relations with NATO, the European Union and Russia, and the struggle for power among Ukraine's president, legislative branch and government.

Some in the Ukrainian community felt that Prime Minister Yanukovich deserved a cold shoulder and declined to attend a planned meeting of community leaders with him, which was later canceled, as well as a reception in his honor at the Ukrainian Embassy. Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, said his organization decided not to meet with him as "a symbolic gesture to the Ukrainian people" against "the many seemingly anti-Ukrainian decisions of the prime minister."

Mr. Yanukovich's Washington program included laying a wreath at the Shevchenko Monument and visiting the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum. From Washington he flew to New York for a day of meetings with business representatives.

There was a linguistic milestone of sorts in 2006, when the Board of Geographic Names on October 3 voted to change its transliteration of Ukraine's capital from "Kiev" to "Kyiv." The State Department said that all of its offices and operations would immediately use the new transliteration and that the diplomatic post there will be called Embassy Kyiv.

### *U.S. Ukrainians: a focus on themselves, Ukraine*

Perhaps the most significant development in the Ukrainian American community arena this year was the completion of the new Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ). On November 11, the UACCNJ celebrated its grand opening, realizing a project that has been years in the making. Construction started on December 2005, and the new facility houses St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Whippany, N.J., and numerous Ukrainian community groups.

This New Jersey Ukrainian community had long ago outgrown the old church building and its adjacent hall, and for years had yearned for a space that could be the focal point of Ukrainian activity in Morris County and northern New Jersey. There were many fund-raising initiatives throughout the year to benefit this cause, one of which was a cabaret night held at the Birchwood Manor in April attended by more than 300 supporters.

Earlier in the year, members of the Ukrainian community in New York City gathered for a second consecutive year to carol in front of Rockefeller Center's landmark Christmas tree, which was left lit through January 7 — Christmas according to the Julian calendar.

Later in the month, on January 13, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) approved the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America's proposal



Mark Stewart, official photographer, U.S. State Department

The MCC Threshold Agreement is signed on December 4 by Ukraine's Minister of the Economy Volodymyr Makukha and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator Drew Luten. Observing are Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Ambassador John Danilovich, chief executive officer of the Millennium Challenge Corp.

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Olena Turkalo

**For the second consecutive year, Rockefeller Center's landmark Christmas tree was left lit through Christmas according to the Julian calendar. To celebrate the occasion, Ukrainians gather on January 7 at Rockefeller Center for an evening of impromptu caroling by candlelight.**

for a \$50,000 grant in order to conduct an election "Voice Your Vote" campaign in Ukraine, a program designed to popularize the tenets of a developed democracy through a town-hall-meeting approach to voter education. This method promotes greater involvement in civic decision-making by simultaneously engaging voters in political discourse and encouraging them to participate in elections.

The UCCA organized town hall meetings in 10 cities throughout Ukraine in March, leading up to the parliamentary elections on the 26th of that month. At the meetings, Ukrainian voters voiced their concerns about social security benefits, housing, medical care and unemployment. They also noted that they were troubled about the immunity from criminal charges for parliamentarians, and about the rising rates of cancer and heart disease in the nation. In addition, the UCCA organized around 200 international observers to monitor the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, as well as in four of the five polling stations in the United States.

Also in January, representatives of Ukrainian American organizations gathered at the Embassy of Ukraine to meet with Ukraine's newly appointed ambassador to the United States, Dr. Oleh Shamshur. In his remarks to the assembled community members, Ambassador Shamshur spoke of the pending Ukrainian parliamentary elections, as well as the graduation of Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, and commemorations of the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

He also remarked on the 75th anniversary of the 1932-1933 Ukrainian Famine-Genocide and plans for building a monument to its victims in Washington. A few weeks later, Ambassador Shamshur attended UCCA's meeting of the Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide. The ambassador thanked the committee members for their efforts to leave a lasting legacy in Washington, and said, "The world must understand that this was an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people."

On February 16 Ambassador Shamshur testified at a hearing before the National Parks Subcommittee of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources about a bill authorizing the Ukrainian government to establish a memorial in Washington to honor the victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide. In his testimony, the ambassador provided the committee with statistics and background information to help explain the horrible tragedy. He said that such a monument would, "Pay tribute to over 1 million Ukrainian Americans who make an outstanding contribution to the prosperity of this country. This memorial will be yet another sign of the developing partnership between Ukraine and the United States, now standing together for democracy and against tyranny and oppression." Later in the year, on October 13, President George W. Bush signed into law HR 562, which authorizes the government of Ukraine to establish the memorial.

Dr. Shamshur also visited the headquarters of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in February, where members of the board presented him with a list of suggestions on how Ukraine's diplomatic institutions could support a more visible and effective Ukrainian presence at American and international scholarly conferences on Slavistics.

In March The Weekly reported about the Kobzar Society, a non-profit organization created by Orest and Christine Hanas of Lehighton, Pa., whose motto is "Connect the people – empower a nation." The organization collects used computers, refurbishes them, converts them to European electrical power and then ships them to Ukraine to be placed in educational institutions. The Kobzar Society solicits computers from universities, hospitals, firms and private individuals. The computers are shipped to the donor's location of choice, where a certificate of appreciation to the donor is displayed on the wall where the computer is allocated in Ukraine. Thus far, the Kobzar Society has shipped around 750 computers.

In other Ukrainian American community news of 2006, 1,360 dozen (16,320) "pyrohy" (a.k.a. varenyky) were made and sold by the women of the Rosary Society of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Bayonne, N.J. All proceeds went to charitable causes. On the other side of country, for the first time in 10 years, the newly organized Seattle Plast group guided by Anya and Tymish Hnateyko took part in a longstanding Ukrainian tradition when they went caroling to Ukrainian families in their area.

Another budding Ukrainian American community can be found in Apopka, Fla., where many senior citi-

zens of Ukrainian descent from the Northeast and Midwest have relocated. The town, which is situated approximately 15 miles north of Orlando, now hosts many Ukrainian retirees and hosts an area that its residents have nicknamed "The Ukrainian Village." The community remains in flux, as younger members with children, Fourth-Wave Ukrainian immigrants and more retirees relocate to central Florida.

Also notable is the Ukrainian American community in North Carolina, which according to 1990 and 2000 census statistics has increased in size by 100 percent. The area attracts immigrants from Ukraine due to job opportunities at universities and high-tech companies. These Fourth-Wave immigrants were key in creating the Ukrainian Association of North Carolina. The officers of the association include four new immigrants, three post-World War II immigrants and one American-born, proving that the organization has successfully integrated Americans and both old and new immigrants. The year-old organization has been quite active, participating in various festivals, cultural exhibits and fund-raisers for charitable causes.

In April of this year, Ohio Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, presented the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF) with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for its "outstanding humanitarian work to aid children affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe." Ms. Kaptur cited CCRDF's 16 years of humanitarian work in Ukraine, which has included 32 airlifts and 16 sea shipments providing over \$55 million worth of medical aid, technology and training to hospitals and orphanages in Ukraine.

On June 15 Olga Khomko met with Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.) and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) and Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) to present them with over 600 copies of letters written on behalf of the Karnaoukh family. The Karnaoukhs – Vassili and Maria, and their sons Sviatoslav and Ihor – were residents of Little Falls, N.J., until January 6, when they were taken into custody by U.S. immigration officials and consequently deported. The Karnaoukh case is tragic because these are decent, hard-working and law-abiding people, who held jobs, paid taxes and bought a home, but due to poor legal counseling did not understand the dire consequences of improperly prepared immigration paperwork. Mrs. Khomko, who is the mother of Mrs. Karnaoukh, was assured by Sen. Lautenberg that he is committed to helping the Karnaoukh family, and that he is exploring the options of, at the very least, securing the return of the Karnaoukhs' sons to the United States. (For related information see the section on the Ukrainian National Association.)

Teachers from the UCCA school system, who hold a conference every three years, met in June with over 50 delegates from 20 schools to elect the executives of the Educational Council for the ensuing term. On June 16 at a meeting of principals, it was reported that the 2005-2006 school year saw 2,600 students and 350 teachers in the school system. Five new schools joined the UCCA system: Los Angeles, Bound Brook and Trenton, N.J., Syracuse, N.Y., and Minneapolis. However, schools in Utica, N.Y., and Kent, Wash., ceased to exist due to a lack of students.

Presidents, directors and CEOs from 17 credit unions met during the last week in June and celebrated



**Participants of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association's 25th anniversary conference in Washington on June 26-29.**

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Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich peruses the memorandum of the Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine that has just been presented to him by Vera Andrushkiw during a December 4 reception at the Embassy of Ukraine. Many Ukrainian community leaders declined to even attend the reception.

their 25th anniversary at a technical conference and annual meeting in Washington. The Ukrainian National Credit Union Association (UNCUA) organized this year's conference in an effort to exchange ideas and make plans for the future of the Ukrainian credit union movement. During the last few decades, Ukrainian American credit unions have created a powerful financial voice for its community members.

On July 11, members of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) – including Ukrainian American groups – met with national security advisors to President George W. Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney to discuss their concerns on the eve of the Group of Eight summit in Russia. CEEC members spoke of their apprehension about Russia's presence in the G-8. The discussion centered on worries about the Russian Federation's internal democratization, economic pressures and energy security; the situation in Belarus, "frozen conflicts" in Georgia and Moldova; and NATO enlargement. The CEEC representatives emphasized that it is not anti-Russia and supports U.S. engagement with the Russian Federation, but stressed that the Russian regime needs to act responsibly if it wants to be treated as a partner.

There were many members of the diaspora who were lending a helping hand to Ukraine as its 15th anniversary of independence drew near this summer. One such Ukrainian American is George Kuzma, founder of

Ukrainian Gift of Life Inc. based in Glen Rock, N.J., whose charity work has helped to rescue the lives of more than 300 Ukrainian children by providing them with desperately needed heart operations. Another program sponsored by the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Inc. distributes wheelchairs throughout Ukraine.

Other noteworthy efforts include that of Basil Tarasko, a retired math teacher and Major League Baseball talent scout from New York City, who has devoted his life to developing baseball in Ukraine ever since Ukraine achieved independence. This June he completed his 42nd baseball mission trip to Ukraine, focusing on developing the nation's Little League which now has 10 organizations from Donetsk to Lviv. Mr. Tarasko distributed new equipment, including baseballs, uniforms, helmets and bats to Little Leaguers across the country.

According to charity leaders like Mr. Kuzma and Mr. Tarasko, desire, effort and support from Americans, particularly institutions such as the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, make it all possible.

In September the Organization for the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine (OOL) celebrated its 70th anniversary at its 27th national conference in Yonkers, N.Y.

Later that month, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation held a groundbreaking ceremony for a monument in Washington to over 100 million vic-

tims of Communism. The monument is a 10-foot replica of the "goddess of Democracy" statue erected in Tiananmen Square in 1989. Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky, who spoke at the gathering reminded her listeners that the fight against oppression is not over, as one-fifth of the world is still under Communist rule against its will. She encouraged those present to rededicate themselves to the mission of promoting democratic ideals throughout the world.

The 73rd anniversary of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine was widely remembered by Ukrainian American communities throughout the United States. In New York City an estimated 2,500 people attended a memorial service at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where Metropolitan Constantine of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. said that the Ukrainian community must keep reminding the public that the Famine-Genocide did indeed take place. Ambassador Shamshur also spoke at the services, thanking the U.S. Congress and President Bush for authorizing the Ukrainian government to establish a memorial in Washington to honor victims of the Holodomor.

The Ukrainian Embassy along with the Ukrainian American community in Washington marked the anniversary with a religious memorial service, as well as a discussion of the event after the showing of the documentary film "Harvest of Despair." The United Nations commemorated the anniversary with a special event at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium that was designed to promote better knowledge of the tragedy and to ensure wider international recognition of a genocide that has been widely denied and ignored.

Finally, on December 4 of this year, the UCCA wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine. It noted the Ukrainian American community's concern over the continued confrontation between the branches of power in Ukraine and the illegal decisions made by the Verkhovna Rada which suggest that Ukraine is returning to anarchy based on the personal interests of its politicians. The letter also cited several issues for consideration by the prime minister. Among them were use of the Ukrainian language by all government officials, continued work toward the recognition of the Famine-Genocide on the international level, as well as the recognition and appropriation of privileges to the veterans of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and Ukrainian Insurgent Army.

## Canada: Ukrainians make their presence felt

The most important factor in defining political issues for Ukrainians in Canada in 2006 was the general election on January 23, with its defeat of the Liberal government under Paul Martin and the coming to power of the Conservatives under Stephen Harper.

Although several Ukrainians were candidates for Parliament from the Liberal party – Andrew Hladyshevsky and Jim Jacuta in Edmonton, Walter Lastiewka in St. Catharines – only Borys Wrzesnewskyj in Toronto was successful in the election. Michael Ignatieff, whose parachuted nomination into Toronto Etobicoke-Lakeshore, a riding poised to nominate a Ukrainian candidate, had generated vigorous protest at the end of 2005, was also elected.

After the election, Borys Wrzesnewskyj was appointed the Official Opposition's associate critic for foreign affairs to work with foreign affairs critic Stéphane Dion and Parliament to ensure, as Mr. Wrzesnewskyj explained, "that Canada's foreign policy continues to build on the Pearsonian legacy of peace-building and directly engages the reserves of potential found in Canada's multicultural society." An opposition critic's responsibility is to shadow a particular minister in the government and to oversee his or her work in a particular portfolio. But on August 21, after a trip to Lebanon following the Israeli bombing of that country, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj accused Israel of "state terrorism" and called on the Canadian government to "begin direct talks with militant groups such as Hezbollah." Because these statements were deemed to be contrary to the Liberal Party's foreign policy, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj resigned his critic's position on August 24.

After the election, Prime Minister Martin resigned and the race was on for a new leader to be chosen by



An editorial cartoon depicting genocides in the 20th and 21st centuries, including the Holodomor of 1932-1933 and the ongoing genocide in Darfur, by Ed Stein of the Rocky Mountain News.

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party delegates at a convention at the beginning of December. Mr. Ignatieff became one of the candidates for leader. It was not only Mr. Ignatieff's derision of Ukrainians, expressed in his 1993 book "Blood and Belonging" and his absence of Canadian credentials (although born in Canada, he had lived in the U.K. and the U.S. in the previous 30 years), but a natural distaste for the "sense of entitlement" on which his candidacy, backed by a powerful Liberal Party elite, was based, energized Ukrainians to rally behind former Toronto provincial Cabinet Minister Gerard Kennedy.

There were an estimated 70 Ukrainian delegates at the leadership convention, many of them members of the Ukrainian Canadian Liberal Association (UCLA). Most of the delegates from the Ukrainian group came committed to the candidacy of Gerard Kennedy (one of the top four, which also included Mr. Ignatieff, Bob Rae and Mr. Dion). But because after the first ballot the delegates could vote as they chose, the focus issue was less on which candidate was first at the beginning but on how the election process would evolve.

Four ballots were needed to choose the leader and the crucial point came after the second ballot when Mr. Kennedy decided to drop out and throw his support to Mr. Dion – a former Cabinet minister and strong federalist from Quebec. With a final result of 54.7 percent for Mr. Dion and 45.2 percent for Mr. Ignatieff, Mr. Dion became the new leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and the new Leader of the Opposition to the Conservative government. It was assumed that Mr. Kennedy would play an important role in the preparations for the next election that because of the minority situation of the Conservative government is expected in 2007.

As the leadership convention was being held in Montreal, in Alberta the provincial Progressive Conservative Party was also selecting a leader to replace premier Ralph Klein. One of the candidates was 55-year old Ed Stelmach, minister of international and intergovernmental affairs in the Klein government, first elected to the provincial Parliament in 1993. A grandson of Ukrainian immigrants, who had come to homestead in Alberta in 1898, his nicknames were "Steady Eddie" and "Honest Ed" – a total contrast to the flamboyant and confrontational Mr. Klein.

On the first ballot Mr. Stelmach placed third, with only 15.3 percent of the vote. On the second ballot held on December 3, Mr. Stelmach, aided by a massive turnout of party voters, leapfrogged to the top but because he did not get 50 percent, the second choices of the third-place candidate were apportioned between the top two candidates and gave Mr. Stelmach the necessary majority. He became leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta and, at the same time, premier. He was sworn into office on December 14, becoming the first Alberta premier of Ukrainian descent.

Much was made in the press about his still living on the homestead near Edmonton built by his grandparents and singing in his Ukrainian Catholic church choir. But Mr. Stelmach was also seen as the best person to unite rural and urban Alberta, bring democratic change to the legislature and wisely use Alberta's strong economy.

During the General Election, the leader of the Conservative Party, Mr. Harper, had stated his intention to support the Asper family's project, which had actually undergone several metamorphoses – from Holocaust Museum to Genocide Museum to Human Rights Museum. The Winnipeg-based Asper family, owners of CanWest Global Communications Corp., a Canadian media conglomerate with interests in television, newspapers and the Internet and active in Canadian Jewish affairs, had advocated and promised partial funding for such a museum.

Now that the Conservatives formed the government, Canadians for a Genocide Museum (CGM), a coalition of 47 associations representing 27 Canadian cultural communities, questioned the government's commitment to the Asper project and stated that it would support the museum project only if it adhered to the following five points: 1) The museum's name, mandate and mission statement would be generic, inclusive and equitable. 2) The museum will not suggest that any one case of human suffering is more important than others. 3) The museum's displays, funding and support for research and publication would be weighted toward lesser-known cases of human rights abuses and genocide that have been historically marginalized or neglected so that those episodes may be fully recognized, documented and presented to Canadians. 4) The museum's board of directors, officers and employees would reflect the full demographic diversity of Canada's peoples. 5) The



The Edmonton Journal ran this editorial cartoon after Ukrainian Canadian Ed Stelmach was elected premier of Alberta.

museum would be fully independent of the Asper foundation.

Among the 47 member-organizations of CGM are the following Ukrainian groups: Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society, League of Ukrainian Canadians, League of Ukrainian Canadian Women, Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Ukrainian National Federation of Canada and Ukrainian Women's Organization of Canada.

Another issue that Ukrainians feel that needs to be addressed by the new government is that of the denaturalization and deportation policy and its use in the hunt for Nazis. In answer to an article in the Winnipeg Free Press ("Remember the murderers," April 26) by David Matas, senior legal counsel to B'nai B'rith Canada, the paper printed a reply by editor and publisher of the Edmonton-based Ukrainian News, Marco Levytsky. Mr. Levytsky accused Mr. Matas of providing justification for the quest for Nazis by a process that was undermining the civil liberties of naturalized Canadians.

He wrote that, although the War Crimes Unit of the Department of Justice had prosecuted four individuals – Jacob Fast, Wasyl Odynsky, Helmut Oberlander and Vladimir Katriuk, all of whom came from Ukraine – the federal court had not found any evidence of any individual crimes. The court only found that they lied about their past when they came to Canada, but only "on the balance of probabilities," because all immigration documents of that period have been destroyed. This falls way short of the "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard of criminal court, Mr. Levytsky argued.

Last year, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration had determined "that the potential loss of citizenship is of such fundamental significance to the person concerned that fraud should be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a criminal court,

that the legal protections of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms – specifically Sections 7 to 14 – must apply, and there should be no special limits placed on the right."

Although the issue of the official acknowledgement and redress for Canada's first national internment operation of 1914-1920 seemed to have been resolved when Bill C-331, an act to acknowledge that persons of Ukrainian origin were interned in Canada during World War I and to provide for recognition of this event, received Royal Assent on November 25, 2005, and the Agreement in Principle providing for the funding of various educational and commemorative projects was signed between the Ukrainian community and the Liberal government on August 24, 2005, no restitution payments were made before the Liberal government fell. With a new government in power, the issue had to be revisited.

On March 24 representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian community – Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, Andrew Hladyshevsky and Ostap Skrypyk representing the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, respectively – met with the new minister of Canadian heritage, Bev Oda. Commenting on the results of this first meeting between the community and the Minister, Dr. Luciuk said: "We are very pleased that the minister reconfirmed this government's commitment to honoring the Agreement in Principle. We can now report that, once the government has determined the appropriate terms and conditions, no less than \$2.5 million will be made available to the National Redress Council of the Ukrainian Canadian community."

To keep the internment issue alive, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) continued its project to mark all internment sites across Canada. On September 30 two trilingual bronze plaques were unveiled at the Beauport Armory and at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier in Quebec, recalling the use of those two federal installations as internment camps, the former between December 28, 1914, and June 22, 1916, the latter from April 24, 1915, to October 23, 1915. These were the 18th and 19th of 24 memorials that the UCCLA plans erect at internment sites by the year 2010.

With these plaques now installed, five Canadian internment sites remain to be commemorated by the UCCLA: Montreal; Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario; Edgewood, British Columbia; Lethbridge, Alberta; and Halifax, Nova Scotia. There is evidence that the UCCLA's bronze trilingual plaques and statues are achieving their intended purpose of educating Canadians. The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation has given photographer Sandra Semchuk a grant to help photograph the plaques and publish a book on the topic.

However, the commemoration of the internment sites suffered some setbacks. A plaque near the base of Castle Mountain, in Banff National Park, erected by the UCCLA on August 12, 1995, was defaced by unknown vandals. The UCCLA planned to ask Parks Canada offi-



An artist's rendition of the new Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta.

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cials in Banff to immediately repair the plaque and increase patrols in the area to prevent any similar outrages in the future.

Furthermore, the Ukrainian Catholic cemetery at the Spirit Lake Camp in Quebec, where 17 internees are buried, is in a neglected state. After a visit to the Spirit Lake Camp in November, Dr. Luciuk said that the cemetery is in danger of disappearing entirely unless the federal government takes immediate steps to protect and restore it. Many Ukrainian Canadians regard it as a sacred place, worthy of designation as a national historic site.

### Ukrainian Canadian institutions

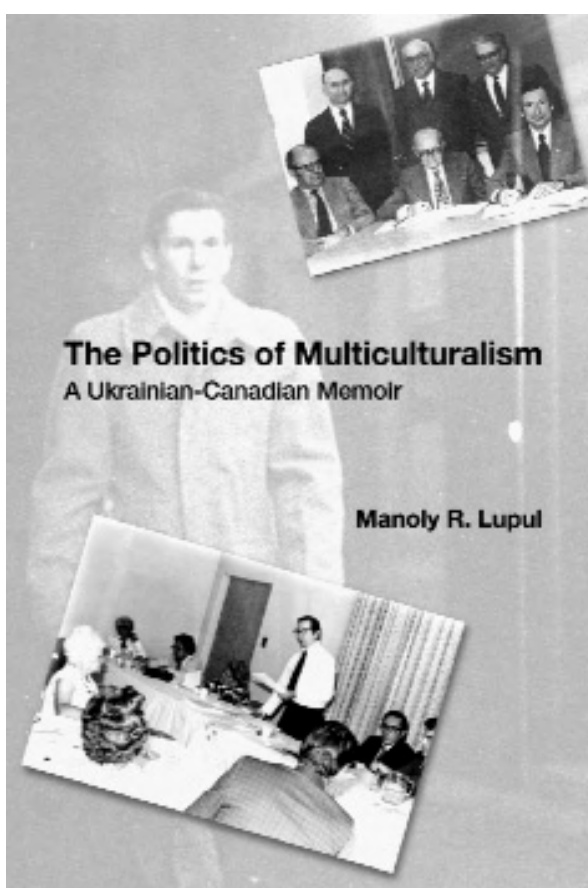
Ukrainian Canadian institutions and Ukrainian-related programs continued to develop and flourish during the year. The Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA), which is involved in a relocation project, received a grant of \$3 million from the City of Edmonton for its project, which includes a new public heritage museum, archive and community programming facility. It will replace the existing project currently located in a building more than 90 years old and functionally obsolete due to structural weaknesses and inappropriate conditions for the storage and display of the museum's archival collections.

Edmonton's grant matches one from the Community Facility Enhancement Program of Alberta Gaming that was announced in October 2004. The UCAMA is also seeking a matching federal grant. Private and public foundations have also been approached in this funding effort. The first phase of the construction is under way, and has been budgeted at over \$9 million (Canadian).

UCAMA has also received a gift of 36 limited-edition prints from the nationally acclaimed artist Peter Shostak to sell in support of its fund-raising efforts. This donation represents the initial instalment of a pledge of \$100,000 worth of prints and is part of the continued support of UCAMA by Mr. Shostak. UCAMA President Khrystia Kohut noted, "We are honored that Mr. Shostak has decided to support our capital fund-raising project with this gift."

The board of directors of Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center announced the appointment as of October 31 of Sophia Kachor as executive director and chief of collections. Ms. Kachor had served as curator and executive director of Oseredok in the past, has held executive positions with several associations and sat on numerous volunteer boards at the national and local levels.

Oseredok, founded in 1944, is a community-based national cultural institution, whose mandate is to preserve the Ukrainian heritage in Canada by operating a museum, archives, library and art gallery. Oseredok's holdings range from the 18th to the 20th centuries, and



Cover of memoirs by Manoly R. Lupul, a key figure in the multicultural movement who is considered the "father of bilingual education."



Ukrainian exchange students and teachers of the Kyiv Mohyla Collegium visit Montreal City Hall during the summer. Later they hosted students of Montreal's Royal West Academy during their visit to Kyiv.

included the papers of many community organizations and community leaders, as well as rare books, periodicals, photographs and, increasingly, audio and visual material. It provides research services and delivers a variety of programs, including exhibitions, cultural workshops and language classes.

One of the Ukrainian projects specific to western Canada is the bilingual (English-Ukrainian) school program in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. On September 28 the Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School was officially opened in Saskatoon. Although the bilingual program has existed in Saskatchewan since 1972, this will be the first bilingual school in the province. The new school's 160 kindergarten to Grade 8 students, as well as about 170 guests, took part in the opening ceremonies.

Principal Angela Wasylow recognized the many people who had helped in the 10 years of the movement toward the school: Bishop Michael Wivchar, who had lobbied the school board; former Director of Education Walter Podilik, former board Chair John Lewchuk, former Director of Education Dr. Helen Horsman, Ukrainian Education consultant Nadia Prokopchuk, former Superintendent of Schools Randy Warick, and Superintendent of Schools John McAuliffe, as well as former principals of the Ukrainian bilingual program and the staff and parents whose efforts had finally been rewarded.

The person considered to be the "father of bilingual education" is Manoly Lupul, whose book "The Politics of Multiculturalism: A Ukrainian Canadian Memoir" was published last year but reviewed and widely discussed this year. Dr. Lupul was a major figure in the multicultural movement during its heyday in the 1970s and early 1980s, and the book provides a well-documented, first-hand account of the author's involvement in multicultural politics. The Alberta school legislation for bilingual programs was passed in 1971 with similar laws subsequently enacted in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Dr. Lupul was also the founding director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, the first publicly funded institution of its kind outside Ukraine.

One cannot write about the year's activities in western Canada without mentioning the Dauphin Festival. The 41st National Ukrainian Festival took place in Dauphin, Manitoba, on August 4-6, and featured hundreds of entertainers – singers, dancers, instrumentalists, bands and Kozaks, and dozens of events – talent competitions, culinary and instrumental demonstrations, children's and adult's cultural workshops, fine arts competitions, a festival parade, a re-enactment of a traditional Ukrainian wedding and a Ukrainian Festival Idol competition.

Joseph Lesawyer, former supreme president of the Ukrainian National Association, was named one of the honorary life members of the festival. Inky Mark, member of Parliament for Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette was the recipient of a special "Award of Appreciation" for his work in advancing Bill C-331, the act recognizing the internment of Ukrainians during World War I. The award was presented to him at the official opening ceremonies of the festival.

Today, one of the most important organizers of Ukrainian-related academic activities in Canada is the Petro Jacyk Ukrainian Program at the University of Toronto. To encourage young people in scholarly research of Ukrainian topics, the Jacyk Program sponsors a biannual International Graduate Student Symposium together with the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto. This year, the Symposium was titled "New Perspectives on Contemporary Ukraine: Politics, History and Culture." The 15 student-presenters, who came from six American, five Canadian, three European and one Ukrainian university, read their papers at panels organized around five main themes: literature, history, identity, writing of history, Ukraine and the world, and the Orange Revolution.

Montreal, where Ukrainian community life seemed moribund in recent years, came alive last year. "Ukrainian Week 2006," held on January 20-26 on the McGill University campus, marked the revival of the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association. The association had been most active during the 1950s and 1960s, existed right through the mid-1980s but, by the late 1980s, the Ukrainian profile at McGill had virtually disappeared.

Dr. Yarema Kelebay, the president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in Montreal, and the students' club mentor, congratulated the students on the success of their Ukrainian Week program and urged them see their involvement in the Ukrainian club as a unique opportunity for "leadership training and preparation for political participation, that is, for life in the public square."

The program included: an installation at the university's Redpath Library of the Kyiv Memorial exhibit "Not to be Forgotten," depicting crucial events in Ukraine's during the 20th century; a lecture "Was the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-33 Genocide?" delivered by Prof. Roman Serbyn; and a lecture by architect Prof. Radoslav Zuk on "The Cultural Context of Ukrainian Architecture." The president of MUSA, Johanna Paquin, expressed a hope that Ukrainian Week celebrations would become a McGill University tradition.

The first major Canada-Ukraine high school student exchange program in Quebec between Royal West Academy (RWA) in Montreal and Kyiv Mohyla Collegium in Kyiv took place this summer. The Ukrainian group's two-week stay in Canada was entirely financed by fund-raising organized by the RWA parents and students with support generated from the Temerty Foundation, the Canada Ukraine Foundation, the Ukrainian Professional and Business Association of Calgary, the Ukrainian National Association and numerous Montreal Ukrainian organizations.

Mary Reynolds, principal of Royal West Academy, stated that "this international students exchange ... has been an unqualified success." To prepare themselves for traveling to Ukraine, the RWA students took Ukrainian language lessons and organized a Ukraine Cultural Day, during which where they gave presentations on chosen aspects of Ukrainian culture, history and politics. Exchange organizers said that experiencing each other's culture and being able to stay two weeks in each other's homes created a bond and friendships for the 50 stu-



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dents and teachers of Canada and Ukraine.

And, finally, Quebec got its own Ukrainian TV program. CH Television launched a new weekly Ukrainian half-hour program called "Suziria" that will report on the activities of the Ukrainian community in Montreal and the province of Quebec. The program has already featured interviews, primarily in the Ukrainian language, on various topics with such guests as Canadian opera singer Taras Kulish, Montreal artist Serhij Burtovyy, lawyer Evhen Czolij on the fourth World Forum of Ukrainians and Prof. Roman Serbyn on his recent research in Kyiv. The weekly hosts of "Suziria" are Oksana Zhovtulia and Anastasia Kyva, and the production line-up includes researcher Valentyna Golash and program director Istan Rozumny. The duration of the program is guaranteed for six months but will be renewed if it proves to be a good investment and serves the community.

Awards, honors and recognition form an important part of community life and draw the attention of other Canadians to Ukrainian achievements. The \$25,000 Kobzar Literary Award was inaugurated this year. The award was set up by the Shevchenko Foundation to recognize contributions to Canadian literary arts through an author or writer's presentation of a Ukrainian Canadian theme with literary merit. Laura Langston of Victoria, British Columbia, author of "Lesia's Dream," and Danny Schur of Winnipeg, Manitoba, who composed and produced "Strike! – The Musical," were named co-recipients of the 2006 award. The other finalists included Lisa Grekul of British Columbia for her novel "Kalyna's Song" and author Larry Warwaruk of Saskatchewan for "Andrei and the Snow Walker."

The inaugural dinner and presentation ceremony were held on March 2 in Toronto and attended by over 270 persons, including former Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson and Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, honorary patrons of the award, which was presented by Mr. Hladyshesky, president of the Shevchenko Foundation.

In Saskatchewan, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Saskatchewan Provincial Council (UCC-SPC) organized the Nation Builders and Community Recognition Awards Luncheon in Saskatoon on November 5 to celebrate the contributions of individuals with ties to the province. Dr. Gordon Barnhart, lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan, was among those attending.

In 2006, four individuals were recognized as nation builders for providing outstanding service without reward or gain: international authority in veterinary virology and immunology Dr. Lorne A. Babiuk, educator and community leader the late Anne Mary Buchko, spiritual advisor and leader Sister Theodosia (née Theresa Papirnik) and decorated serviceman Brig. Gen. Joseph Romanow.

Community Recognition Awards were presented to six individuals for meritorious contributions in the following areas: Cultural Preservation and Development (Anita Drobot and Cecilia Kachkowski), Leadership (Evelyn Darlene Hull), Volunteerism (John Panio) and Youth Achievement (Sophia Nahachewsky and Taisa Trischuk).



**Kobzar Literary Award finalists, (from left) Danny Schur, Larry Warwaruk, Laura Langston and Lisa Grekul, at the awards dinner on March 2.**

"The positive impact of Ukrainian Canadians has been especially significant in Saskatchewan, where we have been served by lieutenant governors (Dr. Stephen Worobetz and Dr. Sylvia Fedoruk), a premier (Roy Romanow) and a chief Justice (Edward Bayda) who are of Ukrainian heritage," said Lt. Gov. Barnhart in his greetings to the 250 assembled guests.

Filmmaker Halya Kuchmij became the fourth recipient of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association Media Award, presented by Toronto UCPBA president Roman Nazarewycz. Ms. Kuchmij has worked in film and television as a producer/director for over 25 years – at first as an independent filmmaker, then with the National Film Board of Canada and finally 16 years with the CBC.

Ms. Kuchmij has frequently sought out specifically Ukrainian topics and her films included the award-winning "Strongest Man in the World," the story of Michael Swistun, a Ukrainian Canadian strongman/magician; "Laughter in My Soul," the story of Jacob Maydanyk, the creator of a popular comic strip with a Ukrainian immigrant hero; and "The Enduring Legend of Pierre Le Canadien: The Peter Dmytruk Story," a story about a Saskatchewan Ukrainian in the Canadian armed forces who became a hero to the French. She also worked on the series "Canada: A People's History."

Ms. Kuchmij's films have won over 30 national and international awards such as the Genie (for film) and Gemini (for TV). Last year she was nominated for two Gemini awards. Ms. Kuchmij now has three projects in the works: the feature documentary "Living Strings," a history of the bandura and the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus under Hryhory Kytasty; a biography of artist William Kurelek; and a film on Ukrainian war heroes in the Canadian armed forces.

Sociologist Wsewolod W. Isajiw, University of

Toronto professor emeritus, was named a Knight in the Order of St. Gregory the Great, civil division, by Pope Benedict XVI. The ceremony was held on June 20, at the Cathedral Church of St. Michael. Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic invested Prof. Isajiw into the order and presented him with the papal medal. Prof. Isajiw was recognized for his "significant contribution to Catholic education, especially in connection with the proposed changes to The Education Act which would have prevented Ontario Catholic School Boards from considering an individual's faith when making employment decisions." Thanks in part to Prof. Isajiw's affidavit, the challenge to The Education Act was not successful.

Although not as intense as in the previous two years around the Orange Revolution, relations between Ukrainians in Canada and Ukraine remained close. The Canadian community was active in putting together and funding an election observer mission to the 2006 parliamentary elections in Ukraine. In order to raise awareness for the need for observers and to collect funds, the Edmonton community held a banquet on February 28 at St. John's Cultural Center attended by over 200 people. Special guests included several Members of Parliament as well as members of the provincial Legislative Assembly, such as Mr. Stelmach (who later in the year became premier of Alberta).

The UCC was able to put together a group of more than 150 Canadians to be election observers. The Canadian contingent visited more than 2,000 of Ukraine's 33,000 polling stations in seven regions. Because Ukrainians were voting for five different levels of public representatives, both the voting and counting processes took a long time. Paul Grod, mission chief for the UCC, reported that the Canadian delegation received excellent cooperation from Ukraine's election control bodies and political parties.

There were several changes in the Ukraine's diplomatic corps in Canada. On February 7, President Viktor Yushchenko relieved Mykola Maimeskul of the position of Ukraine's ambassador to Canada in connection with a new position. Mr. Maimeskul had served as Ukraine's envoy to Canada since March 20, 2004. He had been one of the last ambassadors to join the public support for the Orange Revolution.

The ambassador's post remained vacant until seven months later, when President Yushchenko appointed Ihor Ostash as ambassador to Canada. Mr. Ostash, 47, was a national deputy in the three previous Parliaments, in the most recent Parliament as vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He ran in the March parliamentary election on the list of the Pora-Reforms and Order bloc, which failed to overcome the 3 percent barrier.

Dr. Ihor Lossovskyi, consul-general in Toronto for four years, was recalled to Kyiv, and the Toronto Ukrainian Canadian Congress organized a farewell evening for him. Dr. Lossovskyi was well-known and popular in the Ukrainian community, and his farewell attracted representatives from all Ukrainian organizations, as well as a large public. As a parting gift, Dr. Lossovskyi was presented with a painting by Halya Nowakiwska titled "Winter in Toronto."

Dr. Lossovskyi's Canadian posting began in August 2003. As the Toronto office is the only consulate outside Ottawa, it is responsible for the provinces of Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the



**Seen at the 2006 Nation Builders and Community Recognition Awards Luncheon on November 5 are: (standing, from left) John Panio, Sister Theodosia, Fred Buchko (accepting for his late wife, Anne Mary), Ukrainian Canadian Congress Saskatchewan Provincial Council President Eugene Krenosky, Cecilia Kachkowski, Anita Drobot, Evelyn Hull, Sophia Nahachewsky, Taisa Trischuk, (seated) Dr. Gordon Barnhart and Naomi Barnhart.**

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Member of Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskyj (left) with Ihor Ostash (center), Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, and Andrew Robinson, former Canadian ambassador to Ukraine, together on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Northern Territories. Dr. Lossovskyi was one of the first Ukrainian diplomats to come out publicly in support of the Orange Revolution. Although he was pleased that he had been able to develop regional projects such as those between Alberta and the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast and the Toronto-Kyiv sister cities and start a pairing of Odesa-Vancouver, he said he would like to see a Ukrainian Cultural Center (on the model of the British Council or the Goethe Institute) in Canada.

The 15th anniversary of Canada's and Poland's recognition of Ukraine's independence was marked in the Canadian Parliament. The Canada-Poland Parliamentary Friendship Group and the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group joined the ambassadors of Poland and Ukraine, Canadian parliamentarians, and members of the Polish Canadian and Ukrainian Canadian communities in the celebration.

MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj recalled how, 15 years ago, he had been in a group of 40 Ukrainian Canadians who worked on the independence referendum, produced millions of leaflets and posters, and financed and produced a series of pro-independence television advertisements. On December 2, 1991, the day after the referendum, Poland became the first country to recognize Ukraine, followed closely by Canada. "These events illustrated the special relationship that existed and continues to exist between Canada, Poland and Ukraine. For this reason, it's no surprise that two years ago during the Orange Revolution Canada and Poland sent the largest contingents of election observers during the rerun of the presidential election," Mr. Wrzesnewskyj explained.

Staff cuts at the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv were criticized by MP Wrzesnewskyj. Between July and October of this year, the Canadian government cut three positions, or 30 percent, in the immigration section of its Embassy, leaving a skeletal staff of seven. "This summer I was receiving increasing numbers of calls and e-mails from frustrated constituents and Canadians across the country who were unable to get their relatives and friends to come to Canada for family visits, weddings, christenings and, regrettably, even funerals," Mr. Wrzesnewskyj said. The cutting of three immigration officers demonstrates Canadian Immigration Minister Solberg's attitude to potential immigration from Ukraine," he added.

Finally, a tale of bronzes: a plaque and a statue. A trilingual bronze plaque honoring the World War I Ukrainian Canadian hero Cpl. Filip Konowal was stolen from the facade of the Ukrainian Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion located in Toronto. This Canadian veteran was awarded the Victoria Cross, which now stands permanently on display in the new Canadian War Museum, by King George V.

A five-meter-high bronze statue of Taras Shevchenko, 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 prop-

erty. 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 statue – the oldest Shevchenko monument in Canada – had been chopped off at the feet and carted away. A ladder and pieces of rope were found at the scene, and tire tracks were evident. 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. On January 2 the head of the two-ton statue turned up at a nearby smelter. Police are continuing the search for the rest of the statue and they are analyzing the pieces found for evidence.

### *The Ukrainian diaspora: active from Kyiv to Kazan*

Just days before Ukraine celebrated its 15th anniversary of independence, The Ukrainian Weekly's Kyiv correspondent Zenon Zawada wrote that significant changes were affecting the country's diaspora. Responding to those changes, diaspora representatives from around the world gathered on a summer weekend in Kyiv to address issues facing them. More than 3,500 people from 40 countries took part in the fourth World Forum of Ukrainians in Kyiv on August 18-20. It was, in all likelihood, "the largest gathering of the Ukrainian diaspora since independence nearly 15 years ago," Mr. Zawada wrote.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko was on hand to field questions from participants of the forum, though neither Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich nor Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz accepted invitations to attend the forum. Instead, Mr. Yanukovich flew to Moscow that same weekend for an unofficial visit with Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin.

The forum's leaders did engage in closed-door meetings with Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk and Dmytro Tabachnyk, the vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs, but participants of the talks declined to reveal their discussions.

In his speech to the forum, Mr. Yushchenko said, among other things, that it pained him to see the division among Ukraine's Orthodox Christians. It was a topic that Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate and Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, also addressed during the forum.

Patriarch Filaret renewed the call for the creation of a single, particular Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Meanwhile, Mr. Lozynskyj sparked a national controversy by accusing the Ukrainian Orthodox Church –

Moscow Patriarchate of carrying out Moscow's political aims, interfering in Ukraine's elections and politics. In the past, Muscovite special security agents had infiltrated the Church's leadership and assisted in the liquidation of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, he said. In response to Mr. Lozynskyj's comments, the Union of Orthodox Citizens called on Prime Minister Yanukovich to ban Mr. Lozynskyj from traveling to Ukraine by declaring him persona non-grata.

Mr. Lozynskyj also criticized the Ukrainian leadership for failing to get the Verkhovna Rada to recognize UPA veterans or to declare the Holodomor a genocide. Mr. Lozynskyj's criticisms stirred the audience to numerous rounds of applause.

President Yushchenko received a warm reception and a standing ovation from the forum audience. He directly addressed points raised both by Patriarch Filaret and Mr. Lozynskyj. "If we are a democratic people, if we are Christians, we won't force anyone to speak Ukrainian," Mr. Yushchenko said to applause. The government has to create incentives and motivations to do that, he added.

While Mr. Yushchenko used his speech to say Ukraine needed political stability, a statement that drew more heckling from the audience, the Fourth Wave diaspora had its own agenda in mind.

Members of that group used the forum as a launching pad for Nova Khvylya (New Wave), an international organization to address their unique needs, as well as advocate for their interests both in Ukraine and abroad.

"We face issues of defending the rights of our workforce immigrants, particularly those illegally abroad; social security and pension insurance issues; problems with children left behind in Ukraine to be cared for by grandparents or simply left on their own," said Oleksander Shokalo, co-chairman of Nova Khvylya, which has based its headquarters in Kyiv. "But the main problem is returning these people to Ukraine," he said. "It's frightful to even fathom the demographic crisis facing Ukraine. What culture can we talk about, or economic growth, when our middle class is essentially being formed abroad?"

Nova Khvylya's leaders estimate that between 7 million and 8 million Ukrainians left in the Fourth Wave of emigration, which began when Ukraine declared independence in 1991. As a result, emigration was the leading factor in Ukraine's population drop of about 5.5 million during 15 years of independence.

Among Nova Khvylya's ambitious goals is to bring about the necessary political and economic conditions in Ukraine to allow Ukrainians to return, settle and work in their homeland.

Following the World Forum of Ukrainians, Lidiya Kononko, the manager of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council, the Kyiv-based non-governmental organization that helped arrange the forum, said the UWCC was in poor financial shape. She said the organization was saddled with \$16,000 of debt following the forum.

Though the Ukrainian government had allocated \$80,000 for the UWCC's 2006 budget, those funds were specifically earmarked for the organization's events and activities, not for structural support. As a result, enormous phone bills and other debts went unpaid.

"There was a poor administration of costs," Ms. Kononko said of the prior staff, on which she served for nearly three months. After the World Forum concluded on August 20, six of the 10 staff members of the UWCC's secretariat left, she said. This forum presented many new challenges, particularly because the Ukrainian diaspora in the West no longer provides funding, she said.

Leading up to the World Forum, the UWCC tried raising funds from Western sources, but to no avail, Ms. Kononko said. To cope with the government's decision to finance the World Forum through the Ministry of Culture, a coordinating council needs to be created to organize the work among the UWCC, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Kononko said.

Among the biggest changes to take place as a result of the World Forum of Ukrainians is that the UWCC's 45-member presidium has been reduced to 36 members: 12 from the Western diaspora, 12 from the Eastern diaspora and 12 from Ukraine.

The Ukrainian government for the first time allocated money in the national budget in support of the Ukrainian diaspora. The 2006 budget contained \$3.2 million to support diaspora communities in those countries where it's most needed. The funds were allocated

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to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which distributed them to its embassies.

Ukrainians abroad were important also as far as the March 26 parliamentary elections were concerned.

The People's Opposition bloc, led by Progressive Socialist Party Chair Natalia Vitrenko, staged a rally in Kyiv on March 14 to demand that the government allow Ukrainian citizens in the Transdnister region to vote in the March 26 elections. Volodymyr Marchenko of the Progressive Socialist Party told a crowd of some 1,000 people that there was not a single polling station organized by the Ukrainian authorities in Transdnister, where he said 67,000 people have Ukrainian citizenship.

Meanwhile, the Central Election Commission created two additional foreign election precincts in Moldova and Portugal. CEC Vice-Chairman Mykola Melnyk said the foreign election precinct in Moldova was in the city of Balti, where Ukraine opened its Consulate and where some 12,500 Ukrainian citizens reside. The second precinct was in Porto, Portugal, where a Ukrainian Consulate was opened earlier and where more than 2,000 Ukrainian nationals reside. Prior to the election, the Ukrainian news agency Ukrinform reported that there were 116 voting precincts for Ukrainian citizens residing abroad.

The aftermath of the elections drew close scrutiny, as people looked to see whether they were conducted freely and fairly. The day after the vote, the Ukrainian World Congress issued its own statement on the matter. The statement, signed by Victor Pedenko, UWC general secretary, and Eugene Czolij, chair of the UWC Election Committee and UWC mission coordinator, said "the Ukrainian World Congress believes that the elections of 2006 were legitimate and a fair demonstration of the will of the Ukrainian people."

International observers from the UWC, totaling 221 people from seven countries (the largest being the delegation from the Russian Federation, at 150 observers) were dispersed across 19 oblasts of Ukraine prior to and on the day of the elections where they actively participated in observing the election process.

The UWC's statement said: "the elections proceeded according to electoral law and international standards; the elections were transparent, democratic, fair and honest; and no major breaches of the law were noted."

Meanwhile, half a world away, Ukrainian nationals in Australia traveled from Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne together with locals from Canberra-Queabeyan to vote at the polling station in Canberra, Australia's capital. Mr. Yushchenko's party, Our Ukraine, received overwhelming support from Ukrainian nationals residing in Australia. Mr. Yushchenko, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and other Orange Revolution parties received the support of the majority of voters: 46 percent supported Our Ukraine and 23 percent supported Ms. Tymoshenko's bloc. Viktor Yanukovich and his Party of the Regions



**A group of activists at the September 16 unveiling in Kazan, Tatarstan, of a memorial plaque honoring Mykhailo Hrushevsky. Fourth from left is Makhmut Hasimov, the plaque's designer.**

received only 7 percent of the vote.

"The message is loud and clear from Australia," commented Stefan Romaniw, chairman of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations.

In the United States, the majority of Ukrainian citizens who voted there supported the Our Ukraine Bloc, which received a total of 3,974 votes. The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc was backed by 841 votes, the civil bloc Pora-Reforms and Order Party by 363 votes, the all-Ukrainian union Freedom by 130 votes and the Party of the Regions by 73 votes. Polling stations functioned in the District of Columbia, New York City, Chicago, San-Francisco and Kent, Wash., according to Ukrinform.

The board of directors of the Ukrainian World Congress held its annual meeting at the Writers' Union of Ukraine building in Kyiv on August 21-22. Twenty-four countries rendered reports about their communities: Armenia, Australia, Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Mozambique, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Spain, the United States of America and Uzbekistan.

The Ukrainian Youth Association World Executive, the World Council of Plast Organizations and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America gave

reports as well. Additionally, the board heard reports from the World Social Service Council, the World Coordinating Educational Council, the Human and Civil Rights Commission, the Sports Commission, the United Nations Council, the Commission against Human Trafficking, the Mass Media Council, the World Council on Cultural Affairs, the Commission to Aid Ukrainian Citizens Abroad and the World Scholarly Council.

UWC Executive Committee members, the president, two vice-presidents (the second from the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, or WFUWO), the secretary general, the treasurer, the financial director and the chair of the UWC Auditing Commission rendered reports also.

Five new members from Croatia (Association of Rusyns and Ukrainians in the Croatian Republic as a central coordinating organization), Portugal (Sobor Association of Ukrainians in Portugal as a national organization) and Italy (Association of Ukrainian Women in Italy, Association of Ukrainian Women Workers in Italy and the Ukrainian Plus Association, all as national organizations) were accepted into the Ukrainian World Congress.

A 2007 budget was adopted and an independent auditor was designated. A plan was mapped out and discussed at length for the 75th anniversary observances of the Great Famine to include parliamentary resolutions in some 30 countries, a U.N. resolution/statement, a monument-museum in Kyiv, educational material for school programs, publications, conferences and exhibits. To date, resolutions on the Famine have been passed in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and the United States. Stefan Romaniw from Australia was asked to coordinate the Famine-Genocide commemoration effort.

Finally, the city of Donetsk was chosen as the site of the 2007 UWC board of directors meeting, and the city of Kyiv was designated the site of the UWC's ninth congress to be held in 2008.

The United Nations headquarters in New York City was also a hub of activity in the diaspora this past year, as Valery Kuchinsky, the permanent representative of Ukraine to the U.N., chaired a meeting in the beginning of the year to plan various joint commemorations of Chernobyl Week at the U.N.

The gathering brought together top representatives of the Ukrainian women's and cultural organizations, local non-governmental organizations that have been active in helping Ukraine to mitigate the sad Chernobyl legacy, as well as scores of journalists.

World Information Transfer held the 15th International Conference on Health and the Environment: Global Solutions at the United Nations. The theme of the gathering on April 19-20 was "Living with Radiation in the Modern World: Commemorating Chernobyl, Remembering Hiroshima/Nagasaki."

Then, on July 12, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, members of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the public sector participated with over 100 permanent government missions to the U.N. in the Informal Interactive Civil Society Hearings in preparation for the High-Level Dialogue of the General Assembly, which was held on September 14-15.

The framework for the hearings was based on Secretary-General Kofi Annan's report, "International Migration and Development." Ukraine, with a population over 46 million, has an average annual net outmigration of 140,000. The remittances sent home to Ukraine by migrants for 2004 amounted to \$411 million, which represented 0.6 percent of the GDP.

On the recommendation of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, Olesya Kotsyumbas, regional coordinator of the Open Society Institute/Higher Education Support Program (OSI/HESP) academic fellowship program at the International Center for Policy Studies in Kyiv, was invited as a spokesperson at the Civil Society Hearings on Migration and Development.

According to Ms. Kotsyumbas, in order to ensure a long-lasting positive change in Ukraine with the help of highly skilled returning migrants and to make the best use of their knowledge and competencies, there should be a cooperative effort of civil society organizations, the private sector and the government.

Several months later, representatives of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO) gathered at the U.N. again. The goal of this conference, which took place on September 6-8, was to bring together non-governmental organizations from



**Institute for Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Director Alla Atamanenko and Dr. Lubomyr Wynar stand in front of the new library at the National University of Ostroh Academy.**

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around the world and to promote partnerships between these groups and the United Nations, as well as their home governments. The conference was titled "Unfinished Business: Effective Partnerships for Human Security and Sustainable Development – 59th Annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference."

"It is important to keep current on developments at the U.N., and to maintain and even cultivate a Ukrainian presence at the U.N. as a platform from which we can interject on behalf of Ukraine, as advocates for Ukrainian women in Ukraine and in the diaspora," said Marta Kichorowska-Kebalo, one of the WFUFO representatives at the conference. Ms. Kichorowska-Kebalo said that, while her organization was among more than 2,700 organizations accredited with the Economic and Social Council of the U.N., it is one of only a very few Ukrainian organizations with such status and one of two (the Ukrainian World Congress being the other) that has local access to the United Nations.

One notable speaker during the three-day conference, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, addressed the participants at the conference's closing, saying that the United Nations during his tenure has made a conscious effort to help civil society grow, because it recognizes that non-governmental organizations have been instrumental in the global fight against poverty, infectious diseases, genocide, war crimes and other problems.

A total of 1,879 representatives from 540 non-governmental organizations and 67 countries registered for the conference, including 49 representatives from Eastern European countries like Russia and Belarus. No non-governmental organizations from Ukraine attended the conference, although foreign organizations conducting programs in Ukraine – such as Search for Common Ground – shared their experiences and knowledge.

Other diaspora organizations also spent time and energy this past year working in Ukraine. When Ukraine re-established its independence, leaders of the Ukrainian diaspora from the United States and Canada were distraught that the National University of Ostroh Academy – Ukraine's oldest institution of higher education – had deteriorated from years of Soviet neglect.

"It was a ruin in the full understanding of the word, and nobody wanted to come work here," said Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, the rector of the university since 1994. "There wasn't a table, there wasn't a chair, there wasn't a book or a teacher. There was nothing."

The story of how Dr. Pasichnyk was able to rehabilitate the historic Ostroh Academy into a top-rate Ukrainian university in a matter of 12 years is an example of the Ukrainian diaspora's significant and positive influence in one aspect of Ukraine, *The Weekly's* Mr. Zawada reported in June. The school is celebrating the 430th anniversary of its founding as the first institution of higher education not only in Ukraine, but all of Eastern Europe.

In October the school opened a three-story, 19,300-square-foot library that houses 370,000 books and hundreds of periodicals. The first virtual library at a Ukrainian university occupies the building's second floor, offering students access to a huge global database of research sources. The cylindrical library complements cozy cottages, where about 50 teachers currently reside, as well as the renovated classrooms and halls in the 22,800-square-foot renovated main building originally constructed between the 16th and 18th centuries.

In 1996 Dr. Myron B. Kuropas launched exchange programs for Ostroh professors to study at Northern Illinois University. Soon after, Dr. Lubomyr Wynar of Kent State University initiated efforts to create a diaspora studies institute.

Since 1999 Dr. Kuropas has directed the Friends of the National University of Ostroh Academy, which is affiliated with the Ukrainian National Foundation (UNF) through which he helped raise \$290,000 in the diaspora.

Dr. Pasichnyk estimated that the U.S. diaspora contributes about \$50,000 annually through the Ukrainian National Association, under whose aegis the UNF functions.

In addition, the UNA contributes at least \$10,000 annually to a program enabling the university to recruit talented orphans or semi-orphaned children from villages into a college preparatory program. The university houses, clothes, feeds and educates these students for a year to prepare them for their higher education.

Exchange programs brought American professors to



Taras Hrynchyshyn

**Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk, outgoing Ukrainian World Coordinating Council Chair Mykhailo Horyn and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko attend the August 18 opening ceremony of the fourth World Forum of Ukrainians in Kyiv.**

teach for a semester at the university, and 30 Ostroh students trade places with Canadian university students annually.

While Ostroh Academy focused on rebuilding and celebrating its 430th anniversary in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America was busy experiencing its own growth. The organization reached another milestone with 481 active members in 2005. It marked the fourth consecutive year of rising membership. A broad range of new members sought representation by UMANA, the largest professional organization in the Ukrainian diaspora. In addition to the influx of applicants, UMANA witnessed a reactivation of many dormant members in 2006.

Increased visibility of UMANA activity in the U.S. and Canadian press, as well as a greater presence on the Internet, underscored the importance of publicity and networking in recruiting new members to the organization. "We are definitely moving in the right direction," said UMANA President Andrew Iwach, M.D. "I am confident that there are many more health-care professionals out there who would feel at home in the new UMANA."

Seemingly a world away, the Ukrainian diaspora in Athens, Greece, unveiled a monument to Ukraine's greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko, on March 13 during a ceremony dedicated to the 192nd anniversary of Shevchenko's birth.

The ceremony was attended by Ukrainian Ambassador to Greece Valerii Tsybukh, Valentyna Balabanova, People's Artist of Ukraine, National Taras Shevchenko Prize laureate Volodymyr Hryshko, well-known sculptor Oleh Pinchuk and renowned gymnast Liliya Podkopayeva, *Ukrinform* reported.

Among the many places where the diaspora was active in 2006 was Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, a constituent part of the Russian Federation. On September 16 a memorial plaque was unveiled to honor Mykhailo Hrushevsky, historian, scholar and noted Ukrainian political activist. The plaque installed on Kremlivska Street has a trilingual (Tatar, Russian and Ukrainian) text that reads: "In this building in 1915 lived the first president of the Ukrainian National Republic, Mykhailo Hrushevsky."

After Hrushevsky was arrested at the beginning of World War I and exiled to the provincial town of Symbirsk, he was able to obtain permission to move to the university city of Kazan, where he continued his scholarly work. Hrushevsky, his wife, Maria, and daughter, Kateryna, moved into a building on Kremlivska street in September of 1915.

The plaque in Kazan is the second dedicated to Hrushevsky to be unveiled in the Russian Federation; the first was installed in 2003 on a building in Moscow, where Hrushevsky lived during the 1930s. The plaque was installed thanks to the efforts of the Ukrainian community of Russia.

Meanwhile, more than 150 delegates from nine coun-

tries gathered in Kyiv on November 1-5 for the triennial Conference of Ukrainian Plast Organizations (KUPO), the third such world gathering held in Ukraine. "We educate children to become future leaders who will later go out and work in the community," said Chief Scout Dr. Lubomyr Romankiw in summarizing Plast's mission.

Its most important current challenge is becoming Ukraine's representative to the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), the primary international scouting organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, he said. Currently, Ukraine's representative is a Yalta-based organization, Pioneer Organizations Association of Kyiv (SPOK), which is loosely based on the Soviet-era Pioneers and is nowhere near the size, organization or influence of Plast.

Dr. Romankiw compared Plast's potential WOSM membership to Ukraine's membership in the United Nations; he underlined that Ukraine's youth would benefit from international relations and exposure. Currently, Plast has more than 10,000 members in Ukraine, compared to 5,000 members in the diaspora. Since 2003, 30 new local chapters have been created, mostly in central, eastern and southern Ukraine.

"Plast is growing and gaining strength," Dr. Romankiw said. "It has won enough popularity in many Ukrainian cities that it is no longer in danger of falling apart."

Financing continues to be a problem for Plast in Ukraine, Dr. Romankiw said. Lacking the necessary funds from the members themselves, the Ukrainian organization has relied on contributions from the Ukrainian diaspora. However, fewer members of the younger generations of Ukrainian Americans feel the obligation to continue this trend, Dr. Romankiw noted. "We hope that Ukraine will slowly proceed toward self-financing," he said.

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

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

For the third consecutive summer, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization U.S.A. sponsored counselors from Ukraine who took part in leading Plast camps at three campgrounds. This past year there were nine counselors from various regions of Ukraine. They included Dmytro Konesnyk of Kramatorsk, Mykhailo Lemak of Lviv, Stas Andriichuk of Kyiv, Olenka Mischuk of Ternopil, and Ira Ostapiivska of Lutsk, as well as Serhii Shkaran, Marta Fedkiv, Andrii Vakhnii and Anna Muzala, all from Lviv.

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### Chornobyl: marking its 20th anniversary

Ukrainians commemorated many significant anniversaries in 2006, perhaps the most important being the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear catastrophe.

Precisely at 1:23 a.m., the bell atop a memorial mound at the Warriors of Chornobyl Memorial rang for one minute amidst reflective silence. Afterwards, Mr. Yushchenko, alongside Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi, Prime Minister Yekhanurov and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, placed bouquets of red roses at the mound.

Vitalii Klitschko was among those attending the service and placing roses, though he was not part of the president's entourage that partook in a brief service afterwards inside St. Michael the Archangel Chapel.

Every year, hundreds of former Chornobyl zone residents meet at the Warriors of Chornobyl Memorial on Peace Boulevard on Kyiv's Left Bank to catch up on the latest news, exchange new telephone numbers and reminisce about their lives before the accident.

At the Ukrainian Home on European Square, scientists and engineers met on April 25-26 to discuss their research at the "Twenty Years after Chornobyl" conference sponsored by the Ukrainian government and other governments and international organizations.

Across the street at the Philharmonic Hall, social scientists and government experts discussed Chornobyl's social impact at the "Rebirth, Renewal and Human Development" humanitarian forum organized by Kateryna Yushchenko's Ukraine 3000 Fund and the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF).

The main lesson the world learned from the Chornobyl catastrophe is that governments need to tell the truth, Mrs. Yushchenko said. Another lesson is that governments need to remove an egotistical view of the world and adopt a strategic approach to meeting the needs of people. Global problems need to be resolved through cooperation of different nations, Mrs. Yushchenko added.

Ukraine's first lady also announced a partnership between the Ukraine 3000 Fund and the CCRDF in which they will improve the training, technology, medicine and overall standards in one children's hospital in each region of Ukraine.

They will also work together to create a new state-of-the-art children's hospital in Kyiv so that Ukrainian children won't have to travel abroad to receive top medical treatment.

Also attending the forum was the world-renowned Brazilian author Paulo Coehlo, who revealed his particular interest in the Chornobyl disaster and its effect on humanity. In his first visit to Ukraine, he was forbidden to travel to the Chornobyl zone, so Mr. Coehlo instead visited the Chornobyl Museum at Kontraktova Square.

"I was moved to tears when I saw the consequences of the disaster," he said.

Mr. Coehlo then wrote about his impressions in his column published in periodicals in 35 different countries. "To my surprise, most people had already forgotten the meaning of Chornobyl, either because they are young ..., either because they did not get close to the disaster," Mr. Coehlo said. "I was really shocked because I was convinced that everybody knew."

This humanitarian forum is of major importance in not allowing people to forget those events that affect everyone in the world, he said. It can transform a tragedy into something positive because "we can have good lessons from tragedies," Mr. Coehlo said.

The first and the most important lesson is try not to let it happen again, he said, and then we try to learn how to manage these disasters created by human beings. "I am grateful to you for organizing this event, for making people more aware, for those people who weren't affected or who weren't even born when this tragedy happened," Mr. Coehlo said.

Among the scientists to address the humanitarian forum was Dr. Wolodymyr Wertelecki, chairman of medical genetics at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. He spoke on the influence of Chornobyl on the genetic health of future generations – a topic that has been investigated by a large team of researchers. Dr. Wertelecki's report was among the few to seriously explore the effect of Chornobyl's radiation fallout on genetics.

Information on Chornobyl's impact on birth defects is quite limited so far, Dr. Wertelecki said, partly because Ukraine doesn't have a broad birth defect surveillance system, with the exception of five scattered centers. The studies have pinpointed an epidemic of spinal bifida in infants in Ukraine, he said, a genetic disorder in which the spinal canal is exposed outside the skin or is severed. It is considered among the most serious of birth defects.

Ukraine loses 500 children to spinal bifida every year and has lost 2,500 children in the last five years, he continued. If the Ukrainian government were to introduce folic acid into the diet of its citizens, spinal bifida cases could be reduced by at least 50 percent in Crimea, and by three-quarters in the most affected regions such as the Rivne and Lutsk oblasts, Dr. Wertelecki said.

He accused Ukraine's Minister of Health, Yuriy Poliachenko, of ignoring the spinal bifida epidemic. "These are not arguable scientific facts," he said. "There is so much data right now that the Center for Disease Control in the U.S. has said monitoring is no longer necessary. This is beyond dispute, in terms of science. It is disputable for the minister of health, which some people contend is committing public health malpractice by not introducing these preventive measures."

Aside from the official conferences, Ukrainian, German and other European pro-environmental organizations joined their efforts to host the "Chornobyl+20: Remembrance for the Future" conference, which had an explicit anti-nuclear energy orientation.

The Chornobyl+20 conference resolution declared that the international community has failed to recognize the truth about the Chornobyl disaster. It condemned the nuclear industry for promoting itself and seeking government subsidies to continue expanding. It also condemned the drive to make the Russian Federation into an international receptor of nuclear waste, stating that each country should find ways to cope with its own waste products.

Twenty years later, the legacy of the Chornobyl disaster continues to claim its victims and experts remain in an ongoing debate about its significance. Conferences, exhibits and fund-raisers were held across the United States, Ukraine and Canada to bring atten-



Zenon Zawada

**A protest banner outside a Chornobyl conference venue in Kyiv on April 24 urges an end to the use of nuclear power in Ukraine.**

tion to the medical, environmental, economic and socio-political consequences of the world's worst nuclear explosion.

At many of the conferences, appeals were made to the international community to assist with the clean-up efforts at Chornobyl and the replacement of the crumbling concrete sarcophagus that contains the reactor and over 90 percent of the released radioactive material. This year, Ukraine's government budget allocated \$69 million for the construction of what was called the New Safe Confinement Cover. The total cost of the cover was estimated at \$768 million.

The health consequences of the nuclear disaster continue to be a source of ongoing controversy. Conflicting reports in the September 2005 Chernobyl Forum Report, authored by the International Atomic Energy Agency, downplayed many of the health consequences of Chornobyl in an effort, critics say, to promote the reformed nature of nuclear energy. The report claims that only 56 deaths can be directly attributed to the disaster, including 47 victims of acute radiation syndrome and a mere nine thyroid cancer deaths.

However, due to the 20- and 30-year latency period of the cancers associated with radiation exposure, many health experts anticipate an increase in these cancers within the next 10 years.

Greenpeace International released "The Chernobyl Catastrophe" a 138-page report that challenged the conclusions of the IAEA that cited a mere 4,000 deaths attributed as a direct result of the disaster. Based on cancer statistics in Belarus, Greenpeace's report estimated that 93,000 fatal cancers would result from the Chornobyl disaster, with 270,000 additional cancer cases. The IAEA report also underscores the lack of consensus in the scientific community, which gives a range of casualty estimates from 9,335 to 32,000 deaths. According to Greenpeace's report, more than 200,000 have died as a result of the disaster between 1990 and 2004, which based its estimates on statistics provided by the Belarusian, Ukrainian and Russian governments.

In recognition of the significance of the Chornobyl disaster, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 703, which recognized the health consequences, called



Cutty Sark Co.

**U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst (left), Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund founder Zenon Matkiwsky and Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko announce the arrival of an airlift bringing \$1.7 million in medicine and supplies to Ukraine to mark Chornobyl's 20th anniversary.**

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Zenon Zawada

**Dr. Wolodymyr Wertelecki of the University of South Alabama at the "Birth, Renewal and Human Development" forum on April 25.**

upon health organizations to focus their research in these areas, continued support of the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, which addresses the storage of spent nuclear fuels, and urges support from other nations in providing assistance with the Chernobyl Shelter Fund and Shelter Implementation Plan programs.

The environmental damage caused by Chernobyl is not as contested as the health effects, due to the ability to accurately measure levels of contamination. Over the past 20 years, a lot of talk has emerged on the restoration of the sarcophagus that houses over 90 percent of the radioactive dust, that if released, would be what many experts are calling the potential "second Chernobyl."

The biggest problem that has been encountered when dealing with the environmental impact is the falsified figures that were provided by the Soviets. Originally, the Soviets reported that 50 million curies were released; while studies 10 years ago indicated between 150 million and 200 million curies were released, compared with the 15 curies released at Tree Mile Island.

The radioactive fallout from the blast contaminated more than 10 percent of Ukrainian territory, while approximately 80 percent of Belarusian territory – millions of acres – remain excluded from economic activity. It was noted at a conference at Columbia University that some of the territory in Belarus has been proclaimed by the government as "safe," while the levels of radiation remain constant, authorities have merely raised the "dangerous" level, so as to repopulate the areas and spur on the economy.

Problems still arise from people ingesting produce with plant root systems, such as wild mushrooms, that take up radionuclides leached into lakes and rivers. These environmental effects add to the health effects of Chernobyl.

From the beginning of the tragedy, medical and environmental consequences were predicted and debated, but one of the neglected areas of impact was the socio-political consequences. Many experts agree that Chernobyl demonstrated the deceitful capacity of the Soviet regime in a time that brought about "glasnost" or openness, which ultimately contributed to the collapse of the totalitarian system.

Twenty years later, Chernobyl still impacts political decisions in Ukraine and Belarus, but in Belarus, the political situation is not much different than it was 20 years ago.

As the 20th anniversary of Chernobyl comes to a close, the need continues to correct "authoritative" and "definitive" reports by the Chernobyl Forum and others, and increase awareness of the latent health effects attributed to the disaster. Young adults and people of middle age are the principal victims of Chernobyl today. Cancers continue to plague children who were born or conceived before the accident, while liquidators in their 40s and 50s continue to live with the effects of exposure. They see the world in two chapters: before Chernobyl and after. Nothing was the same again.

Conferences held on the topic of Chernobyl during 2006 included:

- March 23-25, Madison, Wis., "Chernobyl Here

and Now: Global Engagement, Local Encounters," sponsored by Friends of Chernobyl Centers, U.S., the Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia, Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at the University of Alberta.

- April 4-7, Slavutych, Ukraine, International Youth Ecology Forum, sponsor by U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, Executive Committee of the Slavutych City Council.

- April 25, New York, "Commemoration of the Chernobyl Disaster: The Human Experience 20 Years Later," Columbia University

- April 25-26, Kyiv, "Twenty Years after Chernobyl," sponsored by the Ukrainian government and other governments and international organizations.

- April 24-26, Kyiv, "Chernobyl, A Look into the Future," the sponsored by governments of Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Federation, World Health Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations development Program, and other institutions.

- April 25-26, Kyiv, "Rebirth, Renewal and Human Development," sponsored by the Ukraine 3000 Fund, Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund.

- April 25-26, Kyiv, "Chernobyl+20: Remembering for the Future," sponsored by Ukrainian, German and other European environmental groups.

- April 29, Chicago, "Chernobyl: The Next Generation," sponsored by Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago, Illinois Chapter of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, the Chicago Chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, University of Illinois.

In addition, a number of photos exhibits were held to mark the 20th anniversary:

- April 28-May 12, United Nations, "20 Years After Chernobyl: From Tragedy to Recovery," sponsored by the governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

- April 26, Washington, "Chernobyl: 20," sponsored by the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, Chernobyl Challenge '06 coalition of NGOs.

- March 12-May 28, New York, "Chernobyl + 20: This is Our Land ... We Still Live Here," sponsored by Self Reliance New York federal Credit Union, The Ukrainian Museum.

### *Churches: transitions for Catholics, Orthodox*

The year 2006 was the year of transition for both Ukrainian Catholics and Ukrainian Orthodox.

Catholics in the diaspora saw the installation of a new bishop and the enthronement of a new metropolitan of Canada, while Orthodox in the diaspora witnessed the enthronement of a new Canadian metropolitan.

Bishop Lawrence Huculak, OSBM, was enthroned as metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada on February 11 at Ss. Volodymyr and Olga Cathedral in Winnipeg. His appointment came from Pope Benedict XVI, coinciding with the pontiff's acceptance of the



**Bishop Basil Losten retired after 28 years as eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, Conn.**

resignation of Metropolitan Michael Bzdel.

This year also marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Metropolitan See of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada and the establishment of the eparchies of Toronto, Saskatoon and Edmonton.

Also in Winnipeg, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC) enthroned its first Canadian-born ruling hierarch, Metropolitan John (Stinka) on July 23. Metropolitan John had been acting primate of the Church upon the passing of his predecessor, Metropolitan Wasyl (Fedak) in January 2005. In July 2005 he was elected as the new archbishop of Winnipeg and metropolitan of Canada.

Ukrainian Catholics also celebrated the installation of a new eparch of Stamford, Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, on February 20 by Patriarch Lubomyr Husar. Bishop Chomnycky replaced the retiring Bishop Basil Losten as the new leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford. Bishop Losten, who served 28 years as eparch, was profiled in *The Weekly* on February 12. The Stamford Eparchy celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2006.

Earlier in 2006, on January 3, it was announced that Msgr. John Bura, 61, was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as auxiliary bishop for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and assigned the Titular See of Limisa.

Ukraine saw the installation of several bishops. The first came from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) on January 1 in St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Kyiv, where Archimandrite Mykhail (Bondarchuk) was ordained bishop of Poltava and Kremenchuk by Patriarch Filaret, primate of the UOC-KP.

Father Bohdan Dziurakh, CSsR, was ordained bishop on February 14 by Patriarch Husar and will serve as auxiliary bishop of the Kyiv-Vyshhorod Archeparchy in Ukraine. On March 2, Pope Benedict XVI blessed the decision by bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) to appoint a Redemptorist priest, Father Yaroslav Pryriz, archchancellor of the Sambir-Drohobych Eparchy of the UGCC, as auxiliary bishop of Sambir and Drohobych.

Additionally, on October 19 Patriarch Husar, leader of the UGCC, announced the appointment of Bishop Vasyl Semeniuk, administrator of the Ternopil-Zboriv Eparchy in western Ukraine, as the ruling hierarch of the eparchy. This came after the death of Bishop Mykhail Sabryha of Ternopil-Zboriv on June 29 at age 65.

The UOC-KP saw the passing of Archbishop Stephen (Bilak), leader of the Vicariate of the U.S. and Canada of the UOC-KP and archbishop of Boryspil, who died on November 10. He was 89.

The Synod of Bishops of the UGCC convened in Briukhovychi, near Lviv, on September 13-20. Three metropolitans and 33 bishops participated in the event led by Patriarch Husar. At the Synod, the UGCC reported that the beatification process, which had begun in 1958, for Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, head of the UGCC from 1901 to 1944, had moved on to the Vatican's Theological Commission which would consider his official status as "venerable," which would make possible his recognition as a "blessed" of the



**Metropolitan John Stinka of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada was enthroned on July 23.**

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Catholic Church.

In 2007 the synod will take place in Philadelphia and will mark the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Bishop Soter Ortynsky, the first Ukrainian Catholic bishop in the United States.

Speaking on September 27 at the international forum "Let My People Live!" dedicated to the memories of the Jews who were killed 60 years ago at Babyn Yar, Moshe Fishbein, a Jewish translator and poet, recalled the saintly Metropolitan Sheptytsky, who saved Jews during World War II. Mr. Fishbein stated: "I bow my head before those righteous, those Ukrainians who, risking their own lives, rescued Jews. I bow my head before the memory of the great Ukrainian, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, who hid Jews in his house, and among them there was Rabbi David Kahane. I bow my head before the memory of Greek-Catholic nuns who hid Jewish children. I bow my head before hundreds of Ukrainian families who rescued Jewish souls."

Ukrainian Catholics marked the 60th anniversary of the Lviv pseudo-sobor of March 8-10, 1946, which liquidated the Ukrainian Catholic Church and forced it underground during the time of the Soviet Union. For more than 40 years the UGCC was the largest illegal religious organization in the world. More than 6,000 Ukrainian Catholics joined a procession from St. George Cathedral in Lviv that was held on March 11 to commemorate the historic places where bishops, clergy and worshippers were persecuted, tortured or beaten.

Meanwhile, the Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP), led by Metropolitan Volodymyr Sabodan, emphasized "the importance of the Lviv Church Sobor [Assembly] of 1946 for the history of Orthodoxy in Ukraine." The synod "decided to honor this historical event," which declared that the UGCC had ended its union with Rome and "returned" to the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Other anniversaries included two parishes in the diaspora that celebrated their centennials, including St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Chicago and Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Cohoes, N.Y.

In his first trip to the U.S. in three years, Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko) of the UOC-KP made a visit to U.S. parishes on October 26-November 7. The patriarch made the trip to celebrate the 55th anniversary of St. Sophia Parish in Bloomingdale, Ill. On this trip, Patriarch Filaret met with UGCC Bishop Robert Moskal in Parma, Ohio, and awarded him the Order of St. Volodymyr the Great (third degree) on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his episcopal ordination.

For the first time since Ukraine gained independence, St. Sophia Sobor in Kyiv will finally get the face-lift it so desperately needs. According to the Ministry of Construction, Architecture and Municipal Housing, a total of 46.5 million hrv (approximately \$9 million U.S.) was to be allocated for the restoration and rehabilitation of the St. Sophia historical and cultural preserve. Five million hrv will come from the state budget, 15 million hrv will come from the Donetsk region and 26.5 million hrv from the municipal budget.

Another first for 2006 was the first liturgy to be celebrated at the UGCC's Patriarchal Cathedral of the Holy



Hierarchs, clergy and faithful outside St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral following the pontifical divine liturgy on November 5 that celebrated the parish's centennial.

Resurrection in Kyiv on January 19. Construction of the patriarchal church should be completed in 2007.

Just two years after an explosion razed St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Colchester, Conn., the new \$1.3 million church was blessed by Bishop Chomnycky of the Stamford Eparchy. The explosion in 2004 destroyed almost everything except for a white marble statue of the Virgin Mary, which has come to symbolize hope and rebirth for the parishioners.

A triple celebration was observed at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, N.J., on the feast day of the church's patron saint. The church, which was dedicated to the victims of the Famine-Genocide that ravaged Ukraine in 1932-1933, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a banquet following the liturgy. That same day, Archbishop Antony and the faithful honored Taras Pavlovsky, their choir director who was retiring after 27 years of service in the church. Archbishop Antony also honored the Pokrova Sisterhood in recognition of its members' continued dedication and devotion to the Church.

In an effort to promote unity, the UOC-KP and the UGCC in Ukraine confirmed this year that both sides are open to dialogue, but Patriarch Filaret noted that this will be dependent upon returning to a unified faith that existed before the schism of 1054. At the same time, however, the UOC-KP cautioned against state interference in Church matters.

In a demonstration of religious intolerance, the UOC-MP threatened sanctions and even excommunication against President Viktor Yushchenko after he confessed and received holy communion in a church of the Kyiv Patriarchate. The UOC-MP does not recognize any other Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

However, the UOC-MP and the UOC-KP did take a united stand against the November 8 decision of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers to create a State Committee on Matters of Nationalities and Religions. Their motivations were different, though. The UOC-MP expressed its fears of governmental control over the Church, while the UOC-KP was more skeptical of the motivations behind this reorganization.

The Ukrainian Catholic University had a big year in 2006 with fund-raising efforts by the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation that raised more than \$500,000. On March 9, UCU celebrated the licensing of theology as an academic subject as announced on March 2 by Ukraine's Ministry of Education.

In a year of firsts, UCU saw Sister Paraskevia Vakula of the Sisters of the Holy Family become the first graduate of the university to successfully defend a doctoral dissertation at the Patristic Institute Augustinianum in Rome on July 13. Also this year, a new 50,000-square-foot academic building, which houses the new home of UCU's theology and philosophy department, a 3,000-square-foot library, and two large lecture halls, was unveiled in Lviv on September 17.

Toward the end of the year, Patriarch Husar sent a letter to the Roman Catholic bishops of Ukraine,

Lithuania and Latvia, to thank them for their support when the UGCC was forced underground by the Soviets from 1946 to 1989. "Against the general background of negative memories about the persecutions suffered, it is very pleasant for us to recall that our brother Christians who, though they themselves in those evil times knew certain limitations in their official existence and activities, were ready to help our clergy and faithful," wrote the patriarch, according to a November 22 news release.

## Academia: an expansion of Ukrainian studies

Academics made major headlines in 2006 – and not only because of their scholarship on a variety of Ukrainian topics. From across seas and continents, their cooperation and communication meant more depth for Ukrainian studies and the development of new resources in various disciplines.

Whether studying the question of language in Ukraine or analyzing the presidential election and the Russia-Ukraine gas crises, the breadth of scholarship on Ukrainian topics in 2006 was truly remarkable, while cooperation among scholars and academic societies was the dominant theme.

In one example, 106 scholars from 10 countries came together for an annual diaspora conference hosted by the Center for Humanitarian Cooperation with the Ukrainian Diaspora at Hohol State Pedagogical University in Nizhyn, Ukraine, on June 21-24.

In addition to the diaspora conference in Nizhyn, the diaspora center at Lviv Polytechnic University and the National University of Ostroh Academy also held conferences this past year.

Each diaspora center has its own niche, and the Center for Humanitarian Cooperation at Hohol State Pedagogical University is continuing to build upon its emphasis on the eastern diaspora in the Russian Federation and former Soviet republics, said Stanislav Ponomarevskyi, the center's director.

More than 20 Ukrainian Saturday and Sunday school teachers, attended the conference, a majority from the Russian Federation.

Earlier in the year, on March 8-10, the diaspora institute at Lviv Polytechnic University hosted a conference on the theme "Diaspora as a Factor in Strengthening the Ukrainian State in the International Community." More than 240 scholars representing more than 20 countries attended, including Mykhailo Horyn, chair of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadii Udovenko.

That conference centered on the idea that the diaspora's focus in post-Orange Ukraine should be in helping Ukraine and Ukrainians within their own countries, rather than directing efforts toward Ukraine. "The work has gone in the direction of strengthening the nation



Archbishop Stephen (Bilak), U.S. primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, died on November 10.

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beyond its geographical borders," said Iryna Kliuchkovska, director of the International Institute of Education, Cultural and Diaspora Ties, Ukraine's largest academic diaspora institution, which has existed for five years.

Meanwhile, the third International Congress of Ukrainian Historians was held on May 17-19 in the historic city of Lutsk in the Volyn region of Ukraine. The congress was hosted and organized by the Lesia Ukrainka Volyn State University. The international congress, held every three years in Ukraine, was initiated by the Ukrainian Historical Association, which continues to be the main sponsor and organizer of these conferences.

The over 400 historians who participated in this congress came from various Ukrainian regions, as well as from Poland, Germany, the United States, Canada, France, Italy and other countries. The congress sections covering all periods of Ukrainian history, as well as historical theory and methodology, issues relating to historical sources, special historical disciplines and various aspects of Hrushevsky studies.

A special section analyzed various interpretations of Ukrainian history in the research and writings of foreign scholars, and examined the serious problem that continues to plague historians of world history from Ukraine in gaining recognition from their non-Ukrainian colleagues.

During the congress, Prof. Ihor Kotsan, rector of the Lesia Ukrainka Volyn State University, conferred upon Prof. Lubomyr Wynar, president of the Ukrainian Historical Association, head of the World Scholarly Council and editor of the Ukrainian Historian, the title of honorary professor of history of Volyn State University in recognition of his contributions to Ukrainian historical scholarship both in Ukraine and in the diaspora, and his role as the initiator of these international congresses.

Prof. Wynar was also among the scholars honored by the National University of Ostroh Academy on May 23 for their immense contributions to Ukrainian culture. Ostroh Academy awarded three Ukrainian American scholars with honorary doctoral degrees during its second international diaspora conference. In attendance was Prof. Wynar, who has been a leader of Ukrainian studies in the U.S. during the last four decades and helped launch the Institute of Ukrainian Diaspora Studies at Ostroh Academy. Other honorees were Dr. Myron B. Kuropas and Dr. Leonid Rudnytzky, who were not present at the conference.

Ostroh Academy also established the Chair of the History of the Ukrainian Diaspora on October 12 during a special inaugural ceremony at the university. The chair, with its focus on immigration and the diaspora, is the first in Ukraine as well as the world, and its establishment realizes one of the goals of the Institute of Ukrainian Diaspora Studies. The institute, created in January 2002 on the unanimous recommendation of the Research Council of the National University of Ostroh Academy, can already boast of significant accomplishments in the relatively short time since its establishment.

In Ukraine, this first Chair of the History of the Ukrainian Diaspora is destined to become a force behind developing and directing a crucial area in Ukrainian historiography: the history of Ukrainian immigration and the Ukrainian diaspora, Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, rector of the National University of Ostroh Academy, said. The well-known historian and ethnic studies specialist Dr. Wynar was named honorary professor and honorary director of the Chair of the History of the Ukrainian Diaspora, while Dr. Alla Atamanenko was appointed as the chief administrator of the newly created chair.

The National University of Ostroh Academy hosted more than 80 scholars from nine countries for its international diaspora conference, "Ukrainian Diaspora: Problems of Research." The conference sought "to distinguish those particular trends which require research in Ukraine and those trends of cooperation among Ukrainians globally that require emphasis," said Dr. Atamanenko.

Roman Yereniuk, a theology professor at St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg, discussed the Ukrainian Canadian experience with multiculturalism and bilingual education in the Canadian public school system.

Dr. Yereniuk suggested more student exchange programs between Ukrainian and Western universities, transferring Ukrainian books and entire libraries to Ukraine, and an improved means for Canadians and Ukrainians to inform each other of books and periodicals



At a roundtable on language and elections in Ukraine held on January 28 at the Shevchenko Scientific Society (from left) are: Alexander Motyl, Yuriy Shevchuk, Larissa Onyshkevych, Antonina Berezovenko and Mykola Ryabchuk.

being printed.

Among the resolutions drawing unanimous support from the conference was a firm rejection of the legislation recently passed in numerous oblast and city councils granting the Russian language official regional status for use in government and educational institutions. "How shameful it is for me to have to speak in this auditorium, 15 years after independence, of how we need to pass a resolution in defense of our native language," Rector Pasichnyk said.

There were also instances of cooperation in Ukrainian scholarship on smaller scales.

Roman Hevko, dean of agricultural economics and management at Ternopil State University of Economics, visited Ames, Iowa, in early February to share ideas and learn more about the academic structure of Iowa State University. "It's of great interest to me to understand how Iowa State University functions, how students choose courses, how many classes they take and other realities of academic life," Mr. Hevko said.

David Acker, associate dean of academic and global programs at Iowa State University, said, "We also plan to send one or two professors to Ternopil this summer, which will be the first step in establishing a student exchange program."

The Ukrainian presidential election was a hot topic of analysis for scholars during the course of the year.

The first such analysis came on April 11 in Lawrence, Kansas, as Prof. Alexander Motyl of Rutgers University delivered the annual Maria Palij Memorial lecture at the University of Kansas, titled "Did the Orange Revolution Make a Difference?" Dr. Motyl opened his presentation by describing a hypothetical situation where the Orange Revolution had not happened and Viktor Yanukovich won the presidential election in November 2004. He did this to help illustrate the changes that have come about and to present a possible scenario of "what if" to show what could have been.

Dr. Motyl said he believes that without the Orange Revolution, Ukraine would have become more oriented toward Russia and Central Asia. Further transformations as a result of the Orange Revolution include people's perceptions and expectations.

Meanwhile, organizers of a program dealing with the status of the Ukrainian language and elections in Ukraine packed a lecture hall in New York City for a roundtable discussion hosted by the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh). The event, titled "Language and Elections in Ukraine, 2004-2006," was held at the society's headquarters in January.

Roundtable participants: Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych, Yuri Shevchuk, Antonina Berezovenko, Mykola Ryabchuk and Alexander Motyl summarized their views on the current language situation in Ukraine. The floor was then opened to a barrage of questions and comments from a deeply engaged audience.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), jointly with the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN), the Harriman Institute of Columbia University (HICU) and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), hosted the 26th annual scholarly conference dedicated to Taras Shevchenko at the NTSh headquarters in New York City on March 11. Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Olexa Bilaniuk, the

immediate past president of UVAN. Whether or not Ukraine ever becomes a truly Ukrainian state, said Dr. Bilaniuk, may depend on the extent to which Shevchenko's poetry is promulgated in the Russian-speaking regions of Ukraine, because many of the admonitions the great bard had directed at his countrymen still apply to the Ukrainian Russophones of today.

The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies held a conference on February 5-6 in Cambridge, Mass., to examine "The Ukrainian-Russian Gas Crisis and its Aftermath: Economic, Political and International Ramifications."

Featured speakers included Taras Kuzio of George Washington University, Roman Kupchinsky of RFE/RL in Prague, Gene Fishel of the U.S. State Department and the eminent scholar Marshall Goldman.

Ukraine's energy sector has become the center of corruption in the country and is largely controlled by Russian interests, said Margarita Balmaceda, who organized the conference along with Lubomyr Hajda. Its energy supplies are a source of power that Russia has wielded internationally long before it shut off gas to Ukraine on January 1. The conference consensus was that the January gas agreement reflects and perpetuates this state of affairs, ultimately constraining both economic and democratic development in Ukraine.

Dr. Mark von Hagen, director of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, revisited the topic "Does Ukraine Have a History?" in a lecture at the university's International Affairs Building. On February 1, Prof. von Hagen, who is the Boris Bakhmeteff Professor of Russian and East European Studies and teaches Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian history at Columbia, addressed the topic from the perspective of a Ukraine one year after the Orange Revolution.

Referring to the seminal work of historian Mykhailo Hrushevsky, known as "the father of modern Ukrainian history," the speaker said an especially noteworthy development is that "the Hrushevsky paradigm of Ukrainian history has virtually replaced the former reigning Soviet-Russian imperial one that denied any genuine autonomy to events and developments in 'southern Russia.' The Western diaspora played a critical role in nurturing this alternate historiographical vision, so that scholars in contemporary Ukraine did not have to start from zero in rethinking their past."

Citing some interesting "new directions" for scholars who study Ukraine, Prof. von Hagen noted, for example, that "borderlands studies have found a natural home in Ukrainian history," which is replete with examples of "pulls between two or more empires or states," including Poland, Russia, Austria-Hungary and Germany, and geopolitical struggles. Thus, there is much to explore in comparative history by focusing on regions.

"It is important to recognize that [Ukraine] does have a distinctive set of pasts, and that even when Ukrainian state sovereignty had been ruptured by outside powers, the ways in which Ukrainian lands, institutions and populations interacted with the new authorities was also part of that distinctiveness," he added. The scholar concluded his talk by noting that "time and place do matter" and that, indeed, Ukraine has a history, though perhaps not one that easily fits the traditional nation-state paradigm.

Meanwhile, Columbia University also received a



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donation of an important collection of books on Ukrainian-Lemko issues. The gift was made by representatives from the Lemko Research Foundation Inc. "We have chosen to donate these books to Columbia University because we support the mission of Columbia's Ukrainian Studies Program, which includes the acquisition, processing and preservation of Ukrainian books and materials," read the statement provided by the Lemko Research Foundation, represented by President Steven Howansky and Board Members Vasyl Panchak and Steven Malyniak.

Ukraine and the United States were not the only countries where Ukrainian scholars were making inroads in their fields. Ukrainian students at the London School of Economics (LSE) held the first official meeting of the school's Ukrainian Society on April 28. The new society aims to promote Ukraine at one of Britain's leading university institutions. It will also serve as a forum for Ukrainian students, academics and those interested in Ukraine to discuss and research the past, present and future of the country. Another goal of the society is to unite LSE Ukrainian alumni who, by the end of 2006, will account for over 100 professionals working in the private and public sectors across the world.

Meanwhile, the Shevchenko Scientific Society – USA (NTSh) also kept very busy throughout 2006. The organization held its 18th triennial general meeting at its New York headquarters on May 20, where Dr. Orest Popovych was elected as the society's new president. Before the meeting, separate morning sessions were held by three scholarly sections: philology (Prof. Assya Humesky, director); history and philosophy combined with the social sciences (Prof. Martha Trofimenko, director); and mathematics, physics and technology (Dr. Roman Andrushkiw, director).

Dr. Onyshkevych, who has headed NTSh since 2000, delivered her report for the period since 2003. She covered the various areas in which NTSh and its members have been active, especially in support of the Orange Revolution in Ukraine, participation in scholarly conferences in the United States and Europe, and in spreading information about Ukraine at various scholarly and cultural forums.

The society then hosted the second meeting of the representatives of leading Ukrainian scholarly institutions of North America on May 6. The first subject of discussion was the need to establish a combined electronic catalogue of all the Ukrainian archives in North America, possibly to include also the valuable collection at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich. The uncertain future of that institution renders such inclusion all the more imperative, said Dr. Albert Kipa of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. and the Ukrainian Free University.

NTSh then hosted the third meeting of the representatives of leading scholarly institutions and programs dedicated to Ukrainian studies on October 21. Held at the NTSh headquarters, the conference was a follow-up to two previous such meetings, held on October 1, 2005, and the May 6 meeting. A portion of the meeting

was devoted to more specific recent problems, such as the crisis in the area of the state archives of Ukraine, and the efforts by some universities in Ukraine to gain autonomy.

Directly involved in these efforts is the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, who reported that the Ukrainian Catholic University is one of the eight universities that formed a consortium designed to develop Ph.D. programs in humanities and social sciences according to Western models. At present, the official educational establishment in Ukraine does not recognize the American Ph.D. degree as a doctorate, confirmed the Rev. Gudziak, rector of UCU. If Ukraine's educational system is to modernize, it must do so independently of the government and its ministries, according to the Rev. Gudziak.

Earlier in the year, a new book about the life and family of the famous Ukrainian writer Larissa Kosach-Kvitka, who is known under the pen name Lesia Ukrainka, was presented at the NTSh headquarters in New York City on April 8. The new book, "Larisa Petrivna Kosach-Kvitka - Lesia Ukrainka: Biohrafichni Materialy, Spohady, Ikonohrafiia," (New York-Kyiv Fakt, 2004) was compiled and edited by the literary researcher Tamara Skrypka from Lutsk, Ukraine, who now lives in the United States.

Meanwhile, the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa invited Prof. Paul Magocsi, University of Toronto, to deliver the annual Ivan Franko Memorial Lecture. An internationally known historian and expert on cultural minorities, he delivered a lecture on March 1 with the very intriguing title "Where Does Europe End? Ukraine? Turkey? Israel?"

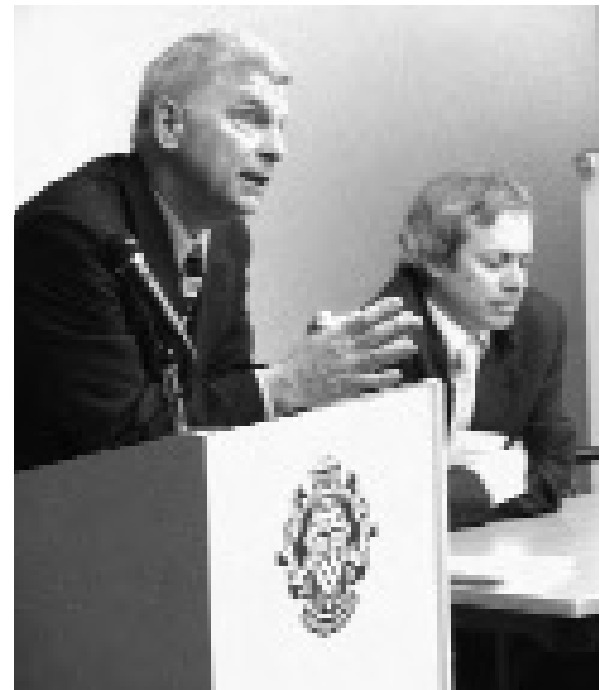
Prof. Magocsi said that Europe, as a geographical entity, includes a vast territory from the Atlantic coast of western France to the Ural Mountains in Russia. Thus, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia should be offered membership in the European Union, while Turkey, from the geographical point of view, has never been part of Europe and, therefore, the debate over its eventual entrance into the European Union is pointless, Prof. Magocsi said.

In another example of Ukrainian scholarship expanding in the United States, the Program in Ukrainian Studies at Stanford University continued to expand its courses and activities on campus. The program offered new courses this past year – in Ukrainian language (supported by a gift from the Northern California Committee to Aid Ukraine) and in contemporary Ukrainian literature and politics (supported by the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union of Rochester).

Recent visitors to the university have included the poet Volodymyr Dibrova of Harvard University, historian John Paul Himka of the University of Alberta, historian Prof. Von Hagen of Columbia University and political scientist Prof. Marta Dyczok of University of Western Ontario. The program also welcomed its second Chopivsky Fellow this winter, thanks to a generous gift from the Chopivsky Family Foundation. Economist Iryna Lukyanenko arrived from the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA), where she is

chief of the department of finance, and deputy dean of the department of economics.

In May of 2006, the scholar Oleksandr Irvanets bid farewell to Philadelphia and the United States, and returned to his native Ukraine. His sojourn in the states was made possible by a Fulbright grant, which he received to do research on contemporary theater. A poet, dramatist and novelist, Mr. Irvanets belongs to the so-called "Visimdesiatnyky" (the 80ers) generation of Ukrainian writers. He first gained fame as a member of the famous Bu-Ba-Bu literary group, a triad of young



**Prof. Paul Magocsi (left), University of Toronto, delivers the Ivan Franko Memorial Lecture on March 1. On the right is Dominique Arel, Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa.**

poets that also included Yuri Andrukhovych and Viktor Neborak.

Earlier in the year, an extensive library collection donated in memoriam to the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at St. Paul University in Ottawa was officially opened on January 17. The Very Rev. Prof. Dr. Petro B.T. Bilaniuk was an accomplished Ukrainian Catholic theologian and an avid book collector. After his death in 1998, his extensive library was donated to the institute.

The collection contains over 1,000 entries of books, multi-volume editions, periodicals, pamphlets, music and art publications in the field of Eastern Slavic Christendom. There are materials on moral theology, philosophy, Christian art and architecture, biography, old Ukrainian literature, medieval Slavic Christianity, Byzantine history and general history of Ukraine.

Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky was also the focus of scholarship, as Dr. Taras Hunczak, professor emeritus of history at Rutgers University, highlighted the metropolitan's humanitarian role in an article for *The Ukrainian Weekly*. "To understand the humanitarian role of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky during World War II, we have to place it in its historical context," Prof. Hunczak wrote.

Besides his pastoral letters to his faithful, Metropolitan Sheptytsky decided to use the administrative structure of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church to save as many Jews as possible. According to Rabbi David Kahane, who was saved by Sheptytsky, more than 240 Ukrainian priests risked their lives hiding or helping Jews, Prof. Hunczak wrote. Besides 200 children who were hidden in monasteries and convents, Sheptytsky saved, in his own residence, 15 Jews, among them Kurt Lewin, his brother Isaac Lewin and Rabbi Kahane, who later became the chief rabbi of the Israeli Air Force. Sheptytsky was, indeed, "one of the greatest humanitarians in the history of mankind [and] certainly the best friend the Jews ever had," Rabbi Kahane said.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the individuals saved by Metropolitan Sheptytsky, one must agree that he was truly one of the Righteous among the Nations of the World, Prof. Hunczak concluded.

In Philadelphia, "Samizdat and Underground Culture in the Soviet Bloc Countries," was the subject of a two-day conference held by the University of Pennsylvania on April 6-7. Various aspects of the phenomenon and history of "samizdat," the international term coined in the mid-1960s for uncensored underground literature in



**Representatives of Ukrainian scholarly institutions meet on May 6: (from left) Drs. Lubomyr Hayda, Vasyl Lopukh, Tymish Holowinsky, Orest Popovych, Larissa Onyshkevych, George Grabowicz, Albert Kipa, Roman Procyk and Frank Sysyn.**

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Soviet bloc countries, were presented and discussed by scholars and researchers.

Among the presenters at the conference was Vera Skop, board member of Smoloskyp publishers in Kyiv, who gave an overview of the Ukrainian dissident movement and the role Smoloskyp played in smuggling and publishing Ukrainian samvydav (the Ukrainian term for samizdat) and defending the rights of imprisoned dissidents. She also described Smoloskyp's current work with young Ukrainians and the Museum-Archives of Ukrainian Samvydav in Kyiv.

At a meeting of the Academic Council of the Vasyl Karazyn Kharkiv National University on May 26, the director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), Dr. Zenon E. Kohut, was ceremonially awarded an honorary doctorate. The award was a tribute to Dr. Kohut's extensive scholarly work in the field of Ukrainian history, especially the study of Ukrainian-Russian relations in the early modern period, as well as his signal achievements in the organization of Ukrainian studies and the development of contemporary scholarship in that field in the West and in Ukraine, notably at Kharkiv University. In 1999 Dr. Kohut initiated the establishment of the Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine, whose purpose is to develop Ukrainian studies on an up-to-date methodological basis.

Meanwhile, participants of the 25th annual Conference on Ukrainian Subjects at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign jointly signed a letter sent electronically to President Viktor Yushchenko calling on the president to help save the Ukrainian language. The June 24 letter, was signed by 68 scholars and called on the president to "protect the Constitution of Ukraine and not allow the country to dissect itself into small regional linguistic pieces since Ukraine happens to be one and indivisible for every Ukrainian in this world." It added, "The current state of the Ukrainian language is ominous. Russian language dominates in radio, television, the press and literature, and this arouses great anxiety in us." The University of Kansas Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREES) was actively working to promote the study of Ukraine. CREES is one of 16 Title VI Comprehensive National Resource Centers for the Russian and East/Central European area supported by the U.S. Department of Education, and has been a national resource center since 1965. CREES organizes roundtables, workshops, brown bag lunches and, most recently, web-cam video transmissions to encourage and allow KU faculty and research visitors from IFNU and other Ukrainian universities to share their views and opinions about the events occurring in Ukraine or their particular research interests.

The Maria Palij Memorial Lectures are especially important to the University of Kansas and beyond. The guest speakers are specialists on Ukraine and its economic and democratic development. As noted earlier,



**Dr. Robert Conquest, flanked by Ambassador Oleh Shamshur (left) and Dr. John Dunlop, during the June 15 ceremony at Stanford University when he received a Ukrainian Presidential Medal of Honor.**

the 2006 Maria Palij Memorial lecture was presented by Prof. Motyl of Rutgers University.

The Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University added new classes to its course schedule for the 2006-2007 academic year, which began on September 5. "What I find most exciting about the new courses we are offering this year is that they come from the path-breaking dissertations of young scholars – in history, anthropology and ethnomusicology," said Prof. von Hagen, director of the Ukrainian Studies Program, who also became chair of Columbia's history department recently. The school offered a history class focusing on the tumultuous World War II and post-war period in Ukraine and the surrounding areas, titled "War and Society in Eastern Europe: 1939 to the Present," taught by Prof. Tarik Amar (Ph.D., Princeton University) for graduate and advanced undergraduate students.

The school also offered for graduate and advanced undergraduates a new anthropology course focused on the relationship of space and time in Ukraine and neighboring countries, titled "Through the Prism of Place: Perspectives on Experience of the (Once) Socialist World," taught by Diana Blank.

Furthermore, Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, taught the course "Ukraine and the United Nations Through the Eyes of a Ukrainian Ambassador: Diplomacy and Politics."

Thirty-six students attended the 2006 Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute this past year, which marked the 36th anniversary of the annual summer program offered by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) as part of the Harvard Summer School.

The program drew 27 graduate or post-doctoral scholars and nine undergraduates from nine countries, including 18 from the United States, 10 from Ukraine, two from Russia, and one each from Canada, Poland, Switzerland, Finland, Israel and Turkey. Several of the students were older professionals who were taking courses either for personal interest and enjoyment or to hone skills.

Harvard University then held a memorial service in the Appleton Chapel of the Memorial Church on October 20 for Prof. Omeljan Pritsak, who died at the end of May. Prof. Pritsak served at the university for nearly 25 years as a professor of linguistics and Turkology, as the first director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), and as the first Mykhailo S. Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History.

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

The Embassy of the United States in Ukraine announced in September that Myron O. Stachiw had been appointed director of the Office of the Fulbright Representative in Kyiv. Mr. Stachiw is a specialist in American social history and architectural history, as well as anthropology, historic preservation and archaeology. He spent the last two years in Ukraine as a participant in the Fulbright Scholar Program, teaching historic preservation at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and Taras Shevchenko National University.

Dr. Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak had stepped down from her position as director after seven years of dedicated and distinguished service to the Fulbright Program in Ukraine.

"We thank Dr. Chomiak for her leadership and commitment to the values of the program and her success in establishing a strong office staff and an effective Fulbright alumni organization in Ukraine," the U.S. Embassy noted in a press release issued on September 11.

Meanwhile, on August 27, the 150th anniversary of author and political leader Ivan Franko's birthday was a national celebration in his home village of Nahuyevychi, Ukraine, drawing President Viktor Yushchenko, as well as some of today's celebrated writers – Ivan Drach, Roman Lubkivskyi and Pavlo Movchan. "I think that next to figures such as [Mykhailo] Hrushevsky, Franko belongs in the fundamental position in creating the Ukrainian nation during the last 130 years," Mr. Yushchenko told reporters.

During his 40-year career Franko authored more than 6,000 works, ranging from children's tales to philosophical tomes, plays about love, as well as political and economic essays.

Joining the high-profile politicians and writers for the sesquicentennial celebration were more than 20,000 Ukrainians from the Lviv Oblast and beyond, including third- and fourth-generation Ukrainians visiting from Vukovar, Croatia.

That same sesquicentennial was then marked with a scholarly conference on September 9 at the New York headquarters of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. On this first gathering after the summer break, the society's conference room overflowed with attendees. Presentations were given by Dr. Leonid Rudnytzky ("Ivan Franko: in Search of the Ukrainian 'I'"), Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych ("Viewing Franko as a Literary Theoretician and Practitioner: Using One Literary Work as an Example"), and Dr. Bohdan Rubchak ("The Curse of a Touch"). Dr. Vasyl Makhno led the conference, and Dr. Orest Popovych, NTSh president, opened the new academic season.

Ukrainian scholars gathered on October 4-6 to mark the 140th anniversary of the birth of Ukraine's seminal historian, Mykhailo Hrushevsky. The commemorative anniversary officially began with the laying of flowers at Hrushevsky's statue, followed by a conference held at the Scholars Building in Lviv.

Keynote speaker Dr. Wynar, professor emeritus of Kent State University, extended greetings from the Ukrainian Historical Association, the World Scholarly Council, and the Historical Section of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. His presentation focused on a detailed evaluation of the multiple roles played by Hrushevsky in the development of the Ukrainian nation.

Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Oleh Shamshur, came to Stanford University on June 15 to



**Participants of the 2006 Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute.**

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lecture and present the Ukrainian Presidential Medal of Honor to Dr. Robert Conquest. The Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) and Ukrainian Studies at Stanford University hosted the event.

Dr. Shamshur addressed a crowd of about 120 people with a short lecture titled "Maturing Democracy: Ukraine after the Orange Revolution" and then graciously participated in a very lively question and answer period.

The highlight of the entire event was the presentation of the Ukrainian Presidential Medal of Yaroslav the Wise, named for the Kyivan prince known as a law-giver and patron of the Church and the arts (1019-1054) to Dr. Conquest, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, in recognition of his path-breaking scholarship on the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 in "Harvest of Sorrow" (1986). The medal is the highest honor bestowed by Ukraine.

The University of Alberta was the recipient of a \$2 million gift from Peter and Doris Kule, prominent members of the Edmonton Ukrainian community, are staunch supporters of the Ukrainian Folklore Center at the university. In honor of their support, the center was officially renamed the Peter and Doris Kule Center for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore by University President Dr. Indira Samarasekera in a special ceremony.

The Kules' gift is being matched by the Faculty of Arts and the Province of Alberta. The Kules' initiative will allow the center to practically double in size. Research, scholarships, teaching and publications are all areas in which the new funds will be used. Expanding beyond Ukrainian folklore will allow the Kule Folklore Center to fill a significant void in western Canada.

The couple, Drs. Peter and Doris Kule, then gave a lead donation of \$100,000 to create an endowment at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies in support of the Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Initiative. The project is under the auspices of the Ukrainian Canadian Program at CIUS and will be headed by Dr. Serge Cipko, a historian who has devoted much time to researching and studying Ukrainians living abroad. The Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Endowment for the Study of the Ukrainian Diaspora will be used for research, publishing and other scholarly and educational activities specifically dealing with the Ukrainian diaspora.

Meanwhile, the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy launched six professorships this past year. The professorships are sponsored funds and, so far, they have been established in the fields of biology, law, sociology, politics and history.

Back in the United States, Kean University in New Jersey established its own course on the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. It is being offered as part of

Kean University's Graduate Program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The three-credit course, the first of its kind in the United States, was taught by Ruth Pianotchka Griffith, the granddaughter of a victim of the Famine and the daughter of a young survivor. The course covers the conditions of the Ukrainian population under the regime of Joseph Stalin, the historical background, the struggle of the peasants during collectivization, Ukrainian nationalism under Stalin, the Famine itself, the Western response and its effects, recovery efforts, and the study of evidence – literature, journalistic accounts and memoirs.

In the formation of this discipline, Dr. Bernard Weinstein, head of the department of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, had the original concept and design for a graduate program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The interdisciplinary program was initially intended to help teachers whose curriculum requires them to teach about the Holocaust and other genocides.

Meanwhile, Alex and Helen Woskob (Voskobijnyk), owners of the AW & Sons apartment rental company in State College, Pa., donated \$1 million to the College of Liberal Arts in support of Ukrainian studies at The Pennsylvania State University. The gift will significantly expand the Endowment for Ukrainian Studies at Penn State. The interest generated by the endowment will primarily support cultural and scholarly activities at Penn State, including the teaching of Ukrainian language and culture; visiting faculty, researchers and scholars; publications and symposia on Ukrainian topics; speakers and performers; student and faculty exchanges; study abroad programs in Ukraine; and other activities that will acquaint the English-speaking world with the best that Ukrainian culture has to offer.

Spearheading the Ukrainian program at Penn State is Prof. Michael Naydan, who has been teaching at the university since 1988. Dean Susan Welch of the College of Liberal Arts at Penn State recently announced that Prof. Naydan has been appointed to the rank of distinguished professor with the title of Woskob Family Professor in Ukrainian Studies for his "sustained record of scholarly achievement at the highest level." Prof. Naydan said he foresees the focus of the endowment to be cultural and contemporary issues that will not duplicate the already good efforts in history and politics in place at other universities.

During a recent visit to Ukraine to receive an honorary degree, the dean of Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, Robert Steele, announced a new joint program to encourage scholarship and professional development among faculty at Ukrainian agricultural universities. Beginning in 2007, the Woskob International Research in Agriculture, or WIRA, program will bring as many as four Ukrainian scholars to

Penn State each year during the fall semester to study educational methods, take and co-teach courses, establish links with Penn State researchers and promote study-abroad opportunities for undergraduate students.

Then, the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute's (HURI) director and Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian Philology, Dr. Flier, announced the appointment of Olha Aleksic as the new Petro Jacyk Bibliographer for Ukrainian Collections. Currently, the institute's library has 110 serial titles in Ukrainian and Slavic studies, and a reference collection of about 3,300 volumes that help support Ukrainian studies courses offered by the departments of history and Slavic languages and literatures, as well as the Harvard Summer School.

The Petro Jacyk Bibliographer for Ukrainian Collections position at HURI was funded by a gift from Petro Jacyk in 1979, which he increased in 1998. Currently the holder of the position works half-time on the collections at HURI and half-time at the Slavic Division at Widener Library. Ms. Aleksic's responsibilities include collection development, acquisitions, preservation, reference services, bibliographic instruction and management of special collections, as well as the technical processing of materials, including cataloging.

## Culture and the arts: special events abound

Avant-garde art from Ukraine made major headlines during 2006 as the exhibit "Crossroads: Modernism in Ukraine, 1910-1930" was on display at the Chicago Cultural Center from July 22 through October 15.

The first major exhibition of early 20th century Ukrainian art in the United States included more than 70 works by 21 artists gathered by Prof. Dmitrii Dmytro Horbachov, an international expert on this period, and Nikita Lobanov-Rostovsky from private collections, the National Art Museum of Ukraine, the Theater Museum, the Museum of Folk Art of Ukraine and the Art Museum of Dnipropetrovsk. Anatolii Melnyk, general director of the National Art Museum of Ukraine, provided organizational assistance in Ukraine, and John Bowlit, professor at the University of Southern California, served as editor of the exhibition catalogue.

Writing in the exhibition catalogue, Mr. Lobanov-Rostovsky noted: "This exhibit is designed to show an American audience the talent and unique nature of Ukrainian avant-garde art and to help understand that the artists are, indeed, Ukrainian, not Russian, a difference not always appreciated in the West. Moreover, the exhibition is equally important because it will also help Ukrainians acquaint themselves with their own cultural heritage."

The exhibition was organized by the Foundation for International Arts and Education with the National Art Museum of Ukraine. It was presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Kyiv Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program.

In conjunction with the art exhibit, a special concert of Ukrainian classical music by the MAVERICK Ensemble was held at the Chicago Cultural Center on July 31. The concert echoed the modern theme of the exhibition. Works of Borys Liatoshynsky, a contemporary of the original modernists, and Valentin Silvestrov and Virko Baley, were presented.

The show later traveled to New York City, where it was on view at The Ukrainian Museum beginning on November 5 and continuing through March 2007. The museum promoted the exhibit as "the best of high modernism from Ukraine," as it showcased the works of such well-known artists as David Burliuk, Alexandra Exter and Kazimir Malevich, as well as those of many artists still unknown to American audiences. Although the former are commonly associated with the Russian Avant-Garde, The Ukrainian Museum noted, one of the revelations emerging from the exhibition is that much of what has been regarded as Russian modernism was in fact incubated in Ukraine.

The New York Times covered the avant-garde exhibit in an informative article published on November 4.

The Ukrainian Museum was in the news also as it celebrated the 30th anniversary of its founding. A gala luncheon, at which longtime supporters of the museum, as well as staffers and volunteers, were recognized, was held on November 19 at the Essex House to mark the



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

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**"Repairing Saws" (1927) by Oleksandr Bohomazov was on view in the exhibit "Crossroads: Modernism in Ukraine, 1910-1930" that came to Chicago and New York.**

occasion.

Plaques were presented to top donors Eugene and Daymel Shklar for their generous contribution of \$2.5 million to the building fund and a \$1 million Challenge Grant, and to Selfreliance New York Ukrainian Federal Credit Union for a \$500,000 financial endorsement.

Special kudos went to the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, which founded the museum in 1976, and to Iwanna Rozankowskyj, then president of the UNWLA, who was in the forefront of a group of members eager to develop a museum, using as a nucleus the collection of Ukrainian folk art materials purchased for display at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago.

During 2006 The Ukrainian Museum presented several major exhibitions. "Jacques Hnizdovsky – In Color and in Black & White," showcased a body of work by the artist, both canvases and prints, spanning a nearly 50-year career that had its origins in Ukraine and culminated in the United States. It was on display from June 11 to August 27.

The museum's yearlong exhibition titled "The Tree of Life, the Sun, the Goddess: Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art," featured more than 100 artifacts from the museum's extensive folk art collection. The exhibit, which opened on November 15, 2005, was on view through October 15, 2006.



**Jacques Hnizdovsky's "Resting Sheep" (1983) was among the works on view at The Ukrainian Museum as part of the exhibit "Jacques Hnizdovsky – In Color and in Black & White."**

In conjunction with that exhibit, the museum sponsored a daylong conference on "Folk Art, Folk Lore, Folk Life: Ukrainian Living Heritage." The September 24 event focused on "Culture Keepers in Ukraine: Past, Present and Future" and "Culture Keepers in the Diaspora – The Importance of the Visual in Preserving Identity." Participating in the conference were half a dozen folk artists who work in the fields of weaving, embroidery, ritual baking, gerdany (beaded necklaces), pysanky, ceramics and folk costumes. Prof. Natalie Kononenko, the Kule Chair of Ukrainian Ethnography at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, was the keynote speaker on the topic of culture keepers. The conference was organized by Lubow Wolynetz, The Ukrainian Museum's curator of folk art.

On December 13 The Ukrainian Museum opened another landmark exhibit, "Ukrainian Sculpture and Icons: A History of Their Rescue," which will be on view through February 2007. The exhibit is notable for the fact that it includes many objects from the private collection of the president of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko. The items on exhibit date from the end of the 17th to the beginning of the 20th centuries; for the most part, these icons and religious sculptures were created by folk artists.

The exhibit was a cooperative endeavor between The Ukrainian Museum in New York City and the Ivan Honchar Museum, Rodovid Gallery and V-Art in Ukraine, further solidifying The Ukrainian Museum's objective to work in concert with the museum and arts community in Ukraine.

At the beginning of 2006, the Honchar Museum and Rodovid Gallery, in conjunction with the international charitable foundation Ukraine 3000 put on a unique monthlong exhibit in Kyiv spotlighting Ukrainian Christmas, New Year and winter holiday traditions. "Rizdvo: Koliory I Melodii" (Christmas: Colors and Melodies) presented a wide variety of holiday traditions and folk artifacts to a population that has greatly lost its sense of cultural heritage.

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

Another notable opening took place in Kyiv on

September 16: the opening of the new PinchukArtCentre, the new museum of contemporary art funded by Ukraine's second wealthiest man, industrial magnate Victor Pinchuk. Located in the Arena City complex in central Kyiv, PinchukArtCentre occupies 2,500 square meters across three floors in a renovated early 20th century building across from the Bessarabskyi Market on the Khreschatyk's south end.

The ultra-modern center's declared aim is to promote Ukrainian art internationally and to introduce artists from around the world to Ukraine. Its opening was marred by some unintended pyrotechnics as a wall of polystyrene blocks caught fire. The blaze was quickly extinguished and that evening's remaining performances were canceled.

Other highlights of 2006 in the realm of the arts included the following.

### FILM

The top headliner in this category for 2006 was actress Vera Farmiga, the actress who recently had played roles in top independent films. She started the year out by being featured in the January issue of Elle magazine, which cited her as an up-and-coming star whose acting, according to film directors Anthony Minghella and Wayne Kramer, bears a distinct resemblance to the likes of Meryl Streep and Cate Blanchett. Later in the year Ms. Farmiga appeared in "The Departed," a Martin Scorsese film featuring the Ukrainian American actress alongside Matt Damon and Leonardo DiCaprio.

The actress was profiled in The Weekly on October 15 in an article by Helen Smindak, who secured an exclusive interview with Ms. Farmiga, who spoke of her recent work, noting that she had just completed her sixth film in one year.

Shortly before that she was the cover story of The New York Times Magazine's September 3 issue. In the article "A Film of Her Own," Lynn Hirschberg wrote



**Vera Farmiga as Madolyn in "The Departed."**

that Ms. Farmiga is "of the quality of Meryl Streep – her characters have the same sense of depth and commitment."

Ms. Farmiga comes from a Ukrainian family of seven children (the offspring of Luba and Michael Farmiga), attended St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark, N.J., was a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, and attended dance camps and workshops directed by the late Roma Pryma Bohachevsky. The family lived in the New Jersey town of Irvington and later in Passaic.

On the eve of the 15th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, a new documentary film, "Light from the East," about an American acting troupe's tour of Ukraine during the August 1991 putsch that dissolved the Soviet Union, premiered in New York City at the Pioneer Theater on May 11-17. The 72-minute film, written and directed by Amy Grappell, and produced by Ms. Grappell and Christian Moore, follows the Yara

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Arts Group of New York's La Mama Theater to Kyiv in the summer of 1991, where the ensemble stages a seminal joint Ukrainian-American production of a play about the Ukrainian avant-garde theater director Les Kurbas.

On May 21 Damian Kolodiy's "The Orange Chronicles" opened the third annual Human Rights Documentary Film Days festival in Kyiv, organized by the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and the Center for Contemporary Information Technology and Visual Arts. Out of more than 70 films submitted, organizers selected Mr. Kolodiy's film to open the festival because it offered a view of the Orange Revolution from an intimate perspective, said Yaroslav Hordiyevych, project coordinator for the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union.

Earlier in 2006, it was evident that the Orange Revolution had spurred Ukraine's commercial film industry. On March 1 the film company Cinema premiered the first Ukrainian-financed, -written, -produced and -directed film targeted for national commercial release, "Pomarancheve Nebo" (Orange Sky). On its national release day, March 2, "Pomarancheve Nebo" debuted in every oblast capital in Ukraine with the exception of Kirovohrad. It was the first Ukrainian-made film distributed nationally at commercial movie theaters, whose typical fare is American and Russian movies.

Legendary film director Steven Spielberg came to Kyiv in mid-October to promote "Spell Your Name," a documentary film about the Holocaust in Ukraine that he and Ukrainian billionaire businessman Mr. Pinchuk jointly produced and financed. Setting foot in Ukraine on October 18, Mr. Spielberg said: "Finally, I am in my homeland." All four of Mr. Spielberg's Jewish grandparents were from the Odesa region of Ukraine, he said, and they spoke only Russian and Yiddish. "I kind of felt that I had a piece of the [sic] Ukraine in my home, especially around dinner time," Mr. Spielberg said.

Produced on a \$1 million budget and directed by Ukrainian Sergey Bukovsky, "Spell Your Name" is a 90-minute testimony featuring the harrowing accounts of Holocaust survivors and their rescuers, employing aesthetic visuals in recreating the era's mood and atmosphere. Mr. Pinchuk, a Jew who is active in Ukraine's Jewish community, said he will invest at least \$1 million to distribute the film to Ukraine's television networks, as well as schools and universities. The project is supported by Mr. Spielberg's Shoah Foundation, which aims to create the largest archive of Holocaust survivor testimonies from around the world.

Meanwhile, in Canada, award-winning filmmaker John Paskievich premiered his latest work, "Unspeakable," a documentary on stuttering that examines the nature, history and treatment of a speech impediment that affects 1 percent of the world's population. The premiere screening was on August 29-30 in Montreal at the National Film Board of Canada. A stutterer himself, Mr. Paskievich both narrates his film and participates in it.

In February there was exciting news as three Ukrainians from Kyiv received technical awards from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. These technical Oscars – Scientific and Engineering Awards – were presented to Anatoly Kokush, Yuriy Popovsky and Oleksiy Zolotarov for the concept and development of the Gyro-stabilized Camera Crane and Flight Head.

Presenting the award at the Scientific and Technical Awards Ceremony held in the Beverly Hilton Hotel on February 17, the evening's host, actress Rachel McAdams, suggested that the device, frequently mislabeled as "the Russian Arm," should really be called "the Ukrainian Crane," a comment that drew applause from the audience.

Mr. Kokush began developing gyro-stabilized camera cranes and flight heads as a young engineer in Kyiv in the 1970s. Filmotechnic's leading-edge technology, now used on virtually all major Hollywood productions, is considered the Rolls Royce of the business.

Mr. Kokush also received a second Scientific and Engineering Award for the concept and development of the Cascade Series of Motion Picture Cranes. The lightweight structure of the Cascade and the Traveling Cascade Cranes allows filmmakers to reach heights of up to 70 feet, making otherwise impossible shots possible.

At year's end there was disturbing news from Ukraine about how Ukraine's nominee for the Academy Award for best foreign film was chosen. Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, lecturer of Ukrainian language and culture at

Columbia University, in a fine bit of detective work, learned that the film "Aurora" by director Oxana Bayrak had not been released during the time period stipulated for nominees for this year's awards and that it had not been publicly screened in the manner required. He concluded that the film's "selection" as Ukraine's contender for the Oscar was orchestrated in a highly unusual and suspicious manner. Furthermore, Dr. Shevchuk noted, "there is previous little art and even



**At the Scientific and Technical Awards of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on February 17 (from left) are: Ambassador Oleh Shamshur, Anatoly Kokush, Peter Borisow, Oleksiy Zolotarov and Yuriy Popovsky.**

less Ukrainian identity" in the film.

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

### MUSIC

The Toronto debut concert of pianist Serhiy Salov, winner of the first grand prize at the Montreal International Music Competition in 2004, took place on March 1 in the Glen Gould Studio. Mr. Salov was born in 1979 in Donetsk, Ukraine, and currently resides in Strasbourg, France.

The Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia seemed to be everywhere in December. These winter song singers from the Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine brought that area's unique winter rituals and Christmas traditions to several venues in New York (among them The Ukrainian Museum and the Ukrainian Institute of America), Philadelphia and Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The foursome



**Pavel Baransky debuted at Carnegie Hall on May 4.**

even traveled to the Ukrainian National Association's Corporate Headquarters in Parsippany, N.J., where they put on a mini-concert. The Koliadnyky comprise Ivan, Peter and Mykola Zelenchuk, and Dmytro Tafiyichuk.

In the opera world, too, there was news as Pavel Baransky, who grew up in Kamianets-Podilskyi, Ukraine, made his American debut at Carnegie Hall on May 4, appearing with the Opera Orchestra of New York in a concert production of Italo Montemezzi's "L'Amore dei Tre Re." The 29-year-old baritone – who started out his music career as an arranger of pop music – had recently won competitions in Germany and Kyiv, and was chosen as a finalist in the Cardiff Singer of the World competition in Wales and the Placido Domingo Operalia Competition.

In Canada in March and April, British Ukrainian bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka appeared with the Canadian Opera Company (COC) in the title role of Alban Berg's 1925 opera "Wozzeck." Later in the year, on September 14, Mr. Hunka launched a new recording of "Kyrylo Stetsenko – The Art Songs," produced by Toronto-born Ukrainian composer Roman Hurko. The double CD, 42-track recording, is the first by Mr. Hunka in "The Ukrainian Art Song Series" documenting unrecorded Ukrainian classical songs. At the time of the launch it was learned that Mr. Hunka was forced to withdraw from his appearances with the COC's production of Wagner's Ring cycle due to the unexpected onset of diabetes.

Ukrainian Canadian opera singer, Taras Kulish, a bass-baritone, was appointed the artistic director for the Vermont Opera Festival, it was announced on January 13 by the Green Mountain Cultural Center. With over 10 years of professional singing experience, Mr. Kulish, a native of Montreal, has performed in Canada and internationally in a variety of major roles.

In Ukraine, Myroslav Skoryk's opera "Moisei" premiered in Kyiv at the National Opera on January 27. Five years earlier it had premiered in Lviv at the Krushelnytska Opera House to coincide with the visit of Pope John Paul II.

And, back in New York, the Metropolitan Opera staged Tchaikovsky's "Mazeppa" – based on Alexander Pushkin's epic poem "Poltava." The premiere performance of the opera about Ukrainian Hetman Ivan Mazepa, whom The Metropolitan Opera Guild much less than accurately described as a "17th century Ukrainian separatist," was on March 6.

### ART

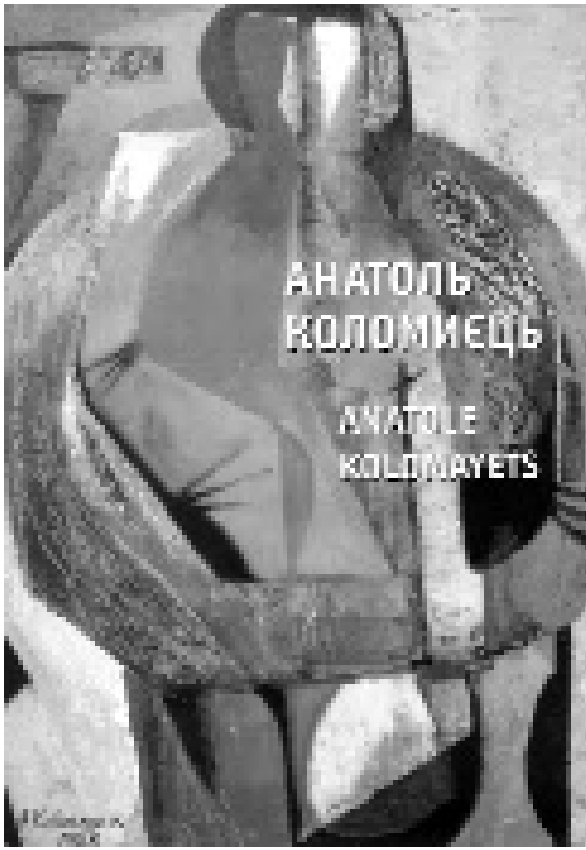
Nearly 30 years after his death and in keeping with his wishes, a major collection of the great Ukrainian expressionist painter Oleksa Hryshchenko (Alexis Gritchenko) was formally transferred to his native Ukraine at a ceremony at the Ukrainian Institute of America on March 22. Some 70 works, from oils to watercolors and drawings, as well as books, catalogues, notes, handwritten memoirs and other archival material, had been bequeathed by the artist to the Oleksa Hryshchenko Foundation, founded in 1963 with the provision that they be transferred some day to museums of a free Ukraine. Throughout the years, the foundation was located at the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA) in New York.

The transfer act was signed by foundation President Walter Baranetsky and UIA President Jaroslav Kryshchalsky, and, for the receiving side, by Pavlo Bilash, deputy head of Ukraine's state commission for the transfer of cultural treasures, and Anatoliy Melnyk, director of Kyiv's National Museum of Art of Ukraine.

A coffee table book featuring 50 years of creative work by Ukrainian American artist Anatole Kolomayets became available this year in the United States after it was released late last year by a publishing house in Kyiv. The hard-cover 148-page monograph, titled "Anatole Kolomayets," contains more than 140 color reproductions of the artist's oil paintings. The book also contains articles, essays and reviews by the artist and his critics. The print run of 1,000 copies was to be distributed to art libraries and museums in the United States, Canada, Europe and Ukraine. Mr. Kolomayets was born in Poltava, Ukraine, in 1927; he currently resides in Chicago.

Works by the late Jacques Hnizdovsky were on exhibit in Winnipeg at the University of Manitoba's Elizabeth Dafoe Library on February 5 through March 5. Titled "An Extraordinary Richness: The Works of Jacques Hnizdovsky in Private Collections in Winnipeg," the exhibit was curated by Orsysia Tracz, who spoke at the opening, noting that "Hnizdovsky was a man of beauty, elegance, modesty, simplicity and

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Cover of the new book devoted to the work of artist Anatole Kolomayets that was published to mark the 50th anniversary of his creative work.

sophistication, intelligence, refinement, wit and humor, a keen observer of nature and the human situation, a man of empathy and sympathy.”

A retrospective exhibit of the works of the late Ihor Kordiuk, who moved to Canada from Munich, Germany, in 1975, was held in Toronto at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation gallery, which was the venue for the artist's first solo show in 1976. The retrospective, which marked the 30th anniversary of that show, was on view January 29-February 12.

The works of Myroslav Radysh, who died 50 years ago at age 46, were exhibited in New York at the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences from October 29 through the end of December. Radysh, a post-World War II Ukrainian immigrant, has been called a neo-impressionist; his works include landscapes and cityscapes, as well as set designs for theatrical performances at the Ukrainian National Home in New York.

### DESIGN

Ukrainian architect Liuba Poczynok Lashchik designed the 9/11 memorial that was dedicated this year on September 30 in Lower Merion, Pa. Over 2,500 people attended the dedication of the Garden of Reflection, as the memorial is called. Ms. Lashchik's design, made with input from the community, has a tear-shaped entrance that displays fragments of the ruins of the World Trade Center and the 2,973 names of victims etched on glass panels along a “Walk of Remembrance” that takes the observer around a twin fountain that represents the twin towers of the WTC. The fountain is surrounded by a memorial rail engraved with the names of the 17 victims from Bucks County at the heart of the memorial. Along the illuminated path are 17 maple trees representing the Bucks County victims.

It is a garden indeed, but a very special one, “because in its midst stand stark reminders of the magnitude of that tremendous day that shook our nation and shattered so many lives,” Ms. Lashchik said. At the dedication, the architect explained that the 42 lights that line the path symbolize “the children from Pennsylvania who lost a parent that day and who in the midst of sorrow light up our lives and are a source of hope. Life moves on.”

### OUR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Various cultural institutions in the United States were active during 2006, and one received a special award for its work.

On September 27 Chicago's Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art was awarded the Entrepreneurship in the Arts Award by the Arts Entertainment and Media Management Department at Columbia College in Chicago for its presentation of “Artists Respond: Ukrainian Art and the Orange Revolution.”

The UIMA, which was founded in 1971 by Dr. Achilles Chreptowsky to preserve and promote the

knowledge and appreciation of contemporary Ukrainian art and culture, marked its 35th anniversary with a special anniversary celebration held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center on October 7. Special homage was paid to the late Dr. Chreptowsky, its founder and principal benefactor; Wasyl Kacurovsky, its first curator and principal art expert; and Konstantin Milonadis and Michajlo Urban, the UIMA's first artists. The inaugural Guardian of the Institute Award was presented to Oleh Kowerko for his 35 years of selfless dedication to the UIMA, its programming and evolution.

Guest speakers Prof. Myroslawa Mudrak of Ohio State University and Prof. Vladimir Morenets of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy gave speeches about the relevance of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art and its role in the diaspora.

Cleveland's Ukrainian Museum-Archives, located in the historic Tremont section of the city, experienced a rebirth during 2006 as its new archival facility was completed at a cost of approximately \$500,000. Instrumental in the project were grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Chicago-based Ukrainian Heritage Foundation, as well as individual donations and a \$50,000 gift from the Cleveland Selfreliance Federal Credit Union.

The Ukrainian Museum-Archives also hired its first full-time curator in 2006. Dan Dmytrykiw, who worked on the transition of the UMA collections from its old facility to the new building, also aims to expand the institution's programming to appeal to Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian visitors alike.

At the same time the UMA, whose goal is “to preserve and share the Ukrainian culture and the immigrant experience,” launched an oral history project whose goal is to tell the stories of Ukrainian immigrants.

The Washington Group Cultural Fund continued its acclaimed music series, hosting such performers as pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, opera diva Oksana Krovytska, vocalist Nina Matviyenko from Ukraine, as well as young musicians from the Capital area and winners of the Kyiv International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz.

Meanwhile, in upstate New York, the Music and Art Center of Greene County, popularly known as the Grazhda, sponsored its 24th annual “Music at the Grazhda” series during the summer months, presenting a series of seven concerts. Among the performers were violinist Vasyl Popadiuk, pianist Serhiy Salov, the trio of violinist Yuri Kharenko, cellist Natalia Khoma, and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, baritone Oleh Chmyr, and the Music at the Grazhda Chamber Music Society, the Leontovych String Quartet, and the Barvy ensemble of musicians and singers. The program also included films from Ukraine and by Ukrainian American filmmaker Andrea Odezynska, a children's folk-singing program, and folk arts workshops.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

During the year there were several unique arts pro-

grams that went beyond the usual cultural offerings of our community.

First, on April 29, the Cornelia Street Café in New York's Greenwich Village presented a “Ukrainian Night” that showcased Ukrainian-related films, poetry, music and fiction in English and Ukrainian. The evening was hosted by award-winning fiction writer Irene Zabytko and Alexander Motyl, professor at Rutgers University.

The films featured that night were Mr. Kolodiy's documentary of the Orange Revolution titled “The Orange Chronicles,” as well as several film shorts from Ukraine, including Ihor Strembitsky's “Wayfarers,” winner of the prestigious Palme d'Or at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival. The evening's literary segment comprised readings from Ms. Zabytko's novel “The Sky Unwashed” and her fiction collection “When Luba Leaves Home,” and from Prof. Motyl's novel “Whiskey Priest.” Also in the mix was poetry by Vasyl Makhno. The musical portion of the program featured the Cheres ensemble, which performed “Ukrainian Bluegrass” music, and bandurist Julian Kytasty. Another “Ukrainian Night” at the famous café is promised in 2007.

On the other coast of the United States, the Kobzar Ukrainian Choir of Los Angeles joined forces with the Pasadena Community Orchestra on June 23 to present “God Bless America – A Musical Salute” in Glendale, Calif. Famed Irish tenor Anthony Kearns was the featured performer, along with one of America's leading opera artists, Stefan Szkafarowsky of New York. The television/film actor George Dzundza was master of ceremonies. The concert was sponsored by the Ukrainian Culture Center of Los Angeles with proceeds benefiting the children of fallen U.S. heroes through the Freedom Alliance.

Next came another special event in New York – a “Ukrainian Reading” at the world famous Bowery Poetry Club on September 24. Prof. Motyl again read from his first novel, while Mr. Makhno and fellow poet Dzvinia Orlovsky read their works. The Svitanya Eastern European Women's Vocal Ensemble provided the musical portion of the program.

The year 2006 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Franko, and one of the many celebrations of that illustrious date was held in New York City on October 15. The Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, as part of the continuing celebration of its own 40th anniversary and as a tribute to its founder and director, Lidia Krushelnysky, presented Franko's epic poem “Ivan Vyshensky” – one of the classics of Ukrainian literature.

Another highlight of the afternoon was the book launch of “The Flying Ship of Lidia Krushelnysky” by Dr. Valeriy Hajdabura. It was noted that evening that, over the span of four decades, Ms. Krushelnysky had trained some 250 students and produced over 150 plays, dramatic readings and other performances. The productions were presented in cities throughout North America, as well as on two tours to independent Ukraine.



Fountains surrounded by a rail holding glass panels with the names of the Bucks County victims of 9/11 – part of a memorial designed by Liuba Poczynok Lashchik that was unveiled on September 30.

## 2006: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### *For the UNA, the year of its 36th Convention*

Most everything at the Ukrainian National Association during 2006, it seemed, revolved around the fraternal organization's 36th Regular Convention, which took place on May 26-29 at the Soyuzivka estate. It was a historic convention because it was the first ever held at the UNA estate in Kerhonkson, N.Y.

In keeping with the requirements set forth in the UNA By-Laws, the official notice of the convention was published at least four months before the convention's starting date and it was announced that UNA branches had to elect convention delegates and their alternates within 60 days of the notice, that is, by March 20.

As the countdown of days before the convention continued, the UNA's two newspapers, *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*, published information about the convention program, the topics expected to be discussed and proposals to change the by-laws. Our editorial of January 22 noted that UNA branches and district committees, as well as individual members, had an opportunity to submit recommendations for the good of the organization and proposals for changes to the UNA By-Laws.

In preparation for the quadrennial convention, *The Ukrainian Weekly* published a special series called "Convention Primer," which explained the UNA's goals, structure and operations, as well as the mechanics of the UNA convention. The seven-part series ran approximately biweekly between February 19 and May 21.

UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj's greeting to the convention appeared in *The Weekly* in the May 21 issue – five days before it was to convene. He listed three challenges that face the UNA: "1. increasing our membership; 2. developing plans for Soyuzivka; and 3. defining the status of the UNA in Canada." He also called on convention delegates to make this "a most meaningful and productive convention that will lead to a new beginning for the UNA."

In that same issue, Taras Szmagala Jr., writing for the pre-convention By-Laws Committee that had been appointed to receive and consider proposals to amend the existing UNA By-Laws, reported that the committee had agreed to present two amendments for the delegates' consideration at the convention. They were: "(a) eliminating the position of director of Canada, thus decreasing the Executive Committee from six to five members, and (b) decreasing the number of advisors from 11 to seven." He explained that the committee had determined that both changes merited recommendation due to the UNA's decrease in membership and the savings opportunities presented by decreasing the size of the General Assembly. Ultimately, neither amendment was passed at the convention. A second proposal, to decrease the number of advisors to nine, also did not pass.

In the next issue of *The Weekly*, which was dated May 28, but went to press on the day that the convention began, the UNA's officers published "A message to delegates, secretaries from the UNA Executive Committee." The extraordinary message stated in part: "Over the past few weeks you have received a number of unauthorized letters written and sent by Walter Prochorenko, whose relationship with the Ukrainian National Association was terminated on May 12, 2006. The use of company resources, such as corporate postage, stationery, time and personnel, to mail personal promotional materials is prohibited. Furthermore, the utilization of proprietary mailing lists is a serious breach of confidentiality."

Mr. Prochorenko, it will be recalled, was hired in late December 2005 to fill a newly created position at the UNA: director of publications. He was to work with the staffs of the UNA's newspapers to, as the UNA executives had announced, "expand our distribution network, increase our advertising sources, gain efficiencies with technology, analyze our format and design, and implement an Internet subscription-based paper."

At the convention, responding to a question about the former director of publications, President Kaczaraj explained that the UNA had severed its relationship with him after he sent a number of unauthorized letters promoting himself and his candidacy for the UNA presidency using UNA stationery and postage, as well as company time and personnel. The letters were sent in the days leading up to the 36th Convention to UNA del-



**Convention delegates, members and honorary members of the General Assembly, and honored guests in a group photo taken at the 36th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association held at Soyuzivka on May 26-29.**

egates and branch secretaries.

Ninety-six delegates of UNA branches and 17 members and honorary members of the General Assembly participated in the 36th Convention. The convention chairman was Taras Szmagala Sr.; Vasyl Kolodchin and Michael Sawkiw Jr. served as vice-chairmen, and attorney Andriy V.R. Szul as parliamentarian.

The three major topics of discussion during the conclave were development plans for Soyuzivka, the status of the UNA in Canada and shaping the future of the UNA. The prevailing sentiment was that Soyuzivka remains important to the community and therefore must be saved; and that the UNA has great potential membership in Canada and, therefore, should not opt to pull out of doing business in that country. As regards the discussion of the UNA's future, many delegates spoke about the importance of the UNA's newspapers and noted the need to enroll members from the Fourth Wave of immigrants from Ukraine. In addition, it was pointed out that the UNA needs to engage in succession planning to replace retiring and aging activists.

In presenting his report to the convention, President Kaczaraj told delegates that the UNA simply "cannot spend more than we earn." He pointed to the large expenses associated with the UNA's fraternal benefits, primarily its estate and its two official publications, while underscoring that, "percentage-wise, the UNA gives more to our community than credit unions because we support things that are for the entire community, like the newspapers and Soyuzivka." He added that, according to the UNA's actuaries, "until we reduce significantly our expenditures related to the resort and publications, it will not be possible to put in place a marketing plan to build a block of profitable new business that will be significant to guarantee a healthy financial future for the UNA."

The convention re-elected the three full-time executive officers of the Ukrainian National Association: President Kaczaraj, National Secretary Christine E. Kozak and Treasurer Roma Lisovich and elected three new members of the Executive Committee: First Vice-President Zenon Holubec, Second Vice-President Michael Koziupa and Director for Canada Myron Groch. Dr. Holubec and Mr. Groch had previously served as auditor and advisor, respectively; Mr. Koziupa is a neophyte member of the General Assembly.

Delegates also elected three new members of the UNA Auditing Committee: Slavko Tysiak, Wasyl Szeremeta and Vasyl Luchkiw. Drs. Szeremeta and Luchkiw had previously served on the UNA General Assembly as advisors. Mr. Tysiak is a newcomer to the General Assembly.

Elected to serve as advisors on the General Assembly were (in order of votes received): Maya Lew, Gloria Horbaty, Nicholas Fil, Eugene Oscislowski, Myron Pylypiak, Olya Czerkas, Al Kachkowski, Paul Prinko, Bohdan Kukurudza, Eugene Serba and Serguei Djoula. Five of the 11 advisors were new to the General Assembly: Ms. Lew, Mr. Fil, Ms. Czerkas, Mr. Kukurudza and Mr. Djoula.

The newly elected General Assembly officially took office on July 1, as per the UNA By-Laws.

The new General Assembly held its first meeting over the weekend of September 16-17 at Soyuzivka. The agenda was concise, as this was a special meeting

of the General Assembly held during a convention year. (Regular annual meetings of the General Assembly are held in non-convention years and have a more extensive agenda, with all members of the General Assembly, editors-in-chief of the UNA's newspapers and the manager of Soyuzivka delivering reports.) Reports were delivered by the UNA's three full-time executives, with Mr. Kaczaraj speaking on the organization's overall status and spelling out several plans for the coming months whereby the UNA would increase its investment yield, promote sales of insurance and annuities, and reduce costs.

National Secretary Kozak focused her remarks on organizing efforts, reporting that in the first six months of 2006, 191 policies were sold for a face amount of \$1.862 million. She reported that recruiting a professional sales force remains a priority at the Home Office. Ms. Kozak also spoke about the UNA's newest product, the Coverdell Education Savings Account, which she said is expected to be popular with members who want to save for their children's education.

Speaking of the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation, UNA Treasurer Lisovich pointed out that since April, when membership in the foundation was announced, \$45,000 in membership fees had been collected. Furthermore, total donations to the foundation in the first half of 2006 were \$100,000.

The General Assembly meeting established the following standing committees that are to function for its full four-year term (2006-2010): Financial, Organizing, Fraternal, Canadian Affairs, Publications and Soyuzivka. In addition, the General Assembly approved the UNA budget for 2007, which foresaw improvement in the UNA's bottom line thanks to increases in investment yields and sales of insurance and annuities, as well as new efficiencies at the Home Office.

The year 2006 also marked the 112th anniversary of the UNA's founding back on February 22, 1894. Approached by *The Weekly* for their thoughts on this occasion, the UNA's three full-time executive officers all expressed the truism that the community needs the UNA and the UNA needs the community. National Secretary Kozak perhaps put it best when she pointed to the UNA's proud track record of service to the community and noted that the UNA "needs to be here for the next generation." However, for that to be possible, she added, "We need the support of the Ukrainian community, by way of purchasing major insurance policies. ... It is the community component of our work that makes the UNA so much more than an insurance company." *The Weekly's* editorial of February 19 opined: "It is a time-tested relationship that has benefited all Ukrainians – a relationship that should be celebrated, and strengthened, as the Ukrainian National Association turns 112."

It is noteworthy that in February the UNA was designated a "Member in Good Standing" by the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA), the trade association of American fraternal benefit societies. This level of achievement for 2006 recognizes the UNA for the highest standards of performance – both in fraternal programming and financial operation – over a one-year period. "The NFCA's Member in Good Standing designation reflects the Ukrainian National Association's commitment to maintaining a strong, viable fraternal

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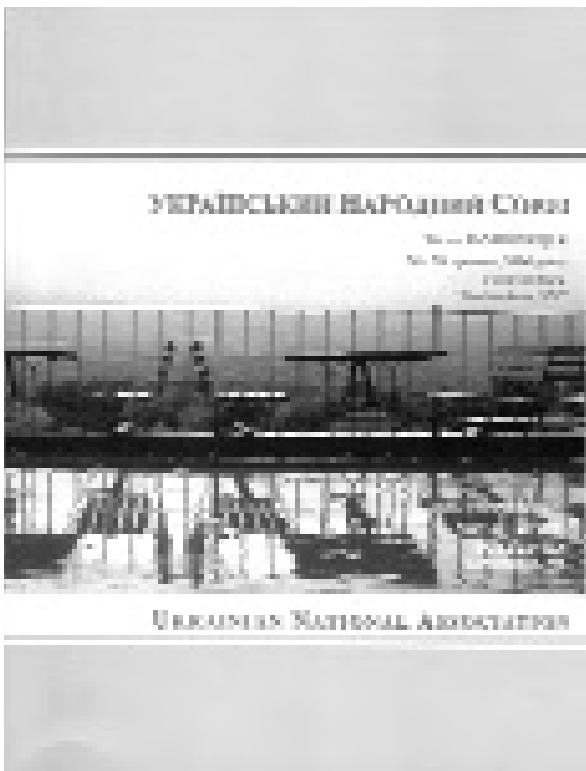


The UNA General Assembly for 2006-2010 during its special meeting at Soyuzivka on September 16-17.

benefit society for our members," said Ms. Kozak. "The UNA's good standing within the NFCA demonstrates a standard of system-wide excellence for 112 years of continuous service to our members, families and their communities." The Chicago-based NFCA, which celebrated its 120th anniversary in 2006, represents approximately 10 million people in more than 36,000 chapters.

During 2006, the UNA lost two of its most prominent leaders, former Supreme President Joseph Lesawyer, who died on January 31 at the age of 94; and Second Vice-President Eugene Iwanciw, who also served as director of the UNA Washington Office, who passed away on February 25 at the age of 53. To honor Mr. Iwanciw, the Ukrainian National Association has established the Eugene Iwanciw Heritage Scholarship Fund. Other notable UNA'ers who passed away in 2006 were: former Supreme Vice-Presidentess Genevieve Zepko Zerebniak, former Supreme Auditor and Honorary Member of the General Assembly (Bishop) Stephen Bilak, and former Supreme Advisors Andrew Keybida and John Romanition. For more information see the section "We mourn their passing..." in this issue.

At the beginning of the year, the UNA Almanac for 2006 was released. Its principal topic was the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Franko; other topics covered in the compendium were the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, the 160th anniversary of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood, the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mykhailo Hrushevsky and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Bahriany.



Cover of the commemorative journal of the 36th UNA Convention.

Also mentioned is the 120th anniversary of the birthday of Oleksander Tysovsky – known as "Drot" – the founder of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

Key to the UNA's activity is its membership. That is why the UNA annually gives special recognition to its top organizers. The organizing champions of 2005 were listed in a special announcement prepared by National Secretary Kozak that was published on February 25.

The top five overall winners who collected the most life insurance premiums were: Myron Pylypiak, secretary of Branch 496, member of the UNA General Assembly; Lubov Streletsky, secretary of Branch 10; Christine Brodyn, secretary of Branch 27, UNA professional sales staff, Home Office employee; Joseph Hawryluk, secretary of Branch 360, Buffalo District chairman, professional agent, member of the UNA General Assembly; and Oksana Trytjak, secretary of Branch 25, UNA professional sales staff, UNA national organizer.

The top five organizers who sold the most in life insurance face amount were: Ms. Brodyn; Paul Prinko, member of the UNA General Assembly; Ms. Trytjak; Mr. Hawryluk; and Mr. Pylypiak.

The top five organizers who sold the largest number of policies were: Steven Woch, UNA professional sales staff, Home Office employee; Mr. Pylypiak; Mr. Hawryluk; Stefan Hawrysz, secretary of Branch 83, Philadelphia District chairman, member of the UNA General Assembly; and Valentina Kaploun, UNA Home Office employee.

Later in the year, the UNA organized special courses for branch secretaries and organizers with the goal of bolstering their qualifications and encouraging them to pursue professional licensing. Such one-day seminars were held at Soyuzivka on October 14 and in Hartford, Conn., on November 11.

As always, the UNA in 2006 cared for its members and the community at large. That care took the form of everything from student scholarships, to sponsorship of sports teams and special programs for seniors, as well as appeals on behalf of individuals, as in the case of an immigrant family from Ukraine.

Members of the Karnaoukh family from Little Falls, N.J. – father Vassili, mother Maria and sons Ihor and Sviatoslav – were forced out of their home at gunpoint, in handcuffs and pajamas, early on the morning of January 6, Christmas Eve according to the Julian calendar. They were taken by unknown officers to the deportation center in Newark, N.J., apparently because they were in the country illegally. They were not allowed to contact any friends or family, and Maria's mother, who speaks no English, was left alone in the house, terrified.

The Karnaoukh family, originally from Ukraine, had been living in the United States for 15 years with legal work papers and were, they believed, in the middle of an appellate process regarding their immigration status. A hearing on February 10 showed that the lawyer whom they trusted and paid, instead took their money and did nothing. As a result, the Karnaoukh family was deported on February 10.

On February 27 UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj

wrote a letter to Gov. Jon Corzine of New Jersey, with copies sent to the state's two U.S. senators, Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez. Mr. Kaczaraj asked: "Gov. Corzine: Where do we live? What country is this? Since when does the United States use NKVD-Stassiss-KGB-style tactics against sleeping suburbanites, even if we believe them to not have proper documentation? Do we as a country believe it is appropriate to treat people suspected of not having proper documentation as dangerous criminals – the equivalent of ax murderers and drug lords? What is going on here?" He further stated that "The treatment the Karnaoukh family received is shameful, unacceptable, appalling. Unacceptable anywhere in the United States, a nation of immigrants, documented and undocumented, and definitely not in New Jersey, home to hundreds of thousands of recent immigrants."

The UNA never received any responses to its letter.

Student members of the UNA benefited from the organization's largesse to the tune of \$21,775. A special section of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda released in February was devoted to the 106 students who were selected as 2005-2006 UNA scholars.

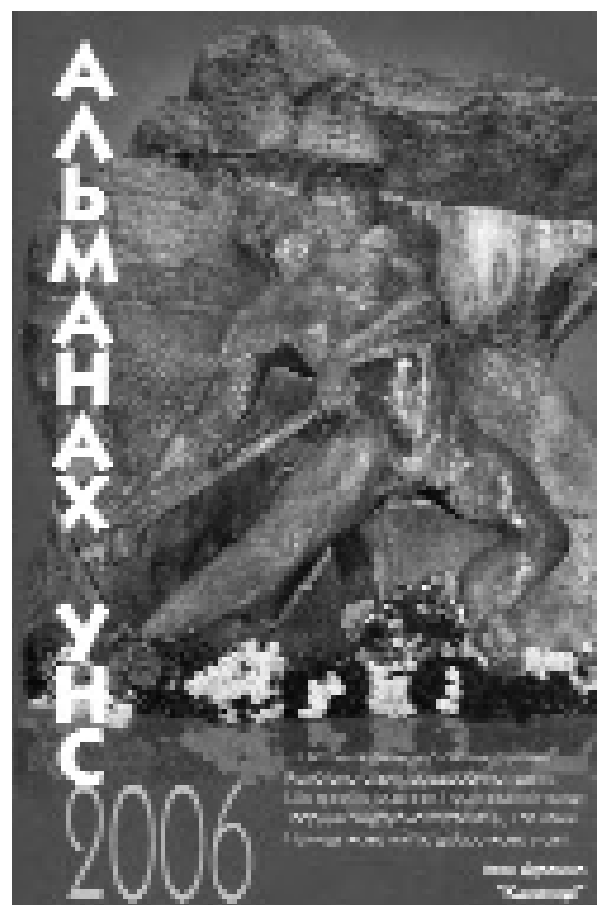
In June the UNA was proud to report on its "Ukrainian National Association Forum" page in The Weekly that the Chornomorska Sitch men's soccer team, which it sponsors, had placed second in a field of over 35 teams in the New Jersey State Cup and conceded only one goal throughout the whole tournament, despite falling to FC Steau Cranbury 1-0 in the final match of the competition on June 2. The team finished its 2005-2006 campaign with only six losses in 23 matches, making it one of the best years for the club in recent history.

Senior citizens too were a focus of UNA activity. On June 11-16 the annual UNA Seniors Conference was held at Soyuzivka. As usual the week was filled with information on issues of concern to older Ukrainian Americans, as well as fun activities that engaged the conference participants. The 2006 conference attracted 72 attendees. Oksana Trytjak, the UNA's national organizer, was re-elected president of the UNA Seniors.

The UNA Seniors Conference was only one of the myriad activities held at the UNA's upstate New York estate. During 2006 Soyuzivka hosted an assortment of camps, among them Tennis Camp, Discovery Camp, the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Camp, Sitch Sports Camp, Exploration Day Camp and Children's Ukrainian Heritage Day Camp.

Tabir Ptashat, the ever-popular camp for preschoolers run by Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's Pershi Stezhi sorority also took place at Soyuzivka during 2006 in two one-week tours.

Major sports events held at Soyuzivka during 2006 were the 50th annual USCAK-East singles and Doubles



Cover of the UNA Almanac for 2006 prepared by the editorial staff of Svoboda.



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Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Oleh Shamsur (center) during his visit to the UNA Corporate Headquarters with (from left) The Ukrainian Weekly Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz, UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj, UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich and Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Irene Jarosewich.

Tennis Championships held on July 1-2 and the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) Tennis Championships held on September 3-4 – despite the torrential rainfall brought by tropical storm Ernesto. Also held during the Labor Day weekend were the 50th annual swimming championships of USCAK.

Another annual event at the UNA estate is the crowning of Miss Soyuzivka. This year, on August 12, Miss Soyuzivka 2006 Ksenya Hentisz passed her crown on to Miss Soyuzivka 2007 Deanna Rakowsky of Maplewood, N.J., a freshman at Boston College who planned to major in communications. The first runner-up was Roxolana Wacyk of Tarrytown, N.Y., a freshman at Harvard University, and the second runner-up was Larissa Liteplo of Brooklyn, N.Y., a junior at Goucher College.

On August 12-19 at Soyuzivka, the intrepid group known as Club Suzie-Q continued its adventures and camaraderie by hiking, strolling, shopping, miniature golfing, hiking some more and just enjoying all that the estate and its environs has to offer.

Another group that arrives to enjoy Soyuzivka each year is parents and their adopted children from Ukraine. The third annual adoptive parents' weekend took place on June 16-17 with more than 70 families participating in the weekend's events, which were geared toward helping the adopted children maintain contact with their Ukrainian roots and familiarizing Americans with Ukrainian culture. These weekends are jointly organized by the Embassy of Ukraine, Ukraine's Consulate General in New York and the Ukrainian National Association.

Among the Soyuzivka fans and stalwarts who always pitch in to help however they can is the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group. This year, for the third year in a row, BUG organized a Spring Cleaning Weekend to spruce up the estate. Later in the year BUG released a wall calendar for 2007 featuring beautiful photos of Soyuzivka. Proceeds from sales of the calendar benefit the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation.

Speaking of which, the UNA this year in April began a "Join Us" campaign, calling on Ukrainian community members to join Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation and thus help preserve and improve Soyuzivka as a vital educational, social and cultural institution for Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian Canadians. In July it was announced that membership cards had been sent out to all who had joined the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation. With their membership cards, members get special privileges and discounts at Soyuzivka.

The Ukrainian Weekly's editorial on May 7 – in the issue that contained the annual "A Ukrainian Summer" supplement – invited readers to "make plans this year to rediscover our Soyuzivka."

Other news at the UNA during 2006 included several notable visits to the UNA Corporate Headquarters in Parsippany.

First, on May 16, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Oleh Shamshur, accompanied by Volodymyr Samofalov, the Embassy's first secretary (whose duties include contacts with the press), arrived to meet with UNA officers and editors of the UNA's two newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. Also traveling with the envoy was Natalia Bukvych, the new Washington correspondent of the Ukrinform news agency. During

the visit the ambassador and his entourage also met with Ukrainian news media of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, engaging in a wide-ranging discussion on current events in Ukraine as well as on cooperation between the media and the Embassy. The meeting with the press was held in the UNA's large conference room.

Then, on June 12, a group of six students from Kyiv's Ukrainian Humanitarian Lyceum of Taras Shevchenko paid a visit to the Home Office as part of their research on "The Role of the Ukrainian Diaspora in Establishing Ukraine's Independence and the U.S.-Ukraine Relationship." The group also traveled to schools of Ukrainian studies, churches, the Embassy of Ukraine, Soyuzivka and the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), as well as historic landmarks in New York City. The UNA was instrumental in securing visas for the students and their teacher.

Finally, on December 5, the quartet of Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia arrived at the UNA HQ in Parsippany, N.J., bringing the sounds of the Carpathian mountains to New Jersey's Morris County. Ivan, Petro and Mykola Zelenchuk, and Dmytro Tafiychuk came equipped with folk instruments – a trembita, a duda and a fiddle – to accompany their singing of winter ritual songs.

At year's end, there was disturbing news from the UNA regarding its publications. In a statement published on December 10, President Kaczaraj, on behalf of the UNA Executive Committee announced a "reorganization" and "consolidation" at the UNA's newspapers. "As part of the consolidation initiative, the two positions of editors-in-chief of the UNA's publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, were combined into one position. The two papers, however, will continue to be published separately," it was announced. "As a result of this consolidation, as of December 1, 2006, Irene Jarosewich will no longer serve as editor-in-chief of Svoboda, a position she held for the past six years."

"As readers of our publications know," the statement said, "for many years now the Ukrainian National Association has been reporting increasing deficits in our operations of our publications. A number of months ago, the UNA began an internal restructuring initiative that sought to streamline operations, reduce costs and maximize efficiencies." The elimination of one editor-in-chief's position was part of that restructuring. The UNA expressed "gratitude to Ms. Jarosewich for her years of dedicated service to Svoboda, the UNA and to our community at large" and noted that "in upcoming issues of our newspapers, the Executive Committee will announce restructuring plans for our publications."

For her part, Ms. Jarosewich wrote the following in a statement published on December 17: "It is with great sadness that I accepted the news on November 30 that the UNA Executive Committee had decided to combine into one the two positions of editors-in-chief of the UNA's publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. Nonetheless, the financial difficulties that the UNA faces have been enduring. Therefore, as I leave, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank my colleagues at both newspapers, our community, and, most of all, Svoboda's loyal readers, for their support for the past six years. It has been an honor to have been the editor-in-chief of Svoboda. Thank you."

## The world of sports: Ukraine and diaspora

Ukraine's debut in the World Cup of soccer was among the most notable moments in sports in 2006. Soccer mania gripped Ukrainians everywhere, from politicians wearing team jerseys to sessions of Parliament to diasporans going "Kozak" on the streets of Germany.

Suffering a potentially devastating loss in its opener against Spain (0-4), Ukraine managed to move forward in the group stage, defeating Saudi Arabia (4-0) and Tunisia (1-0).

From there, Ukraine's penalty-kick shootout win in the Group of 16 match against veteran team Switzerland (3-0) propelled the debutants to a quarterfinal match against Italy. The quarterfinal match was the end of the line for Ukraine, which finished the tournament with a 3-0 loss.

However, it wasn't simply Ukraine's performance in the World Cup that made history, but it was the unifying effect on Ukrainians. "World Cup fever" fused eastern Ukrainians with western, and Russo-phones with Ukraino-phones, in a historic moment in sports for Ukraine. (Not even The Verkhovna Rada could accomplish this feat.)

In other international competitions, Ukraine's athletes won two bronze medals and had five top-10 finishes to put Team Ukraine's medal count in 20th place at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy. Lilia Efremova won bronze in the biathlon, while the second medal went to husband-and-wife ice dancers Elena Grushina and Ruslan Goncharov. Additionally, Team Ukraine finished among the top 10 in women's luge, biathlon and cross-country skiing, and in men's biathlon.

In the winter Para-Olympic Games in Torino, Italy, Ukraine finished third overall with 26 medals (seven gold, nine silver and 10 bronze) – all in biathlon and cross-country skiing events. Olena Yurkovska won four gold medals, one silver and one bronze in sitting disabled biathlon events, and was named the Games' best athlete.

Lyudmyla Pavlenko won silver in the biathlon, and Svitlana Tryfonova won bronze in the same event and silver in the 7.5-km race. Tetyana Smyrnova, who is visually impaired, won silver in the 12.5-km race. In cross-country skiing, Yuliya Batenkova won the silver and bronze, Yuriy Kostyuk won gold, silver and bronze medals, Serhiy Khyzhnyak won bronze, and Oleh Muntz won gold and bronze medals. Vitaly Lukayenko, who is visually impaired, won gold in the men's biathlon.

Also in Olympic news, it was announced last year that Serhiy Bubka, 42, Olympic champion, six-time world champion and 35-time world record breaker in pole vaulting was elected president of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine on November 23.

One of the biggest news of 2006 for fans of Andriy Shevchenko was the announcement of his shift from Italy's AC Milan to English Premier League club FC Chelsea, after three years of the English club's attempts at signing him.

Other noteworthy achievements for 2006 included IBF World Heavyweight Champion Volodymyr Klitschko's defeat of previously undefeated Calvin Brock at Madison Square Garden on November 11.

In other boxing news, five Ukrainian amateur boxers earned medals at the Women's European Championships held in Warsaw, Poland, on September 9. Lesja Kozlan and Olha Novikova won silver medals, while Ludmila Hrytsay, Saida Gasanova and Irina Komar won bronze.

On September 18, Vasyl Lomachenko won the gold medal in the 51kg division at the World Junior Championships in Agadir, Morocco. At the CISM (Conseil International du Sport Militaire) Championships in Warendorf, Germany, Ukrainian boxer Artem Dalakyan won the gold medal in the 48 kg division on September 23. Also, Oleksandr Grishchuk, 48 kg, and Semen Fisinchuk, 69 kg, won silver medals, while Sergey Pugachenko, 54 kg, won the bronze at the Amber Gloves Boxing Tournament in Kaliningrad, Russia, on September 24.

The Ukrainian boxing team won the bronze medal at the World Cup of Boxing on October 21 in Baku, Azerbaijan, defeating its Chinese opponents 10-1. Sergiy Dziniruk maintained his undefeated record of 33-0 to retain his WBO Super Welterweight (154 lbs)

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AP/Darko Vojinovic

Team Ukraine celebrates at the end of its game against Switzerland during a World Cup match on June 26.

title in a unanimous decision against Russian boxer Alisultan Nadirbegov (15-2) on October 21 at Germany's Brandenburg Arena.

In track and field events, Ukraine finished third at the Moscow World Indoor Track and Field Championships. Gold medals were won by Lyudmilla Blonskaya in the pentathlon and Ivan Heshko in the 1,500-meter run.

Ukrainian mountain climbers made headlines in 2006 when the Donetsk club planted its flag on Mount Kiliminjaro, which came after the Kharkiv club planted its flag on Cho Oyo in Tibet.

In chess, Ukraine did well in international competitions, for the second time defeating India's men's team in the Chess Olympiad held in Torino, Italy. Ukraine's women won the first 12 matches to emerge as the most successful team in the 13-round contest. Serhiy Karyakin, 14, the world's youngest chess grandmaster, had a great year as well, winning the third World Chess Festival in Mexico City, taking second place at the International Tournament of Quick Chess in France, and winning first place at the National Club Tournament in Spain as a member of the Linex-Magic team.

The Ukrainian National Swimming Team won two gold medals, one silver and two bronze at the World Swimming Championships in Shanghai, China. At the event, Oleh Lysohir set a new world record in the 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 58.32 seconds.

Lysohir won his second gold in the 50-meter breaststroke in 26.39 seconds.

In cycling news, Ukrainian cyclists won third place at the UCI Track Cycling World Championships in Bordeaux, France on April 17, behind Australia, which took the gold, and Great Britain, which took the silver. Additionally, Yaroslav Popovich won the 12th leg of the Tour de France on July 14 between Luchon and Carssonne, which covered 211.5 km in a time of 4 hours, 34 minutes and 58 seconds. He finished 25th overall with a time of 90 hours, 31 minutes and 32 seconds.

Ukrainians did well this year in marathons as well, with two Ukrainian women placing first and second in the Freescale Austin Marathon in Texas. Tatyana Pozdnykova, 51, set a world record for her age group and finished 2 minutes and 33 seconds ahead of her countryman, Ilona Branova. In another marathon, Mykola Rudyk, 32, won the United Technologies Greater Hartford Marathon with a 2-second margin of victory over Kenyan Jonathan Ndambuki, with a time of 2 hours, 18 minutes and 40 seconds. In the New York City Marathon, Tatiana Hladyr placed second to Jelena Prokopcuka of Latvia, with a time of 2 hours, 26 minutes and five seconds, exactly one minute behind Prokopcuka.

In handball news, Ukraine defeated Brazil (39-31) at

the women's GF World Cup in Aarhus, Denmark, to join the final four that also included Romania, Denmark and Russia. Ukraine ended up in fourth place with a loss to Romania in the semifinal match and a loss to Denmark 24-20 in the deciding match.

Ukrainian Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestlers earned gold, silver and bronze medals at the European Wrestling Championships in Moscow on April 26. Representing Ukraine's women wrestlers, Oleksandra Kohut won bronze in the 51kg division, Maria Stadnyk won gold in the 48kg division, and Svetlana Sayenko won silver in the 72kg division. Representing the men's team, Mykhaylo Nikolayev won the silver in the 96kg division.

In youth athletics, the Ukrainian Youth Sports Team won first place at the World Gymnastisiade-2006 on July 3 in Greece with 17 gold, 12 silver and eight bronze medals. The Ukrainian team beat Great Britain and Russia, which took second and third place, respectively.

Gymnast Iryna Krasnianska, 18, won the balance beam event to earn the Ukrainian team its first gold medal in 11 years at the World Gymnastics Championships on October 21.

In a demonstration of the Bajiquan style, a Chinese martial art that features short-range power, Ukrainian martial artists Ihor Aristov won silver and Valeriy Olifir won gold and bronze overall at the World Wushu Championship in China on October 30.

In a medal-sweeping year for Ukrainian archers, the Ukrainian men's archery team won gold at the 10th Indoor Archery Championship in Jaen, Spain, while Ukraine's women's team won silver. The junior boys' team won gold and the girls' team won bronze at the competition.

With the popularity of extreme sports, Kyiv hosted the United Strongman Series competition on April 23 with Viktor Yurcenko winning third place. Other top-ten finishes by Ukrainians included Kyrylo Chuprynin, fifth, and Michael Starov, eighth.

### Meanwhile, in the diaspora

On the diaspora side of sports, Rutgers University in Newark, N.J., inducted its 1976-1977 men's volleyball team into the Athletic Hall of Fame on April 30. The majority of the players on the team were of Ukrainian heritage who had been playing volleyball in a variety of Ukrainian sports clubs such as Chornomorska Sitch, Tryzub, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM). The 1976-1977 Rutgers-Newark team included: Coach Dr. Taras Hunczak, Mario Trebit, Bohdan Mrozowski, Boris Olshaniwsky, George Lesiuk, Mike Laschuk, Roman Kolinsky, Richard Kaefer, George Temnycky, William Savary, Ruichi Furusawa, Peter Melnyk and Nestor Paslawsky.

Other volleyball news included the second annual Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey Invitational Volleyball Tournament on October 21, hosted by the Morris County Volleyball Club and co-hosted by the Whippany branch of SUM, the Newark branch of Plast and the Chornomorska Sitch Sports Club. Sixteen teams from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and one team from Chicago competed in the tournament that benefited the building of the UACCNJ.

Results of the tournament were – youth division: (1) Sitch, (2) Yonkers SUM, (3) Whippany SUM; senior division: (1) MCVC-Ukraina, (2) MCVC; women's division: (1) Sitch, (2) MCVC-B, (3) MCVC-A; men's open division: (1) Chicago Slava, (2) Sitch, (3) MCVC.

The Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK), an umbrella group for Ukrainian sports clubs, held several events and tournaments in 2006. Among them, was the 50th annual USCAK-East tennis tournament held at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka estate on July 1-2. Dennis Chorny played 16 sets in two days to win the men's singles, the doubles with his brother Korniylo, and the mixed doubles events with S. Mocherniuk.

Other winners included: seniors, Ivan Durbak; junior girls, Natalia Hryhorowych, Victoria Kuritza, Adrienne Kowcz; junior boys, Nick Noywayko; junior boys' doubles, Daniel Tylawsky and Adrian Burke; and girls' doubles, Anissa Boyko and Lidia Kowinko.

Another tennis event that almost didn't happen was USCAK's National Tournament held annually at Soyuzivka during the Labor Day weekend. Due to tropical storm Ernesto, the tournament did not get under way until Sunday – a first in the 51 years of the championship. Yet again, Erik Matkiwsky and Maryanna Milchutske won the men's and women's division,



Andrew Futey

The Kulas family of Chicago in their game garb at the World Cup.



Zenon Zawada

National Deputy Andrii Shevchenko (no relation to the soccer star) wears his Andriy Shevchenko jersey to the Verkhovna Rada on the day of Ukraine's first-ever World Cup match.

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President Viktor Yushchenko and National Olympic Committee of Ukraine President Serhiy Bubka with a group of Ukrainian Olympians in Kyiv on February 3 before they left for Torino, Italy.

respectively.

Other winners included: 35 and over division, Stefan Sosiak; 45 and over division, Mykola Nalywayko; boys' group, Oles Charchalis; and older girls' group, Maryanna Milchutske.

That same weekend, USCAK organized its 50th annual swim meet at Soyuzivka with 50 of the 75 registered athletes representing Tryzub, SUM and Sitch competing despite the weather delays due to tropical storm Ernesto.

After the competition, trophies were awarded to individual and team champions. First place in the team competition went to Chornomorska Sitch with 170 points, Tryzub came in second with 148 points and third place went to SUM with 98 points.

Chornomorska Sitch made headlines again taking the championship from pre-tournament favorite and defending champion Tryzub at the 2006 USCAK East Coast Cup soccer tournament on July 23 at the SUM resort in Ellenville, N.Y. Other teams included: Krylati of Yonkers, N.Y., Vatra of Long Island, N.Y., Ukraina of Syracuse, N.Y., and Karpaty of Passaic, N.J. Philadelphia's Tryzub took second place, while Krylati claimed third.

Individual awards were given to A.J. Panas, Sitch: tournament MVP; Virgis Anusaukas, Tryzub: best for-

ward; Mark Howansky, Krylati: best defender; Matt Zielyk, Sitch and Jason Rostovskis, Tryzub: best goalies. With its victory, Chornomorska Sitch earned a chance to play 2006 Great Lakes Cup champion, Chicago Kryla, for the USCAK Soccer Championship played on Labor Day weekend.

In other soccer news, the Ukrainian Nationals soccer team won two Pennsylvania soccer championships. The first was on April 23 at the U.S. Open Cup Eastern Pennsylvania Championship, where they defeated United German-Hungarians 3-1, with a hat-trick by Leon Cleary for "the Nats." The second was at the Men's Amateur Eastern Pennsylvania Championship on April 30, in a 4-4 overtime match that was won 7-6 on penalty kicks against Phoenix SC.

Additionally, the Ukrainian American Select soccer team played in a Mini-World Cup tournament at Giants Stadium in Rutherford, N.J., on May 13. The Ukrainian team advanced to the semifinals, losing to Poland 3-2 in penalty shots to end the scoreless match. Along the way, the Ukrainian team beat Brazil (1-0), tied Cyprus (0-0) and beat Holland (2-0) in the group stage. From there, in the quarterfinals the Ukrainians played past England (2-1) to advance to the semifinals, where their run ended. Ukraine's goalkeeper, Bogdan Protas, was named "most outstanding goalkeeper" by World Cup

veteran goalie Tony Meola of the New York Red Bulls.

The 52nd annual ski races of the Carpathian Ski Club (KLC) were held on March 4 at Ski Windham in upstate New York. Ninety-eight skiers and snowboarders took part in the races, with competitors ranging in age from 4 to 69. Special traveling trophies, which are passed on from year to year to each successive winner (no repeat winners are allowed), were presented for the fastest time posted among male and female competitors. This year's winners of the highly coveted trophies were Askold Sandursky, 33, who turned in a race time of 25.99, and Katia Kozak, 11, who came in with 30.03.

The Pobratamy Foundation held its eight annual Plast Open at the Renwood Golf Club, in Round Lake, Ill., on September 10. Forty-four men and women took part in the tournament and post-tourney festivities. Awards were given to George Domino, George Lytwynshyn, Nestor Popowych and Wasyl Wowchuk for best men's team score; Christine Hryhorczuk, Olya Popowych, Katrusia Saldan and Luba Skubiak for best women's team score; Peter Cho: longest drive and Taras Proczko: closest to the pin.

Finally, we thank Ihor Stelmach for his Ukrainian Pro Hockey Update, keeping our readers informed throughout the 2006-2007 season about the Ukrainians in the National Hockey League. Of note for our readers, last year Anton Babchuk of the Carolina Hurricanes, who won the NHL's Stanley Cup after defeating the Edmonton Oilers in the finals, brought the Cup to Kyiv on August 2. This was the second time the Cup arrived in Ukraine.

### *The noteworthy: people and events*

**N**oteworthy – that's what we call the category of things that should be noted in our Year in Review issue, but perhaps do not easily fit any of our other categories. Following, listed in chronological order, are the notable events and achievements cited in 2006:

- Within the framework of an all-Ukrainian and international event geared toward popularizing the hryvnia and on the occasion of 10th anniversary of its introduction into circulation, the presentation of the souvenir coin "President Vladimir Putin of Russia" took place on February 8. According to the chairman of the Public Council, Valentyn Khaletskyi, the sketch and design of the coin were agreed upon with Mr. Putin. Coins with images of Yulia Tymoshenko, Viktor Yanukovich, Leonid Kuchma and Leonid Kravchuk had been issued earlier.

- Dr. Boris D. Lushniak, M.D., M.P.H., assistant commissioner at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and captain in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service (PHS), on April 3 was promoted to the rank of assistant surgeon general and rear admiral by direction of the surgeon general, Vice Admiral Richard Carmona.

During a flag officer promotion ceremony in Rockville, Md., at the headquarters of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on August 31, Rear Adm. Lushniak, a native of Chicago and the son of post-war immigrants from Ukraine was awarded his star and administered the oath of office as assistant surgeon general of the United States.

- A re-enactment of the beginning of the Ukrainian War of Liberation took place in Tyler, Texas, on April 8 – 358 years and two days after the historic battle. Under a blue Texas sky, the warriors of the Polish and the Kozak armies met again to fight the unforgotten battle as part of the Four Winds Renaissance Faire that was held on a grassy meadow just outside of town. Although the combat was a staged one, the muskets, the sabers and the cannons were real. And so were the combat participants, Kozaks, peasants, Dragoons and Hussars alike.

Participants from living history groups and re-enactors from California to Virginia planned the event for over a year. To add to the realism, up to six cannons were used, along with 50 fighting men and women, period firearms such as matchlock muskets, farm tools like three-pronged forks and, of course, the epitome of the Kozak arsenal – the saber.

The re-enactment dramatized the events of April 6, 1648, when Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky met and defeated the advance guard of the Polish army at Zhovti



Members of the 1976-1977 Rutgers-Newark volleyball team at the April 30 ceremony when they were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame: (seated, from left) George Lesiuk, Ryuichi Furusawa, Coach Taras Hunczak, Mario Treibit, Nestor Paslawsky, (standing) Roman Kolinsky, William Savary, Richard Kaefer, George Temnycky and Peter Melnyk.

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**Dr. Boris Lushniak, the new assistant surgeon general of the United States.**

Vody on the right bank of the Dnipro River near the Zaporozhian Sich. It was the opening salvo of the Ukrainian War of Liberation that lasted from 1648 to 1657. The war annihilated the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the superpower of Europe at that time, and impacted the history of Europe for three and a half centuries.

- Veteran Voice of America journalist Adrian Karmazyn was appointed chief of VOA's Ukrainian Service. The announcement was made on April 20. Mr. Karmazyn, 45, joined VOA in 1988, as an international radio broadcaster in the Ukrainian Service. He served in this capacity as a reporter, writer, producer, translator and announcer, and also served as a correspondent in Kyiv. Since 1999 Mr. Karmazyn has served as program manager of VOA's Ukrainian Service.

- The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace released a new publication titled "Revolution in Orange: The Origins of Ukraine's Democratic Breakthrough." A compilation by various authors, the book offers a thorough explanation of the events and factors that contributed to the Orange Revolution's success. The book was offered in paperback and hardcover, with a who's who list of prominent figures in the Ukrainian political environment and a timeline of events. A book note appeared in The Weekly on April 23.

- On April 26 the National Bank of Ukraine put into circulation the "750 Years of Lviv" commemorative coin, which has a face value of 5 hryvnia. The coin is dedicated to one of the leading scientific, cultural, educational and industrial cities of western Ukraine. The commemorative coin is made of white copper, weighs 16.54 grams and was minted in 60,000 copies. The coin is adorned with the image of a lion's head, the small national emblem of Ukraine on the left and the date of issue, 2006, on the right. The reverse side of the coin depicts the panorama of Lviv of the early 17th century with the inscription "Lviv/750."

- A historical plaque honoring the Welsh journalist Gareth R.V. Jones was unveiled on May 2 at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Mr. Jones was one of the first Western journalists to travel to the Soviet Union and report truthfully on the Great Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. For that he was denounced by the Soviet authorities and by their sympathizers in the West, including the notorious New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty, who was later awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on events in the Soviet Union.

Following a memorial service in the university chapel, with remarks by Elystan Morgan, president of the university, the trilingual (Welsh, English, Ukrainian) plaque was unveiled in the Quadrangle of the Old College by Dr. Margaret Colley and Nigel Linsan Colley, relatives of the late Mr. Jones.

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, a professor of political geogra-

phy at the Royal Military College of Canada, remembered Gareth Jones in an article for The Weekly. "What is indisputable ... is that Jones wrote truthfully about the Holodomor even as Duranty did not," Dr. Luciuk wrote. "And for that reason a trilingual Welsh-Ukrainian-English plaque, the first ever, is to be unveiled at the University of Wales on May 2. It hallows the memory of a decent young man who wanted nothing more than to be an honest reporter and probably paid for his commitment to his calling with his life. Much better, I say, to honor the truth-teller than the Prize-winning liar."

- The Kyiv City Hall sent a draft directive to the Cabinet of Ministers on May 6 on erecting a monument in Kyiv to American scholar and historian James Mace. The expenses are expected to be paid by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Dr. Mace was born in Muscogee, Oklahoma, on February 18, 1952. In 1983-1986 he and Dr. Robert Conquest collected materials for the "Harvest of Sorrow," widely viewed as the most important historical work about the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine. Dr. Mace was staff director of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, whose final report stated the Great Famine of 1932-1933 was genocide perpetrated by the Soviet regime against the people of Ukraine. In 1993 Dr. Mace moved to Ukraine. He lectured at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy until his death in 2004.

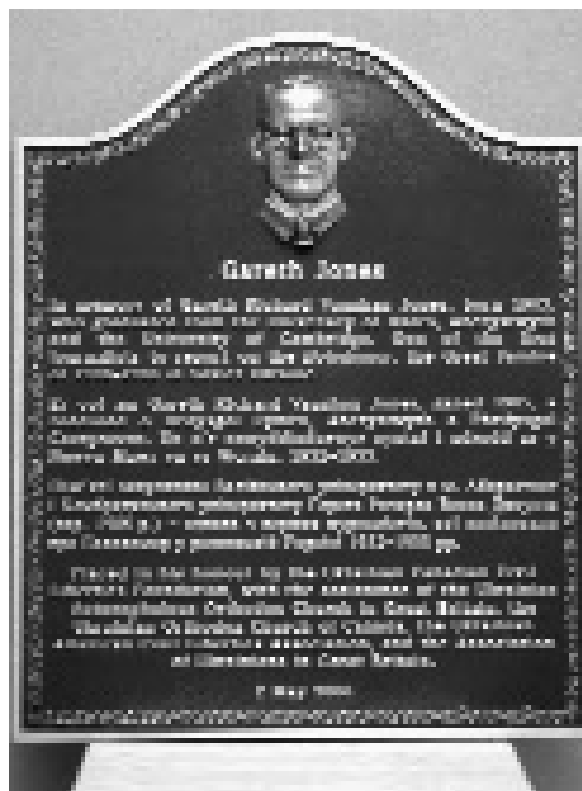
- Stefan Tatarenko, a city councilman in Clifton, N.J., ran for his third term on the City Council in an election on May 9. Though he did not win the race, Mr. Tatarenko often stressed during his campaign how important it was for him that young activists consider political careers. "For me [the election] will be the culmination of a gratifying experience as I am encouraged by the number of volunteers we attract from our community who are willing to canvass the area, distribute campaign literature, or even call prospective voters," Mr. Tatarenko said.

Mr. Tatarenko started his own political career in 1991 at the prompting of a friend with a run for the Clifton Board of Education. He ran for, and won, a second term on the Board of Education and then two consecutive four-year terms on the Clifton City Council. "In Clifton we have many Ukrainians who call upon me for my opinion, ask for guidance in dealing with government or in attending to local issues, or even for help on non-political issues," Mr. Tatarenko said. "I feel most satisfied when I hear a thank you."

- Tina Karol, 20, represented Ukraine at the 2006 Eurovision Song Contest in Athens, Greece, on May 18-20. She performed an English-language song, "Show Me Your Love." Eurovision is watched by 100 million viewers annually and is typically the major international exposure that Ukraine's pop artists can attain.

- More than 60 Ukrainian-language publishers held the first Kyiv Children's Book Fair at the Ukrainian Home in European Square between May 31 and June 3.

"We're thinking about Ukraine's future – children's books," said Mykola Zhulynskyi, chair of the President's National Council for Cultural and Spiritual



**The plaque honoring Gareth Jones that was unveiled in Wales on May 2.**

Issues. "Everything has to be done to support Ukrainian books in the Ukrainian language as having priority in the Ukrainian nation. For such books, conditions are necessary in which a publisher isn't struggling to realize his goals," he said.

Attending the book fair, Vice Prime Minister Viacheslav Kyrylenko said Ukrainian-language publishers are continuing to increase their production. However, they are in direct competition with their Russian counterparts, who continue to dominate the publishing market in Ukraine.

- Ukrainian rap fans welcomed crack dealer-turned-international star 50 Cent at a June 3 concert to watch the muscle-bound tough wax about life on the streets of New York City. Before the outdoor pavilion in the Arena City complex, hundreds of Kyiv youths threw on baggy clothes, tipped their baseball caps sideways and converged on the city's main boulevard, the Khreschatyk, to drink beer, rap and indulge in hip hop culture.

Ukrainian rap has emerged in the past decade, led by Vkhid u Zminnomu Vzutti, Vova zil Vova and Oleksander Polozhynskyi, who raps about Ukrainian youth, society and culture.

- The artsy and intrepid team of Adrian and Denys Dlaboha, Jason Hryckowian and Lesya Hentisz turned heads with their artwork on Fifth Avenue in front of the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. The chalk art, created on June 13, was part of the Museum Mile Festival that occurs annually in New York. "Ukreyda" (a moniker adopted for this project) drew the Ukrainian World Cup Soccer team emblem with blue and yellow sidewalk chalk. Intrigued passers-by, including many children, asked about the emblem, and decided to root for Ukraine's team during the World Cup. People who otherwise knew little to nothing about Ukraine got a healthy dose of information from the artists.

- On its opening date, June 15, the Disney film "Cars" became the first full-length foreign movie dubbed into the Ukrainian language – a decision voluntarily made by the film's distributor, B&H Distribution Co. Half of the copies of "Cars," a film about hot rods that talk, were dubbed into Ukrainian, and the other half into Russian. More than 100 theaters all over Ukraine agreed to join the so-called test-drive, accepting both the Russian and Ukrainian versions.

The Disney film not only became the first full-length foreign movie dubbed into the Ukrainian language, but also covered all production costs and got higher-than-expected box office returns, raking in 30 percent more profit than its Russian-language twin. "Our (profit) expectations were about \$350,000 for the Ukrainian version, however it earned \$500,000," said Bohdan Batruk, the general manager of B&H Distribution Co.

- Dr. Robert Ballard, best known for finding the wreckage of the HMS Titanic, looked to the Black Sea as the most promising repository of ancient history anywhere, not only because of the 3,000 years that humans have been sailing there, but also because of its unique waters – anoxic below 200 meters. That means there's no decay; whatever's at the bottom is fully preserved, wrote columnist Andrew Fedynsky in The Weekly on June 25.

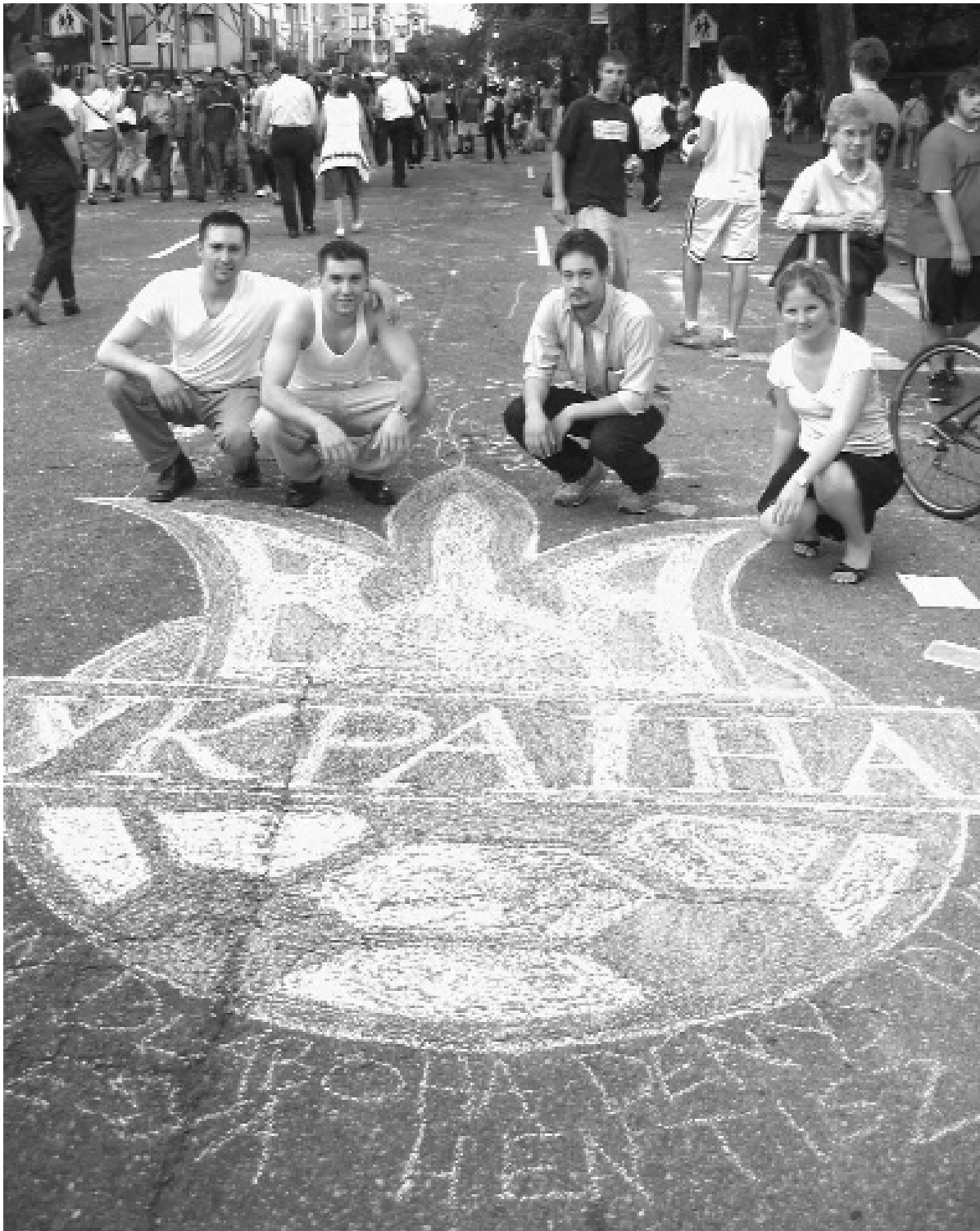
Mr. Fedynsky went on to say that Dr. Serhiy Voronov, head of the Department of Underwater Heritage at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and Dr. Ballard first met in Kyiv in August 2005 and agreed to form a joint U.S.-Ukraine oceanographic team to search for archeological sites in the Black Sea, i.e. shipwrecks. With President Viktor Yushchenko taking special interest in the project, the expedition came together in record time and, by May of this past year, an American-Ukrainian team of scientists and scholars was exploring off the coast of Crimea.

Penetrating the perpetual darkness of the sea, powerful lights on the deep-diving ROV (remotely operated vehicle) Hercules illuminated the way for a high definition camera as it closed in on dozens of ancient artifacts scattered 180 meters below the surface of the Black Sea.

What the ROV saw and then displayed on the ship board monitor was beamed to a satellite a hundred miles overhead, which relayed the images to Immersion Presents in Mystic, Conn. – Dr. Ballard's home base. There an audience, which included members of Dr. Voronov's team from the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, saw what those aboard the ship did, just a split second later and seven time zones away, wrote Mr. Fedynsky, who was also aboard the ship.

- At the end of 2006, Ukraine boasted nine billionaires, all having prospered from the nation's vast natural resources and the industrial might inherited from the Soviet Union, according to a survey of Ukraine's 30

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The "Ukreyda" team with its artwork on Fifth Avenue created in honor of Ukraine's World Cup debut.

wealthiest men.

Among them, 17 conduct their business in the industrial east, while none are based in western Ukraine, as determined by the financial analysts at Dragon Capital investment bank and editors of KP Media, who published their report in the July 1 issue of Korrespondent magazine. No women are among Ukraine's 30 wealthiest people, Korrespondent reported.

- Trypillian Village, a new retirement community designed expressly for persons of Ukrainian heritage, is being constructed near Reading, Pa., located in Berks County, about 40 miles northwest of Philadelphia, reported The Weekly on August 6. The new community, intended for active seniors who are 55-plus years of age, will feature 130 units comprising condo apartments on more than 100 wooded acres owned by the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church of Reading. The focal point of the spacious property will be a new church built in the style of traditional Ukrainian architecture with classic domes. The structure will incorporate a historical mosaic, stained glass windows and the bells from the old church currently located in downtown Reading.

A key attraction at Trypillian Village will be the Heritage Center designed to preserve, celebrate and explore the Ukrainian legacy.

- A U.S. court on August 25 sentenced Pavlo Lazarenko, who served as Ukraine's prime minister in 1996-1997, to nine years in prison and fined him \$10 million, Reuters reported.

RFE/RL Newslines reported that a U.S. jury had convicted Mr. Lazarenko in 2004 of 29 counts of extortion, money laundering through U.S. banks, fraud and transportation of stolen property. The judge presiding over the Lazarenko case later threw out 15 counts.

- In a major initiative to improve the quality of health

care in Ukraine, prominent businessman Victor Pinchuk presented the U.S.-based Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund with a combined \$500,000 grant to provide new technology for several Ukrainian hospitals. The grant was awarded in three separate installments and designated for several CCRDF partner hospitals that demonstrated their commitment and strong potential for improving infant survival rates and raising the standard of care for children's hospitals and maternity centers around the country.

Titled "Kolysky Nadii," (Cradles of Hope), the Pinchuk initiative seeks to modernize at least one targeted hospital in each of Ukraine's 25 oblasts and in the Crimean Autonomous Republic within 24 months. The story was reported in the September 3 issue of The Weekly.

- Municipal employees in North Port, Fla., took up a unique challenge from their City Commission: learn Ukrainian. Two dozen city officials enrolled in a seven-week Ukrainian language class. The 24 city workers – among them fire, police and public works employees – can answer the phone or greet one of the thousands of Ukrainians who live in North Port with a rudimentary "hello," or "nice to see you," Marilyn Garlick, the senior executive assistant to the town manager, was quoted as saying in the September 3 issue of The Weekly.

The City Commission agreed that municipal employees should be given an opportunity to take Ukrainian language classes as a way to connect with the city's growing Ukrainian community. Currently, there are about 3,500 Ukrainians in North Port, said Levko Klos, a resident who ran for a seat on the City Commission.

- The greatest number of voters this past year for the Narbut Prize – reflecting Ukraine's best-designed stamp(s) of the previous year – chose their favorite not only with their eyes, but also with their stomachs. The

winner was last year's Europa theme of gastronomy, and Ukraine's se-tenant depiction of its delicious beet soup – borsch. The design on the two-stamp set depicts a colorful table spread: a bowl of the beet soup on the left (2.61 hrv value) and a covered, decorated serving dish on the right (3.52 hrv value). Spread before both dishes are the myriad ingredients that go into creating borsch. Helping to unite both stamps is the red-embroidered tablecloth, which underlies the entire scene.

The designer of the gastronomy stamps was Svitlana Bondar, who based her work on a photograph by Oleksander Kostiuhenko. They received Narbut Prize awards and share the \$250 honorarium with a third person, Maria Heiko, who also participated in the issue by designing the Europa booklet. The Narbut Prize results were reported in the October 15 issue of The Weekly.

- Judge Bohdan A. Futey was awarded the James Madison Award at the 19th Judicial Conference of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims on October 25. The award is given to a member of the court's family who has contributed notably to the advancement of justice and the rule of law. Judge Futey has been actively involved for years with democratization of law programs organized by the Judicial Conference of the United States, the Department of State and the American Bar Association in Ukraine and Russia.

In presenting the James Madison Award and introducing the honoree, Chief Judge Edward J. Damich said the honor was bestowed on Judge Futey "in recognition of his work to advance the rule of law throughout Eastern Europe and, in particular, in his home country of Ukraine."

- Elected in 2004 to the position of Macomb County Commissioner for District 1, Andrey Duzyj was back on the campaign trail in 2006, and was re-elected in November to represent the people of Warren, Mich. Situated in southern Macomb County, Warren is Michigan's third largest city.

"There is no greater calling than to serve your community, and it has been my distinct honor to represent Macomb County's District 1," said Mr. Duzyj, an active community leader and resident of Warren for over 35 years.

- President Viktor Yushchenko on November 9 presented state awards to members of the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote Implementation of the Helsinki Accords (the Ukrainian Helsinki Group), which was founded in Kyiv 30 years ago to monitor Soviet Ukraine's adherence to the Helsinki Accords.

"You laid the first brick in the reconstruction of Ukraine's civil society. You equated human freedom to the freedom of your nation, and put human rights higher than the rights of your state," Mr. Yushchenko said. The president also said the group had renewed the Ukrainian state, challenged the totalitarian system and preserved the "profoundly democratic" traditions of Ukrainians' characterizing these three achievements as seminal. "The Ukrainian Helsinki Group transformed its fight against totalitarianism into the universal democratic process," he noted.

The president honored the most prominent members of the group, among them Vasyl Stus, Ivan Kandyba, Oles Berdnyk, Mykola Rudenko, Vyacheslav Chornovil, Yurii Shukhevych, Levko Lukianenko, Valerii



Marta Stecyk

At the Chernihiv Regional Maternity Hospital, benefactor Victor Pinchuk, who donated \$500,000 to the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, listens as Chief Doctor Olena Lytvynenko and neonatal specialist Dr. Oleksander Hoshko explain the value and capabilities of new equipment and hospital instruments installed by CCRDF.

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The "Gastronomy – Borshch" postal issue, winner of the Narbut Prize.

Marchenko and others.

• Ukrainian Helsinki Group members and their supporters commemorated the 30th year anniversary of the group's founding with a special gathering held on November 10 at the Smoloskyp publishing house in Kyiv. More than 50 attended the anniversary, among them 12 of the original 41 Helsinki Group members.

"Those who began acting in the 1950s and 1960s didn't get discouraged, even though they were only a handful," said Mykhailo Horyn, a former Soviet political prisoner. "We need to continue creating the Ukrainian

nation and assisting in its rebirth." Freedom of speech is the most important freedom achieved since the Soviet Union's fall, Mr. Ovsienko said. "Appreciate it and don't betray our accomplishment," he told the gathering.

• Myroslav Marynovych, first vice rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, was honored by the presidents of both Ukraine and Poland. A founding member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group and an initiator of efforts at Ukrainian-Polish reconciliation, Prof. Marynovych, along with other members of the group, received the order "for courage" of the first

degree from President Viktor Yushchenko on November 9. Then on November 10, he received the equestrian cross of the order "for service" in the name of Polish President Lech Kaczynski from General Consul of the Republic of Poland in Ukraine Wieslaw Osuchowski, on the occasion of Polish Independence Day. Marynovych has worked at the UCU (then the Lviv Theological Academy) since 1997. He is the founder and head of UCU's Institute of Religion and Society and also advisor on ecumenical issues to Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

• Dr. Boris D. Lushniak, assistant commissioner for counterterrorism policy in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), was honored on November 11 by the American Medical Association (AMA) as the 2006 recipient of the Dr. William Beaumont Award in Medicine. The distinction, named after a 19th Century U.S. Army physician and scientist, is presented each year to a physician under the age of 50 in recognition of an outstanding professional or scientific achievement. The award was presented on November 11 at the AMA's semi-annual policy-making meeting in Las Vegas.

The AMA award citation praised Dr. Lushniak's performance as a leader of the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Team San Antonio following last year's hurricanes in the Gulf, including his "leadership to address public health issues following Hurricane Katrina, assisting more than 12,000 Katrina evacuees."

## A dream come true for Stefanyshyn-Piper

Astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper became the first Ukrainian American to fly in space when the space shuttle Atlantis lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center at 11:14:55 a.m. (EDT) on September 9. Two days later, Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper (U.S. Navy) became the eighth woman, the seventh American woman and the first Ukrainian American to walk in space, thus fulfilling her long-held dream.

A former member of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper had asked the Minneapolis Plast branch for the "Plastova lileyka" (the organization emblem) so that she could take it with her on the 11-day STS-115 mission.

The astronauts were awakened at 11:15 p.m. (CDT) on September 11 to "My Friendly Epistle," a poem by Taras Shevchenko set to music, which was played for Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper.

She and fellow Mission Specialist Joseph Tanner began the mission's first spacewalk early the next morning after spending the night in the airlock in what is known as a "campout" in preparation for their activities outside the spacecraft. The campout protocol helped rid the astronauts of nitrogen in their bloodstreams and aimed to shorten their final spacewalk preparations. She



Mission Specialist Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper all set to go into space.

did her second space walk there days later.

One of about 100 American astronauts, Mission Specialist Stefanyshyn-Piper, 43, is married to Glenn A. Piper; they have one son, age 16. The family lives in the Houston area, and Ms. Stefanyshyn-Piper has tried to maintain her Ukrainian community contacts via the Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston.

Chief Scout Lubomyr Romankiw of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, in a September 9 letter addressed to Plast members, wrote: "Ukrainian Plast is proud that Astronaut Heidemarie-Stefanyshyn-Piper, who was tapped to take part in such an important mission, came out of our ranks. On behalf of Ukrainian Plast members around the world, we wish our colleague success in completing a task of such international importance and a safe return."

Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper and the members of the space shuttle crew of the Atlantis, mission STS-115, were honored on October 23 at the Embassy of Ukraine. Representatives from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the U.S. Department of State, the media and members of the Ukrainian community were in attendance.

Ambassador Oleh Shamshur greeted the crew members, noting, "Your work was remarkable." Dr. Shamshur also said that he looked forward to collaborations between Ukraine and the United States on new space endeavors. Greetings from President Yushchenko were presented to Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper. Dr. Shamshur presented a painting of Kyiv's Pecherska Lavra and a song inspired by the work of Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper titled "Cosmic Seagull," with lyrics by Oksana Makovets and music by Volodymyr Hartman.

Dr. Shamshur said that with Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper taking a Ukrainian flag, a Plast Ukrainian scouting emblem and Ukrainian music into space with her, this demonstrated that "you are proud of your Ukrainian heritage."

Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper thanked the Ukrainian community for their support and spoke of her Ukrainian roots, telling the audience that her father came from a village outside of Lviv. "I never thought my father's dream (of our great successes) would come true for our family," she said. Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper told the audience that she hopes to visit Ukraine in the near future. She then presented Dr. Shamshur with a photo display of the crew and a picture of Kyiv from space.

Fellow Mission Specialist Joseph Tanner said of Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper: "She is a rising star in the space program. I guess you can say a new star is born. We look forward to many great things from her and more missions in the future."

Then, the Ukrainian community of Minneapolis and St. Paul took advantage of the astronaut's recent visit to her family and organized a welcome home reception on December 3. Hundreds turned out to meet and cheer their favorite daughter, also known as Heide, at a special reception at St. Constantine's School in

Minneapolis.

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

Heide also attended Saturday morning Ukrainian classes at St. Constantine's Church in Minneapolis, was an active member of the parish youth organization, an outstanding dancer of the Zahrava Folk Dance Ensemble, a member of the Troyandy Girls Vocal Ensemble, and an active member in many other youth-sponsored commemorative programs. She was also a member of the local branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization from the age of 6 to 18, was counselor to a troop of "novachky" and attended camps in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Quebec and Alberta.

In an editorial, The Ukrainian Weekly said of Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper (who was recently promoted): "Ukrainians around the globe will remember 2006 as the year that Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper became the first Ukrainian American to fly in space ...

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

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



The emblem of STS-115 bearing the last names of all crew members.

## 2006: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Cover of "Ukrainians in Chicagoland" by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas.

• On November 15, Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.) recognized Orest Deychakiwsky's 25 years of service on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission.) He did so by delivering remarks in Congress, citing Mr. Deychakiwsky "for his faithful service and tireless defense of human rights and dignity." Rep. Smith also said of Mr. Dechakiwsky, who began his work as a member of the commission's professional staff on November 15, 1981: "Driven by a deep commitment to aid the victims of Communist oppression, Orest devoted himself to documenting the human rights cases, particularly those involving divided families, an especially poignant task given his own family's history under Soviet domination and repression."

• "A tribute to Ukrainian Chicagoland" is how Dr. Myron B. Kuropas' latest book is described by Arcadia Publishing, which specializes in books on local and regional history. The 128-page book is filled with more than 200 photographs of the Ukrainian community from the Chicago area that has been active there since the late 1880s, arriving, as the author notes, during four separate periods: 1885-1914, 1923-1939, 1948-1960 and since 1991. Many of the high-quality photographs – of groups, individuals, events and institutions – are vintage photos of historic significance. Accompanying the photos are captions that tell the story of the community's endeavors in myriad fields.

"Ukrainians of Chicagoland" was officially launched on November 17 with an event at the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago and in conjunction with Chicago Ukrainians' celebration of the centennial of their formal presence in the area, which was marked by the establishment of St. Nicholas Parish.

• The Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor, an organization of college and university graduates, professionals and businesspersons in Metropolitan Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, honored Oleh Mahlay, artistic director and conductor of the famous Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus at the Graduates' 67th anniversary banquet on November 19 in Detroit.

Mr. Mahlay, an attorney by profession living in Parma, Ohio, frequently comes to Detroit in his role as artistic director and conductor of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, which has been based in Detroit, since emigrating to the United States after the second world war.

• The 2006 Ukrainian of the Year Award was presented to Taras G. Szmagala of Brecksville, Ohio, by the Ukrainian Technological Society at its 37th annual dinner-dance on November 25 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Club in the city of Oakland section.

In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Szmagala noted his family's willing service to the Ukrainian National Association including that of his father, his own and now that of his son, Taras Jr. He was especially proud of his current work with the Ukrainian Museum-Archives, which he urged all to visit to see its world-renowned collections. The museum recently added a new building and hired a professional curator.

## Our community mourns their passing

During 2006 we mourned the deaths of many members of our Ukrainian community. Among them were the following, listed in chronological order.

• Zenon V. Holubec, 78, an artist known for his bas-relief sculptures in wood – Glen Spey, N.Y., January 10.

• Roman Baranowskyj, 100, a veterinarian by profession and a prominent Ukrainian community leader, secretary and press secretary of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, oldest living member of the Lisovi Chorty Plast fraternity – Kerhonkson, N.Y., January 23.

• Joseph Lesawyer, 94, former supreme president of the Ukrainian National Association (1961-1978), former officer of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, captain in Gen. George Patton's famed 3rd Army, former executive director of the Shevchenko Memorial Committee of America Inc. – Orlando, Fla., January 31.

• Mykola Kertychak, 51, chairman of the Association of Ukrainians in Poland, ardent supporter of Ukrainian-Polish reconciliation – Warsaw, January 26.

• Christine Cebrij-Rizzo, 49, a member of the national executive board of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) and key leader of the SUM branch in Whippany, N.J. – February 5.

• Genevieve Zepko Zerebniak, 89, former vice-presidentess of the Ukrainian National Association, former UNA supreme advisor – February 11.

• Volodymyr Bilajiw, 80, journalist, former director of the Ukrainian Branch of the Voice of America, former head of the Ukrainian National Rada – North Palm Beach, Fla., February 12.

• Stefan Terlezki, 78, a former forced laborer brought by the Nazis to Germany, the first Ukrainian-born member of the British Parliament who was elected in 1983 as MP for Cardiff West, an advisor to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on matters relating to Ukraine, personal representative of Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and member of the Advisory Board of International Politics at the University College of Wales in Aberystwyth – February 21.

• Eugene Iwanciw, 53, second vice-president of the Ukrainian National Association, former president of the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (SUSTA), at age 22 the youngest person ever elected to the UNA Supreme Assembly, and director of the UNA Washington Office for the duration of its existence (1988-1995) – Arlington, Va., February 25.

• Petro Odarchenko, 102, prominent scholar of Ukrainian literature, linguist, author of 12 books and some 650 articles published in various Ukrainian periodicals in the West and in Ukraine – Washington, March 12.

• George Bohachewsky, noted bass-baritone who sang with the New York City Opera for over 30 years, veteran of the Korean War – March 24.

• Andrew Demus, 79, master carpenter and community activist, a survivor of both the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine and the Nazi occupation of Ukraine who gave talks on his experiences to school classes and civic groups, a forced laborer in Germany who was liberated by advancing U.S. troops, – Cornelia, Ga., March 24.

• Halyna Krychevska-Linde, 88, an artist and daughter of the renowned Ukrainian architect and artist Vasyl Krychevsky, who is credited with preserving his works

during World War II – Caracas, Venezuela, April 4.

• Alec Danylevich, M.D., 58, neurosurgeon and community activist in the Boston area, activist of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in America, former leader in Ukrainian student groups – Worcester, Mass., April 14.

• Bishop Basil Filevich, 88, eparch emeritus of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, of the Ukrainian Catholic Church – Saskatoon, April 20.

• Alexander Gudziak, D.D.S., 80, community activist and generous benefactor of many academic and community organizations, most notably the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, recipient of the papal medal "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice," captain in the U.S. Army – Syracuse, N.Y., April 22.

• Lubov Drashevskya, 95, geologist, journalist, editor, translator and archivist, longtime associate of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A., former member of The Ukrainian Museum board of trustees – April 29.

• Stephan Basil Kurylas, 85, a retired federal veterinarian and active member of the Washington area Ukrainian community, former coordinator for the William Petrach Project of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation in Staryi Dobrotvir, Ukraine – Wheaton, Md., May 2.

• Wolodymyr Stojko, 80, historian, professor at Manhattan College in New York, member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, former editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Quarterly, president of the Ukrainian Free University Foundation – New Brunswick, N.J., May 4.

• Gregory Bemko, 90, noted cellist, a U.S. bomber pilot in the 9th Air Force during World War II, founder of the Lake San Marcos Chamber Music Society in California – Oceanside, Calif., May 27.

• Omeljan Pritsak, 87, Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History (emeritus) at Harvard University, co-founder and long-time director of Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute, the first foreign member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and the post-Soviet restorer of the Institute of Oriental Studies in Kyiv – Cambridge, Mass., May 29.

• Zynoviy Sawyckyj, 93, an attorney in Ukraine and an administrator of social service programs in the U.S., an activist in the Ukrainian community of Utica, N.Y. – Riverside, Conn., May 30.

• Mykola Kolessa, 102, patriarch of Ukrainian music, world-renowned composer, conductor and educator, laureate of the Shevchenko State Prize and recipient of the Hero of Ukraine Award – Lviv, June 8.

• Bishop Mykhail Sabryha, 65, eparch of Ternopil and Zboriv of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, student of the underground seminary in Ukraine – Ternopil, June 29.

• Andrew Keybida, 89, leading Ukrainian community activist in New Jersey, former supreme advisor of the Ukrainian National Association, captain in the U.S. Army, honored with the papal distinction of Knight of St. Gregory the Great – Maplewood, N.J., July 5.

• Nadia Svitlychna, 69, an active member of the intellectual elite known as the "Shestydesianyky" that evolved into the dissident movement, Ukrainian human and national rights activist known for dissemination of "samvydav" materials, former Soviet political prisoner, a leader of the External Representation of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group – August 7.

• Roman Drazniowsky, 83, scholar, librarian and geographer, former president of the Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, former president of the Ukrainian Library Association of



Joseph Lesawyer



Stefan Terlezki



Eugene Iwanciw

## 2006: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### Quotable notes

"It was always [Jack] Palance's role to be the dead guy in the final reel. He was the hero's best friend, in a way. After you shot Palance dead, there wasn't much left to do except walk into the sunset. You had gunned down Palance; you were the man.

"... whomever he played, he was always Palance. And he made a whole career of that face – that nose that looked like it had been battered into a fleshy pretzel with a spade – and that voice, which sounded like he sprinkled gravel and, possibly, boot nails into his pork and beans for breakfast. His swagger walk could out-swagger John Wayne. Yes, we said John Wayne. Wanna draw about it, pal?"

– Desson Thomson, writing in "Jack Palance, the Best of the Bad Guys," an appreciation published on November 11 in *The Washington Post*.

America, map curator at Columbia University and the American Geographic Society, professor of library science at the University of Wisconsin – July 8.

• Vasyl Kolodchin, 80, a leading activist in the Ukrainian Patriarchal Movement and active member of many community organizations, director of the radio program "Song of Ukraine," honored by the Ukrainian World Congress with the St. Volodymyr the Great medal – Detroit, August 14.

• Ursula Balaban, 83, founding member and patron of the Ukrainian Institute of America – Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., August 14.

• Walter W. Fedun, 90, engineer for the Grumman Corp., whose projects included the LEM spacecraft for the first lunar landing in 1969 and the U.S. Navy's F-14 jet fighter, honored at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, Long Island, N.Y. – Port Jervis, N.Y., October 4.

• Anna Polittkovskaya née Mazepa, 48, crusading Russian journalist of Ukrainian descent whose reporting described the horror of the war in Chechnya and the travesty of the Russian government led by President Vladimir Putin – murdered in Moscow, October 7.

• Sofia Janiw, 97, first director of the museum of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome, the last of the founding generation of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine team in Sarcelles, France, founding member of the "Ti, Scho Hrebli Rvut" sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization – Sarcelles, France, October 11.

• Lubomyr Kuzmak, 77, noted physician and surgeon, researcher and innovator involved in developing new methods of bariatric surgery, community activist – October 12.

• Bernard Korchinski, 100, Ukrainian Canadian community leader, founding member of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, author of the book "Pioneer Bishop" (about the first Ukrainian Catholic bishop in Canada, Nikita Budka), former member of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly – Regina, Saskatchewan, October 13.

• Zinaida Panasenko, 108, community activist, educator and teacher who inspired three generations of Ukrainian Americans in the Bay Area, survivor of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine – San Francisco, October 13.

• Oleh Sochan, 84, physician, longtime director of pathology at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers, N.Y., long-time choir director at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers – Yonkers, N.Y., October 17.

• Jaropolk Lassowsky, 65, professor at Clarion University in Pennsylvania, composer, conductor and violinist – Clarion, Pa., October 22.

• John Romanition, 91, attorney specializing in Ukrainian American affairs, former Essex County assistant prosecutor, past president of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America, former supreme advisor of the Ukrainian National Association, World War II veteran of the Army Air Corps – South Orange, N.J., October 28.

• Archbishop Stephan (Bilak), 89, leader of the Vicariate of the U.S. and Canadian parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate and archbishop of Boryspil, former auditor of the Ukrainian National Association, honorary member of the UNA General Assembly – Cooper City, Fla., November 10.

• Jack Palance, 87, born Volodymyr Ivanovych Palahniuk, Academy Award-winning actor (best supporting actor in the 1991 film "City Slickers"), honored as Ukrainian of the Year in 1986 by the Ukrainian Institute of America, narrator of "The Helm of Destiny" (documentary commissioned by the Ukrainian National Association), former national spokesperson for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, involved in the formation of The Hollywood Trident Group – Montecito, Calif., November 10.

• Ivan Stebelsky, 91, businessman, political and community activist in Denver, member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Organizational for the Rebirth of Ukraine, supporter of education, students and the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, who moved to Ukraine in 2000 – Sambir, Ukraine, November 11.

• Petro Kapschutschenko, 91, artist and sculptor, born

in Ukraine who emigrated to Argentina and eventually settled in the United States, recipient of Ukraine's Presidential Order of Merit; his monuments of Metropolitan Vasyl Lypkivskyi and Kyivan Princess St. Olha grace the Ukrainian Orthodox Center in South Bound Brook, N.J. – November 17.

• Maria Ripecky, 81, member of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the nursing service of the Ukrainian Red Cross – December 1.

• Ihor Sonevytsky, 80, composer, musicologist and conductor, co-founder of the Ukrainian Music Institute of America, and founder of the Music and Arts Center of Greene County in upstate New York – Hunter, N.Y., December 23.

### Meanwhile, here at The Ukrainian Weekly

Well, the best way to describe the year 2006 at The Ukrainian Weekly would be to call it a year of transition – a difficult year of transition.

First of all, we had a new boss, Walter Prochorenko, who was named to the newly created post of director of publications at the Ukrainian National Association. (For more on that, see the section on the UNA in our Year in Review.)

As a direct result of his tenure, The Weekly lost two staffers, Editors Andrew Nynka and Ika Koznarska Casanova, who opted to leave effective February 6.

That is why, two weeks before we reported their departure, The Ukrainian Weekly ran an advertisement for a job opening on its editorial staff.

Mr. Nynka, an editor with The Weekly since April 2001, promised to continue contributing to the newspaper as a special correspondent. He kept his promise, for which we are sincerely grateful.

During his time at The Weekly, Mr. Nynka covered Ukraine's participation in the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, both as a reporter and a photographer. He also covered Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's speech before a joint meeting of Congress and his meeting in the White House with President George W. Bush in 2005. During one of his trips to Ukraine he reported from a jail in Kharkiv, Ukraine (no, he wasn't doing time). His reporting duties also took him to the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

In early December 2004, when Roman Woronowycz, The Weekly's Kyiv correspondent at the time, left the staff, Mr. Nynka volunteered to serve at the Kyiv Press Bureau while The Weekly searched for a new bureau chief. Mr. Nynka served in that capacity through mid-January 2005, covering some of the most important developments of the Orange Revolution. Then our new Kyiv correspondent, Zenon Zawada, took over.

While working for The Weekly, Mr. Nynka earned a master's degree in journalism from New York University.

Ms. Casanova was on The Weekly staff as an assistant editor in 1980-1981; she re-joined the staff part-time as an assistant editor in 1990. She was later named an editor and assumed the duties of arts editor of The Weekly.

While at The Weekly, Ms. Casanova prepared such noteworthy series as "On the state of contemporary Ukrainian church art and architecture" (a 17-part series – still a record for the longest-running series published in our newspaper) and "The Ukrainian Museum and Ukrainian culture after independence" (four parts). She conducted interviews with such notables as former Soviet political prisoner Leonid Plyushch, Education Minister Petro Talanchuk and writer and political activist Ivan Drach.

Ms. Casanova is executive director of the Music and Art Center of Greene County, which is based in Jewett, N.Y.

Weekly staffers bid a fond farewell to Mr. Nynka and Ms. Casanova during the first week of February, wishing their colleagues well in their future endeavors.

We were lucky to fill the one full-time opening on our editorial staff when we hired Matthew Dubas, 27, a resident of Parsippany, N.J. – our home base, no less! Mr. Dubas began working with us on March 20 and three months later officially joined the staff as an editor. He was definitely a good hire.

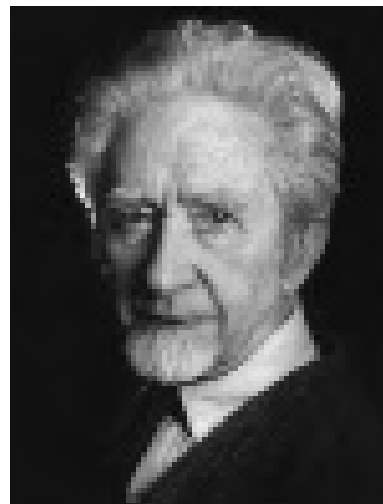
A 2001 graduate of Montclair State University in New Jersey, Mr. Dubas holds a bachelor's degree in history and minored in Russian area studies. He is an active member of the Ukrainian community and belongs to the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM). A talented musician who plays a mean accordion, Mr.



Wolodymyr Stojko



Omeljan Pritsak



Mykola Kolessa



Nadia Svitlychna



Jack Palance



Ihor Sonevytsky



## 2006: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Dubas performs with the New York-based Chornozem band, and also as a solo artist.

As for the rest of our editorial staff, that would be Roma Hadzewycz, editor-in-chief since 1980.

Our production staff is a duo: layout artist Larissa Oprysko, who joined us in May of 2004 (thank goodness she has a great sense of humor and a calm demeanor given all she has to deal with); and typesetter/layout person Awilda Rolon, who's been with The Weekly since December 1980. (Oops! That almost came out as 1890. Ms. Rolon has been here a long time, but not that long ...)

We continue to have a volunteer webmaster, Serge (Serhiy) Polishchuk (a.k.a. "Sid" due to a misunderstanding many years ago). Mr. Polishchuk continues to maintain The Ukrainian Weekly Archive on the Internet, which he updates on a weekly basis. (By the way, it's a little-known fact, but he especially enjoys solving the monthly "Mishanyna" in our UKELODEON section.)

We were lucky during 2006 to enlist the very valuable assistance of a former staff, Khristina Lew, who is one of our columnists. Ms. Lew consented to come in one day a week to help out at The Weekly. We hereby express our gratitude. (Thanks for making Wednesdays special!)

Certainly we can't forget about our summer interns. This year's interns were Natalie Temnycky, 19, of Morristown, N.J., a sophomore at Lehigh University who is considering a major in business and a minor in French and/or communications; and Adriana Brodyn, 20, of Springfield, N.J., a junior at Colgate University who is majoring in psychology and film. Ms. Temnycky was busy as an editorial assistant, while Ms. Brodyn worked on the production side of things as a photo intern for both The Weekly and Svoboda.

During the school year, The Weekly and Svoboda shared another student intern, Ariana Semegen, a local high school student who is active in the Ukrainian community of Morris County, N.J.

The Weekly published a number of special issues this year. Several issues each were devoted to two anniversaries: the 15th of Ukraine's independence and the 20th of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. There was also our special issue containing a section highlighting debutante balls and the annual release of "A Ukrainian Summer." And, oh yes, it seems like only yesterday, but we can't forget "2005: The Year in Review."

During 2006 we introduced a new feature, "Out and About," which provides a listing of events near and far in capsule form. We also introduced a new columnist, Yaro Bihun, who puts his thoughts down under the heading "Why not? Let's talk."

The latest addition to our official website, www.ukr-weekly.com, was made on February 22, 2006. It was unveiled, as has become traditional, on the anniversary of the founding of the UNA. The new addition includes the full texts of all 1,916 articles published in the 52 issues released during 2005. Thus, our archives website now contains 18,340 full text articles.

Our website, which was unveiled in 1998, is dedicated to archival materials published in our newspaper since its founding in October 1933. It includes the full texts of all articles published from 1996 through 2005, as well as a variety of articles published during The Weekly's 73+ years of service to the Ukrainian community. As well, it contains a number of special sections, foremost among them one devoted to the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. Many special issues appear in a section that is headlined as such; it includes year-in-review issues and special issues on such events as Ukraine's proclamation of sovereignty and, later, independence; the 10th anniversary of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group; the 60th anniversary of The Ukrainian Weekly; the 100th anniversary of the UNA; etc. (Why don't you log on and visit sometime?)

The year 2006 was notable for The Weekly because it marked the 15th anniversary of our Kyiv Press Bureau, which began functioning in January 2006, when Associate Editor Marta Kolomayets arrived on the scene. Our newspaper went down in history as the first foreign newspaper to establish a bureau in Kyiv.

Our paper was the focus of a special feature by the Voice of America when television correspondent Zorislav Baydyuk arrived at our editorial offices in Parsippany to interview and film our staff. At the same time, the intrepid Mr. Zawada was interviewed by VOA in Kyiv.

And, speaking of Kyiv, 2006 was the year when, finally, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names unanimously voted to change the transliteration of the name of Ukraine's capital from Kiev to Kyiv. That's right: K-Y-I-V. The decision came a mere 11 years after Ukraine let it be known that the preferred spelling was Kyiv. The

State Department has adopted the new spelling; we hope the news media follow suit in 2007.

Ms. Hadzewycz went on the road this year, speaking before the UNA Seniors at their annual conference at Soyuzivka on June 13 and the Ukrainian community of the Detroit area on October 29. In Warren, Mich., she spoke at a meeting sponsored jointly by the local chapter of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Detroit District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association. Her topic: "The Ukrainian Press in America: Do We Need It?" (Readers can guess that her answer was a very emphatic "yes.")

Finally, we report with great pleasure – and great gratitude – that contributions to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund during 2006 totaled \$25,694.51. These donations mean a lot to The Ukrainian Weekly, and they certainly do help our bottom line.

Oh, one more thing: 2006 was one of those years that readers got a bonus issue. Yep, there were 53 issues of The Weekly.

### Author, author

The articles in our 2006: The Year in Review were prepared by the editorial staff of The Ukrainian Weekly, Roma Hadzewycz, Matthew Dubas and Zenon Zawada,

as well as our colleagues Andrew Nynka, Yaro Bihun (our Washington correspondent), Oksana Zakydalsky (our Toronto reporter) and Deanna Yurchuk, a former student intern who still keeps in touch with us.

Assisting (tremendously) with proofreading duties for this huge issue were Khristina Lew and Markian Hadzewycz (on winter break from his graduate school).

To be sure, the materials in this special issue also encompass the work of countless other correspondents whose work was utilized in preparing the individual sections herein.

A disclaimer: of necessity, "2006: The Year in Review" cannot include every single story published during the year; selections were made based on the editors' discretion.

### Our best wishes for 2007

As we conclude work on this yearender, Dear Readers, we can officially close the book on 2006. We wish you all a happy New Year according to the Julian calendar; merry Malankas (if you're Ukrainian you just gotta attend more than one!); and all the best in the coming year.

May 2007 bring you good fortune, good health and much joy.

# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

OFFERING THE UKRAINIAN PERSPECTIVE  
FOR MORE THAN 73 YEARS.

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## Top issues for Ukraine...

(Continued from page 1)

launched by Agrarika, Ltd.

The Verkhovna Rada passed a decision on January 9 requiring a report from the Cabinet of Ministers by February 1 on the status of Ukraine's preparations for WTO entry.

Minister of the Economy Volodymyr Makukha said on December 28 that he expects Ukraine will become a WTO member by the middle of summer, barring any unexpected delays. The government has already sent copies of the necessary WTO laws to participants in the accession process, Mr. Makukha said.

Ukraine's WTO supporters argue it will enable freer trade and more competition, thereby lowering prices for Ukraine's overpriced consumer goods, as well as encouraging desperately needed foreign investment.

Opponents argue it will disrupt or ruin sectors within Ukraine's economy, particularly agriculture.

### Foreign policy

The battle between Mr. Yushchenko and Mr. Yanukovich for control of Ukraine's foreign policy wasn't resolved in 2006.

The Cabinet of Ministers still maintains that Mr. Tarasyuk is no longer the foreign affairs minister, while Mr. Tarasyuk and his allies, including the president, insist that he is.

Mr. Tarasyuk didn't get more help from the courts on January 9, when the Kyiv Appellate Court overturned the Shevchenko District Court ruling declaring his dismissal illegal.

"The Constitutional Court will have the last word," Mr. Tarasyuk said, adding that he has no doubt in the legitimacy of him remaining as foreign affairs minister.

Mr. Yanukovich is particularly interested in ridding his Cabinet of Mr. Tarasyuk because his ability to influence relations and foreign policy decisions with the Russian Federation is a top priority.

The Russian Federation and Ukraine will engage in important discussions this year regarding delimiting and the demarcation their 979-mile border – particularly in the sensitive Kerch Strait and Azov Sea, considered to be the last frontier in determining the two nations' borders.

In his role as foreign affairs minister, Mr. Tarasyuk has demonstrated that he works for Ukraine's national interests, and is committed to integrating Ukraine with Euro-Atlantic structures such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU).

Therefore, he inhibits Mr. Yanukovich's ability to offer the Russian Federation concessions, as former President Leonid Kuchma had done.

Political observers also suspect the Russian Federation and Russian businessmen will make attempts this year to buy parts of Ukraine's natural gas and oil transit systems.

Through the creation of a natural gas crisis in late December, the Russian government succeeded in forcing the Belarusian government to sell a 50 percent stake in its natural gas transit system to Gazprom, the state-owned monopoly.

A similar fate may await Ukraine, either through another hatched crisis or the voluntary sale of Ukraine's strategic assets by the pro-Russian coalition government, observers said.

Russians are also eyeing Ukrtelekom, Ukraine's telephone utility.

During its January 11 session, the Verkhovna Rada voted to allow for the privatization of Ukrtelekom, among other attractive government assets.

### Land for sale

Whether it will happen this year or next Ukraine's agricultural land will soon come on the market for sale – a significant development that will have enormous implications for Ukrainians.

Since independence, the Ukrainian government has forbidden the sale of agriculturally designated land. A moratorium had been in place until January 1, 2007. On December 19, the Verkhovna Rada passed a bill to extend the moratorium until January 1, 2008.

Once again, the Presidential Secretariat was at odds with the coalition government, as Mr. Yushchenko vetoed the bill January 3.

Extending the moratorium, the president said, violates the right of Ukrainians to sell their property and creates the possibility for shadow schemes and corruption.

Vice Prime Minister of the Fuel and Energy Complex Andrii Kliuyev voiced the coalition government's stance that allowing the sale of land without the necessary legislative foundation and land cadastre system "will lead to chaos."

Organized destruction of agricultural land, rampant speculation and swindling schemes will proliferate without the moratorium, said Ivan Bokyi, a national deputy from the Socialist Party.

On the other hand, proponents said the moratorium's extension would only lead to a black market and scams to exploit Ukraine's villagers.

The Verkhovna Rada voted overwhelmingly on January 9 to overturn the president's veto, with 367 votes in support, including those of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc.

The Tymoshenko Bloc doesn't oppose the sale of land, but wants to extend the moratorium in order for a civilized, organized market to develop with a legislative foundation of normative acts, said Yulia Tymoshenko, the bloc's leader.

Presidential Secretariat Vice-Chair Arsenii Yatseniuk said the president will consider signing the moratorium's extension if the Ukrainian Parliament reviews the legislative necessary to launch Ukraine's organized land market.

On January 11, President Yushchenko signed the law extending the land moratorium until January 1, 2008, but stated that he would send a letter to the Constitutional Court asking it to declare the vote to override his veto unconstitutional.

Mr. Yushchenko described the vote as a "blatant violation of human rights, reminiscent of Stalin's times." He reiterated his belief that no laws should restrict Ukrainian citizens or farmers from selling their property as they wished and said he was concerned that the prolonged moratorium could result in shady land schemes.

At the same time, Mr. Yushchenko asked the Verkhovna Rada to pass as soon as possible the necessary laws creating a state land cadastre and an organized real estate market in order to allow for the extended moratorium to expire promptly next January 1.

The land sale issue is sure to dominate Ukrainian politics and economics in the coming years, given the high stakes involved – Ukraine's agricultural land fund consists of 81.5 million acres, worth an estimated \$60 billion.

### Clarifying authority

Both the coalition government and the Presidential Secretariat want changes to the Constitution regarding the distribution of authority within the Ukrainian government. Naturally, both sides want the balance of power to shift in their own direction.

The coalition government recently passed a law "On the Cabinet of Ministers," which would significantly curb the president's authority. For example, any presidential decree would require signatures from the prime minister and Cabinet Minister responsible for executing it. The law would also restrict the president from giving orders to Cabinet of Ministers.

President Yushchenko, meanwhile, wants to cancel the constitutional changes that went into effect on January 1, 2006, and created the parliamentary-presidential republic.

Canceling the reforms would restore to the Ukrainian presidency the immense, wide-reaching authority it had under when Mr. Kuchma was president.

Mr. Moroz has already threatened the president with impeachment should he carry out canceling the January reforms.

On the other hand, Mr. Yushchenko is sure to veto the parliament's recently passed legislation.

Therefore, it's likely, and widely hoped, that the two sides will reach compromises in further defining the authority, and clarifying its limits, that each branch of government has under the parliamentary-presidential republic.

During their January 10 meeting, the three leaders agreed to work together to draft the law "On the Cabinet of Ministers," though it's uncertain they will be very successful.

They also discussed launching a Constitutional Commission.

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# Oksana Lutzky's "Memoirs" presented at Shevchenko Society

*Shevchenko Scientific Society*

NEW YORK – The Shevchenko Scientific Society of America on November 11, 2006, organized an evening devoted to the presentation of a new book, "Memoirs (Spohady)", authored by Oksana Lemecha-Lutzky, which was published by Lilea Press in Ternopil in 2005.

The book consists of two parts. The first part describes the author's activities in Stanislaviv – now Ivano Frankivsk – in 1930-1942. There, as a member of a youth chapter of the Soyuz Ukrainok, she was a co-organizer of a memorable event, "Day of the Village Women" (Den Selianky), which was part of the First Congress of Ukrainian Women in 1934. This event involved thousands of rural women in colorful folk costumes, who paraded at the congress and participated in a special program devoted to them.

At that time, Ms. Lemecha was a member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), whose goal was to promote the independence of Ukraine. Because of her membership in OUN, she was arrested by the Polish authorities and imprisoned for three years in Stanislaviv. Later, she was also imprisoned for the same reasons by the Communists in 1939, and by the Nazis in 1941.

In 1943 she left Ukraine with her husband, Evhen Lutzky, to escape from the communists and the Red Army, which was reoccupying western Ukraine. The family stayed briefly in the Lemko region of Ukraine, then fled to Slovakia and in the end found refuge in a displaced persons (DP) camp in Landshut, a city in the American zone of Germany. The camp had a large Ukrainian community and Ms. Lutzky took an active part in organizing a camp high school, where she taught physical education. She also was instrumental in organizing a chapter of Plast. She enjoyed working with Ukrainian youth groups, and later served as counselor and director of several Plast camps.

In 1950 she immigrated with her family to New York City, where she took an active part in the work of the Ukrainian diaspora. She served not only as an activist in various organizations, but also published many articles in Ukrainian newspapers, which described the activities of these organizations throughout the years 1950-2002. These articles included excerpts from the minutes of various organization meetings, including photographs and program notes, and form the main part of her book.

The community work of Ms. Lutzky is described thematically in six sections. She was a member of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church building committee, which raised funds in the 1970s for the construction of a new parish church in New York City. In 1970-2000 she was an active member of the Patriarchal Society which strove for papal recognition of a Ukrainian Catholic patriarchate, beginning with Patriarch Josyf Slipyi. She documented their meetings, petitions, presentations by churchmen and lay scholars, and wrote press releases to inform the public about this movement.

For 22 years she served as secretary of the first branch of the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in New York and six years as its president. In the book Ms. Lutzky reminisces about the 80th anniversary of Providence, which was celebrated in 1980, and includes excerpts from the minutes of the meeting.

Ms. Lutzky belonged to the Central Committee of Ukrainian American



As the Shevchenko Scientific Society are: (first row, from left) Svitlana Makhno, Orest Popovych, Svitlana Andrushkiw, Oksana Lutzky, Evelyn Lutzky, Pavlo Andrushkiw, Taras Shumylowych, Roman Andrushkiw, (second row); Andrii Lehkyi, Vasyl Makhno, George Gajecky, Marko Lutzky, Oleksander Lutzky and Erle Bjorn Lutzky.

Organizations in New York (KOYAO), an umbrella organization that coordinated the activities of its member-organizations. The staging of a concert marking the Celebration of the Ukrainian Millennium of Christianity at Lincoln Center in 1988 was a memorable event of the committee. Other events mentioned were the Leontovych concert of 1981, the Lesia Ukrainka concert of 1983 and Lidia Krushelnyska's annual theatrical events.

For 30 years Ms. Lutzky served as press secretary for the Foundation of the Ukrainian Free University (UFU). This organization raised funds for scholarships, scholarly publications and maintenance of the university in Munich, Germany. She wrote about the patrons who generously supported UFU programs.

Ms. Lutzky served on the executive

committee of the Ukrainian Music Institute (UMI) for many years, during Daria Karanowych's tenure as president. She wrote many articles about the activities of UMI, where two of her children and grandson were also students. In 2004 the Ukrainian Music Institute, under the leadership of President Taisa Bohdanska, sponsored her 90th jubilee at the Ukrainian Institute of America with a gala music program.

The book "Memoirs," which relates the life of a civic activist in the New York City community, is a serious contribution to the history of the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States in the latter part of the 20th century.

The book presentation, sponsored by the Shevchenko Scientific Society paid tribute to the work of Ms. Lutzky. Prof. George Gajecky discussed her life in

Ukraine, Germany and the United States and summarized the book. The artist Bohdan Tytla shared his memories of working with Ms. Lutzky in the Landshut DP camp.

Readings from "Memoirs" were given by Svitlana Makhno and Marko Lutzky. A piano accompaniment to the poem "Olha Basarab" written by Ms. Lutzky in 1947 was provided by Andrii Lehkyi, while Ms. Makhno recited the poem. A slide show during the program illustrated some of the author's activities. Svitlana Andrushkiw read greetings from well-wishers for the event. The program was conducted by Vasyl Makhno, the editor of Memoirs.

The book launch was a fitting recognition of the 50 years of service by Oksana Lutzky to the Ukrainian community of New York City.

## UWC offers assistance to Ukraine regarding issue of Famine-Genocide

*Ukrainian World Congress*

TORONTO – In a December 4 letter to Ukraine's Presidential Secretariat and the Institute of National Memory, the Ukrainian World Congress has offered assistance in the implementation of Ukraine's recently passed law which declared that the "Holodomor was a genocide against the Ukrainian people.

In its letter the UWC informed the chief of the Presidential Secretariat, Viktor Baloha, and the chair of the Institute of National Memory, Ihor Yuhnovskyi, that for more than five years the UWC has been working through its member central organizations on foreign parliaments enacting resolutions condemning Ukraine's Great

Famine of 1932-1933 as genocide and that a model resolution is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Further, the letter advised that, in addition to the already adopted legislation in eight or nine countries, serious efforts are being made by many other Ukrainian diaspora communities to have their Parliaments pass such resolutions by the time of the 75th anniversary of the Famine in 2008.

The Ukrainian World Congress letter also offered the diaspora's assistance in providing archival material, witness testimony as well as helping to fund the memorial complex to be opened in time for the 75th anniversary observances in Kyiv. The newly passed law specifically referred to the memorial complex, and

the UWC expressed its view that this is its most tangible section, requiring immediate attention.

Long before discussions within Ukraine's presidential administration about such a memorial complex, the government, the parliament and the Kyiv State Administration, which have delayed this project several years, in a letter to Ukraine's president at the time, Leonid Kuchma, the UWC had offered to construct – at the diaspora's cost and expense – a suitable Holodomor monument in Kyiv. The UWC has never revoked this offer and stands willing today to facilitate and expedite this long overdue project, the organization underscored in its letter to Mr. Baloha and Dr. Yuhnovskyi.

### 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.
- All materials must be typed and double-spaced.
- 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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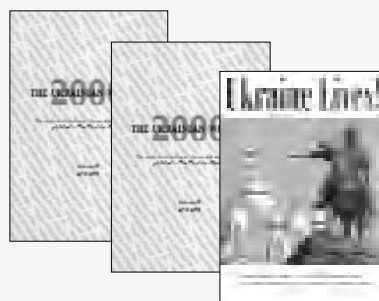
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CLASSIFIEDS section.

## Crosscurrents

(Continued from page 4)

Western non-governmental organization organized a seminar for young Ukrainian scholars on deconstructing the "national paradigm" so painstakingly cultivated in the diaspora.

While thinking outside the nationalist box may be a salutary intellectual exercise, today's academic and political fashions play into the hands of Ukraine's business and industrial elite. Whether cosmopolitan or merely Eurasian, its outlook belittles "narrow" Ukrainian loyalties, while its appetite for limitless commercial ties untrammelled by national borders may gain sympathy among its Western as well as its Russian counterparts. Why should linguistic, cultural, economic, or political limits obstruct almighty business?

In short, the independent, democratic nation-state symbolized by January 22 is an endangered ideal. Perhaps those community "akademiyi," like the photographs of our grandfathers in long military coats and tall woolen caps, were just relics of a romantic but irretrievable past. If so, we are much the poorer for it.

\*\*\*

Further reading: Taras Hunczak, ed. "The Ukraine, 1917-1921: A Study in Revolution." Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, 1977. The appendix contains the texts of the four Universals of 1917-1918 in English translation.

## Kuzio's blog...

(Continued from page 4)

Relations, a Radio Liberty reporter asked him how he could now claim he is in favor of cooperation with NATO. To prove his point he showed him a Yanukovych leaflet from the 2004 elections that was virulently anti-NATO.

This is simple to explain. Yanukovych and the Party of the Regions have changed their stance on NATO three times in four years, from support for membership in 2002-2004, to hostility toward anything NATO-related when in opposition in 2005, to support for cooperation today.

There is little consistency here, as there is on many other domestic and foreign policy issues.

Perhaps Yanukovych should be nominated to the Guinness Book of Word Records for his ability to change stances so often without even noticing?

## Attention, Students!

Throughout the year  
Ukrainian student clubs  
plan and hold activities.  
The Ukrainian Weekly  
urges students to let us and  
the Ukrainian community  
know about upcoming events.

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to help you publicize them.  
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timely news stories about  
events that have already taken  
place. Photos also will be  
accepted.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.

# An appeal to American veterans of Ukrainian descent

by Anna Krawczuk

The Ukrainian American Veterans Inc., Registration Project is an ongoing, long-term effort initiated in 1998. The UAV Registration Project is designated as a tribute to all men and women of Ukrainian heritage who served honorably and with distinction in the United States armed forces.

The principal mission is to register, honor and publish the names of Ukrainian Americans who have served or are on active duty in the U.S. military and to establish an accurate demographic profile of these individuals.

A related, future objective is to include the information gathered through the Registration Project in a permanent collection for an Educational Center at the UAV National Monument, which is to be erected on the grounds of St. Andrew's Memorial Church and Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

The UAV Registration Project is a prodigious task that involves diligent and painstaking research. When we began this task, we realized that we must locate and examine records dating to the beginning of the 20th century, including those related to several waves of immigration.

This has been a difficult and sometimes frustrating process because many Ukrainian immigrants to the United States were not registered as Ukrainians. They were registered as citizens of countries occupying Ukraine: Austria-Hungary, Poland, Russia and the USSR. Because Ukraine was not an independent state during most of the 20th century, it

*Anna Krawczuk is national commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans Inc.*

did not officially exist as a geopolitical entity, even though the Ukrainian people never ceased "existing."

The UAV's ongoing research is multi-faceted, and the archival material we have gathered includes church bulletins, honor rolls, posters, photographs of monuments dedicated to or by Ukrainian American veterans, newspaper clippings, photos of GI grave foot markers, and oral and written narratives from veterans or their family members.

One volume of the project, dedicated to World War II veterans, has already been published; work on a second volume, dedicated to veterans who served during the Korean conflict, is in process. Subsequent volumes will be dedicated to Vietnam veterans and veterans of more recent conflicts, such as Desert Storm.

"UAV Registration Project Report Volume I (1998-2004)" was published in May 2004. The volume commemorates the 60th anniversary of World War II and was dedicated to World War II veterans. It contains 3,115 names acquired from documented registrants and from archival sources. Limited issues of this volume are still in stock and can be purchased for \$15 per copy. Please make checks payable to UAV and forward requests to: UAV, P.O. Box 172, Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172.

At this time, we are intensively working on "UAV Registration Project Report Volume II" (2004-2007), dedicated to veterans of the Korean War. The projected publication date of 2008 coincides with the 60th anniversary of the UAV, which was established in 1948.

The Korean War – sometimes called the "forgotten war" – lasted three years (1950-1953). The relatively short and much mis-



The photograph above was forwarded to the Ukrainian American Veterans by Dr. Ostap Stromecky (first from left) and was captioned "A group of Ukrainians in Korea, 1952. Members of 1st Marine Division Recon Company." Unfortunately, the names of the other three servicemen in the photograph are not known. If readers recognize any of these individuals, they are asked to write to the UAV.

understood conflict exacted a heavy toll: 54,246 deaths and hundreds of thousands wounded. It was a war that will never be forgotten by those whose loved ones perished or by those who served, including the many young men of Ukrainian descent who were drafted soon after arriving in their new homeland after World War II.

To date, the UAV has over 100 Korean era documented registrants (those who served in Korea, in other countries, or stateside). We are grateful to those who wrote, registered and sent photographs.

The Ukrainian American Veterans, Registration Project is a valuable historical endeavor, and we encourage all American veterans of Ukrainian descent to register. You do not have to be a member of the UAV to register. The registra-

tion project is open to all Ukrainian Americans who served in the U.S. armed forces. We also ask relatives and friends to register loved ones who have served in wars and conflicts of the 20th century or who are presently on active duty.

To obtain a Registration Form, write to: UAV, P.O. Box 172, Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172 or e-mail [uav.reg@att.net](mailto:uav.reg@att.net). (You can also visit the website at [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org)).

To complete the registration, please submit the form with a copy of discharge papers DD214 (or equivalent). We ask veterans to please consider sending us a photo in uniform as well as narratives related to your military service and experience. Come forward, stand up and be counted!

## Fukuyama...

(Continued from page 2)

from abroad?

No, I think that social capital is almost always built from the bottom up, through people working together, the way they're trained and educated and so forth. Governments can only create a framework in which people can create social capital for themselves, and so the government has to avoid being too interventionist in controlling everything.

People have to be allowed freedom to associate and to work with each other. But the government has to provide the basic security, stability, social order and political order. That's also another necessary condition for social capital to arise.

**And what about foreign governments or foreign sponsors or international organizations trying to sponsor NGOs in certain countries?**

I think you have to put that into the broader context of globalization. It's simply the case that a lot of things move across international borders – money, ideas, communication, information. So I think it's inevitable that people look to foreign models and ideas, they get funding from outside in shaping their own society.

But in the end it is the people in the society that create civil society, they create social capital, they create democracy. It's not something that can really be done by any group of outsiders.

**You have often been criticized for cultural determinism. This is an important issue for Ukraine, because in its history, Ukraine has been torn between different empires and now the unity of the country is still a test that people have to face.**

**What is your advice on this? How do you close the cultural gaps within a country?**

I think that cultures change over time. Right now you have a very different global condition where you have influences that don't come just from the neighborhood, they come from all over the place, from Europe, from America. I think the important thing is to remain open to those other types of ideas and models. Also the way that people get training and knowledge, that has a big effect on culture. So all of these I think will affect Ukrainian culture in the future.

### Notice to UKELODEON readers

Look for our monthly UKELODEON

section "for the next generation"

in next week's issue.

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Every great institution depends on a core of dedicated supporters who are willing to take their commitment beyond the occasional visit and become involved at a deeper level. For the **Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation**, that kind of commitment is essential—and can be exhibited in becoming the first members of the new **Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation**.

There will be many levels of membership, but at the heart of it all, members will be individuals who share the vision of Soyuzivka as the epicenter of the Ukrainian American community, members who desire to promote and preserve their cultural, educational, and historical Ukrainian-American heritage. Since 1952, Soyuzivka has been the hub of the Ukrainian American community, a gathering place to which the descendants of the many waves of Ukrainian immigrants keep returning to experience their rich cultural heritage and to meet other Ukrainian Americans. Today, in the establishment of a **Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation**, Ukrainian Americans and supporters of Soyuzivka join in their efforts to preserve this cultural jewel.

Many of these descendants are experiencing a renewed interest in their ethnic roots. The **Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation** is an initiative to re-educate both young and old in an effort to maintain a proud heritage.

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## BOOK NOTES

## CIUS publishes novel "Wozzeck" by Izdryk, a major literary work, in English translation

"Wozzeck," by Izdryk. Edmonton-Toronto: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 2006. 130 pp. \$24.95 (paperback), \$44.95 (hardcover).

by Mark Andryczyk

With the recent publication of Izdryk's novel "Wozzeck," the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press offers its latest installment in a series of English-language translations of the major achievements in post-Soviet Ukrainian literature. Like Yuri Andrukhovych's "Recreations," which CIUS Press published in 1997, "Wozzeck" is one of the most hotly discussed literary works in today's Ukraine, and it functions as a key representative of contemporary Ukrainian culture outside the country's borders.

"Wozzeck" offers a post-modern exercise in the construction and deconstruction of a text in which the author traces the boundaries of a self through an onslaught of references and word games. The novel itself represents an innovative search for a new form of literature with which to express the existential concerns of contemporary man.

Questioning and challenging many established truths governing society, Izdryk upends the world, sends it crashing down and then attempts to assemble its pieces into a form with which he can find peace and understanding. Man, embodied by the character Wozzeck, is examined through his relations with others and by witnessing how he is affected (or not affected) by his surroundings. It is by continuously treading the borders of what constitutes a self that Izdryk provides insight into both the rigidity and the uncertainty of such boundaries.

Yuri Izdryk – known simply as Izdryk – was born in the western Ukrainian industrial city of Kalush in 1962 and is a key figure in post-Soviet Ukrainian culture. As a writer, visual artist and musician, Izdryk, both alone and in collaboration with other intellectuals, has been responsible for many of the lasting artistic achievements in this period. He is the



author of four volumes of prose: "Votstsek" (1997), "Ostriv Krk ta Inshi Istori" (The Island of Krk and Other Stories, 1998), "Podviinyi Leon" (Double Leon, 2000) and "AMTM" (2005).

Since 1990 he has been the editor of the literary and visual arts journal Chetver (Thursday), having in the late 1990s, recast it from being a voice for his own generation of writers to acting as a much-needed forum for Ukraine's youngest literary talents.

Izdryk's novel "Wozzeck" was originally published in its entirety in 1997 by Lileia-NV, a relatively small but prestigious publisher of contemporary Ukrainian belles lettres which focuses on, but is not restricted to, the writers of the local, so-called Stanislav Phenomenon. Including, among others, Yuri Andrukhovych, Taras Prokhasko, and Yaroslav Dovhan, the Stanislav Phenomenon is a loose grouping of cre-

ative individuals organized in the city of Ivano-Frankivsk (Stanislav was the name for the city from 1939 to 1962;) prior to that it was known as Stanyslaviv) who were among the most active promulgators of new Ukrainian culture in the 1990s. Fragments of "Wozzeck" had appeared previously in several literary journals (including Chetver) and almanacs throughout the 1990s.

As the novel's translator Marko Pavlyshyn points out in "Wozzeck's" introductory essay, there were three "Wozzecks" that preceded Izdryk's literary creation. Johann Christian Woyzeck was an actual, historical figure who murdered his wife in 1821 in a fit of jealous rage brought on by his suspicions of her infidelity. Secondly, "Woyzeck" was the name of a play written by Georg Büchner in the 1830s. Thirdly, "Wozzeck," an opera, was written by Alban Berg and staged in Berlin in the 1920s.

Izdryk's "Wozzeck" is divided into two major sections – "Night" and "Day" – which are almost equal in length. Mirroring reality, the "Day" section features more physical action than "Night," but both parts consist mostly of contemplation and dreams. A multitude of flashbacks extend the novel's time span past one 24-hour period and, although there occasionally is a somewhat linear passage of time within each chapter, a general temporal continuity between these chapters seldom occurs. As a result, "Wozzeck" maintains a dream-like ambience throughout.

Despite the lack of a linear plot, "Wozzeck's" narrative unfolds in a remarkably smooth fashion. The novel's looping juxtapositions are occasionally grounded by Izdryk's wit and pointed observations of the contemporary world. The novel features a multitude of references to 20th century European cultural figures, including nods to Izdryk's contemporaries in Ukraine. What results is a fresh approach to time-honored Western philosophical queries informed by a post-Soviet Ukrainian point of view.

Full of word games and intertextuality, the novel undoubtedly presents a challenge for its translator. Fortunately for the English-language reader, Mr. Pavlyshyn is very well acquainted with

Izdryk's creative output and has produced an excellent translation. The novel's various allusions were well-researched and clearly annotated by Pavlyshyn; for the sake of further illumination, the translator occasionally refers to previous publications that have supplied commentary on the novel. Izdryk's particularly sharp utilization of irony, also a potential source of difficulty for a translator, is well rendered into English.

Of added value, the publication includes the essay by Mr. Pavlyshyn, which introduces the reader to "Wozzeck's" author and offers a brief, yet comprehensive, survey of the cultural milieu in post-Soviet Ukraine, as well as a bibliography of other analyses of this scene that have been published in the English language. Such supplements make the volume a very valuable contribution to the field of Ukrainian studies today.

As a final bonus, the book's cover was designed by Izdryk himself. This practice is consistent with his publications in Ukraine and offers the reader of "Wozzeck" an additional view of Izdryk's creative talents.

This publication by CIUS Press provides the English-language reader with access to the cutting edge of contemporary Ukrainian literature.

Izdryk is a writer who infuriates some readers and attracts a devoted following in others and "Wozzeck" is among those books that are most often debated at art cafes in Lviv, Kharkiv and Kyiv. Izdryk's "Wozzeck" is a challenging novel that demands much attention from its reader. However, a reader who invests the effort and joins Izdryk's quest through an assortment of dreams, quotes and word puns will be rewarded with a fascinating perspective on one man's wry yearning for intimacy and tranquility in today's sample-laden, "age of information."

The book is available in a paperback edition for \$24.95 and in hardcover for \$44.95 (plus shipping; outside Canada prices are in U.S. dollars). Orders can be placed via the secure online ordering system of CIUS Press at [www.utoronto.ca/cius](http://www.utoronto.ca/cius) or by contacting CIUS Press, 450 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2E8; telephone, 780-492-2973.

## VOA axes...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukrainian radio broadcasts. And, it aired in a most popular time slot – as listeners started their day before going off to work or school.

The last broadcast of that show aired Christmas greetings from Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., Archbishop-Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S., and Pastor Ivan Kovalchuk of the Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Convention.

The Ukrainian Weekly contacted Adrian Karmazyn, chief of the Ukrainian Service, on Wednesday, January 10, via e-mail with specific questions about the cuts to the radio side of the service, but Mr. Karmazyn did not reply. He did phone The Weekly after getting the e-mail, but left a voice mail without replying to any of the questions posed. Subsequent attempts by The Weekly to reach Mr. Karmazyn on Thursday, January 11, were unsuccessful.

However, The Weekly did get a call from Joe O'Connell, VOA's director of public affairs, who said he would try to get answers to The Weekly's questions, though he doubted he could do so in time for the

newspaper's deadline. (The Weekly goes to press early Friday mornings.)

According to various VOA staffers, who requested that their names not be used, the staff was notified 10 days prior to the planned cut-off date and listeners were informed only two days before the last broadcast aired.

One staffer added: "We are deeply saddened, surprised and, frankly, puzzled by the decision of 'VOA management' to eliminate the VOA Ukrainian radio 'Breakfast Show.'" The staffer added that the short notice of the cut "made it virtually impossible to mobilize the Ukrainian American community, which in the past has been very supportive of VOA Ukrainian radio broadcasts, recognizing their contributions to the spread of democracy in Ukraine."

A second staffer pointed out: "In February 2006 the Broadcasting Board of Governors proposed several reductions for Fiscal 2007, such as the elimination of several language services, as well as the elimination of VOA Russian, Serbian, Bosnian, Georgian and Albanian radio programs. At that time there was no mention of any reduction in VOA Ukrainian radio programming. Our 'Breakfast Show' is gone... and [management] never gave us an official explanation as to the change in plans. Perhaps Ukraine

is no longer as important to U.S. foreign policy, as other countries."

"The president of Local AFGE 1812 [a union that represents staffers] also tried, unsuccessfully, to get an explanation for this decision. Why the secrecy?" another staffer added.

Veteran editor/anchor Anya Dydyk Petrenko did go on record to say: "When I came to VOA 22 years ago we had five hours of programming a day. At that time the Soviet government jammed VOA programs. Today, when Ukrainians are

free to listen to programs in Ukrainian from the U.S., our air time is down to one hour a day. Go figure."

According to the Voice of America website, VOA media use 44 languages. Via radio, television and the Internet, VOA – whose mission is "to broadcast accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information to an international audience" – reaches an audience of 155 million each week. VOA is funded by the U.S. government through the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

### AN OPEN INVITATION TO LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

Would you like fellow Ukrainians to know about events in your community?  
Would you like to become one of The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondents?  
Then what are you waiting for?

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions  
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You may reach The Weekly by phone,  
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e-mail, [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com);

or mail, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280,  
Parsippany, NJ 07054.

## UNWLA branch hosts exhibit of art by three generations of Sayenkos

by Petrusia Sawchak

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – A unique exhibit of straw mosaics, tapestries, batiks on silk, gouaches and mixed media was presented by Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) Branch 88 of the Philadelphia Regional Council. The works were on display in the Dr. Alexander Chemyk Gallery at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, on December 1-3, 2006.

Featuring three generations of the Sayenko family from Ukraine, the exhibition included a total of 60 works by the renowned artist Oleksander Sayenko (now deceased), his daughter, Nina, and granddaughter, Lesya Sayenko Maydanets.

Their art is rooted in traditional Ukrainian folk art as was apparent from their works, but it transcends this sphere to encompass symbolism and abstractions found in more avant-garde themes. The abundance of rich brilliant color was profoundly evident in the tapestries and batiks.

"As in folk art, the works of Nina Sayenko carry the symbolism, sorcery, and their own musical and soulful key. At the same time, they are alive and seem to have their own flesh and blood. The individuality of the works by this artist shows both in the subtle perception of color and in the perfection of form, whether it is the composition of pictures inlaid with straw or tapestry," commented curator Nina Velihotska in the catalogue.

Ms. Maydanets works primarily on tapestries and textile paintings, and instills in them her philosophical view of folk art based on her interpretation of Ukrainian history.

A new breed of artist is emerging today, particularly among the young ones – that of a 'polystylist.' Lesya Maydanets' works rep-

resent this tendency with its lyrical abstractions, neo-folkloric and sensual images to mention a few," added Ms. Velihotska.

The proceeds from the artwork will be used to support the UNWLA's "A Child-Friendly Waiting Room Project" for the new children's hospital being built in Kyiv to help children in Ukraine, many of whom were born critically deformed or with serious medical problems as a direct result of the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe that occurred in 1986.

The UNWLA, founded in 1925, is committed to humanitarian, charitable and cultural programs both in the United States and around the world. It is hoped this newest project will bring a little happiness to children entering the new hospi-

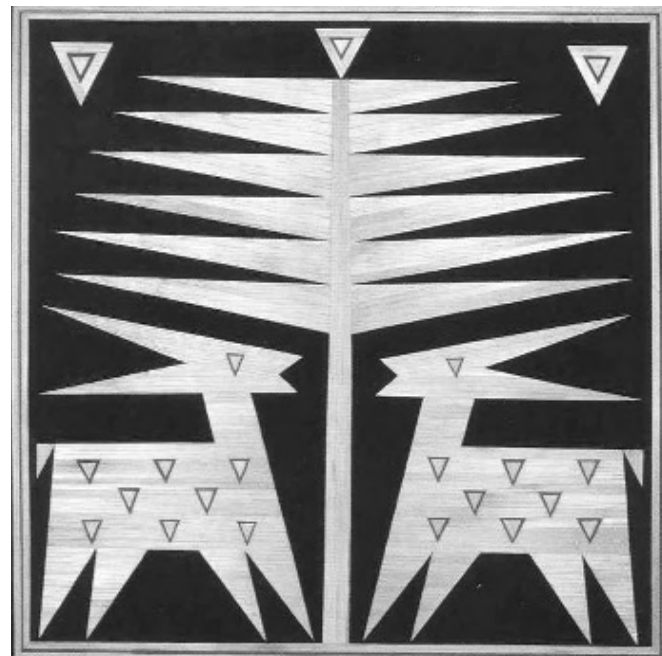
tal in Kyiv for treatments and make the entire experience less traumatic for them. Proceeds will also be used to benefit the Art Academy for Speech-and Hearing-Impaired Children in Kyiv.

Christine Shwed, president of UNWLA Branch 88, opened the exhibit during the

reception held on Friday, December 1, and introduced the artists. Master classes in straw mosaics, weaving and batik on silk were also held on Saturday, December 2, and many students from the Ukrainian Heritage School took advantage of them to learn more of these techniques.



"Kozak Mamai" (1928) by Oleksander Savenko.



"Goats Near the Tree" (1994) by Nina Sayenko.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

as Ukraine did in early 2006. As a result, the Ukrainian gas-transportation system remained under Ukraine's ownership. "Moreover, Ukraine got the most efficient and best price for gas – \$95 [per 1,000 cubic meters] – and the highest gas-transit rate," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### PM promises social-economic development

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, opening the January 10 government session, spoke about the government's transition from an anti-crisis program to a program of social-economic development of Ukraine. "The anti-crisis program, which we outlined in early August 2006, has practically drawn to a close. Opening the year of 2007, we should remember our responsibility for the implementation of a social-economic development program for 2007," the prime minister stressed. He noted that one of the main achievements of 2006 was overcoming the 2006 budget shortage of 10 billion hryv. "We've managed to close the year by overfulfilling the budget by 3.5 percent. Our achievements in late 2006 allow us to successfully start 2007," he said. (Ukrinform)

### Court of appeals rules against Tarasyuk

KYIV – The Kyiv Court of Appeal canceled the ruling of the Shevchenkivskiy District Court of December 5, 2006, on suspending the resolution of the Verkhovna Rada on the dismissal of Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, the Rada's press service reported on January 9. The Kyiv Court of Appeal civil chamber passed the ruling on January 4 and returned the case to the Shevchenkivskiy District Court. On December 1, 2006, the Verkhovna Rada sent Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk packing. Mr. Tarasyuk then filed suit in the Shevchenkivskiy District Court against the Parliament, asking the court to rule that the Parliament's resolution was illegal. On December 5 the court had suspended the resolution. (Ukrinform)

### Tarasyuk continues to fulfill duties

KYIV – Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk is continuing to

fulfill his ministerial duties, disregarding the cancellation by the Court of Appeal of the ruling of the Shevchenkivskiy District Court to suspend the Verkhovna Rada resolution on his dismissal. A final decision on the case is supposed to be passed by the Shevchenkivskiy District Court, Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Andrii Deschytsia said on January 10. (Ukrinform)

### Ukraine suffers economic losses

KYIV – The Ukrainian economy suffers a monthly loss of \$10 million (U.S.) as a result of the oil transit conflict between Russia and Belarus, Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Minister Yurii Boiko said January 10. He said the loss is connected to the reduction of oil transit volumes to Europe via Ukraine. In particular, oil transit via the Druzhba oil pipeline branch which passes through Ukraine (for a distance of 180 kilometers) was ceased. Because of the Russian-Belarusian conflict, Mr. Boiko said, oil transit in the reverse mode via the Odesa-Brody oil pipeline has stopped also. (Ukrinform)

### Chechens propose to honor Khrushchev

GROZNY, Chechnya – Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov chaired a commemoration on January 9 of the 50th anniversary of the USSR Supreme Soviet decree reconstituting the Checheno-Ingush ASSR, the government website chechnya.gov.ru and regnum.ru reported on January 9 and 10, respectively. The Checheno-Ingush ASSR was abolished following the deportation in February 1944 of the Chechens and Ingush to Central Asia on the order of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. Speakers at the gathering stressed the role of Nikita Khrushchev, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) in denouncing the deportations – in his famous "secret speech" to the 20th CPSU Congress in 1956 – and enabling the Chechens to return from exile. It was announced that monuments will be erected in Grozny to Khrushchev and to Muslim Gairbekov, who chaired the committee to restore the republic's status. It is not clear whether any politicians from Ingushetia attended the session in Grozny. (RFE/RL Newsline)



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**CHICAGO**

Ukrainian Cultural Center - Chicago, IL

Ticket \$40

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### National University KYIV MOHYLA ACADEMY



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**FEBRUARY 24, 2007**

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

**DETROIT**

Ukrainian Cultural Center - Warren, MI

Ticket \$40

RSVP: 586-757-8130

or to Kyiv Mohyla Foundation: 773-685-1828



You can purchase a ticket or make a donation through our web site - [www.kmfoundation.com](http://www.kmfoundation.com)  
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### National University KYIV MOHYLA ACADEMY



HAS THE HONOR TO INVITE YOU TO A FUNDRAISING EVENT

**FEBRUARY 25, 2007**

SUNDAY 2 p.m.

**PHILADELPHIA**

Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center - Philadelphia, PA

Ticket \$40

RSVP: 215-645-1166

or to Kyiv Mohyla Foundation: 773-685-1828



You can purchase a ticket or make a donation through our web site - [www.kmfoundation.com](http://www.kmfoundation.com)  
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Tel: 773-685-1828, e-mail: [mail@kmfoundation.com](mailto:mail@kmfoundation.com)  
KMF is registered as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Your donation is fully tax deductible.

## Ukrainian Village housing development breaks ground for Wellness Center

by Zenon Wasylkevych

WARREN, Mich. – For the last few years the members of the board of the directors of Ukrainian Village Inc. – a development of 145 units for Ukrainian senior citizens – have talked about a new addition to the facility.

When the building opened in 1985, the vision and work of many dedicated people was realized. The president of Ukrainian Village Corp., Anastasia Volker, and the

dedicated board of directors under the leadership of its chairman of the board, Zenon Wasylkevych, spent many frustrating and difficult hours bringing this seniors housing facility to completion.

In 1975 the successor to Ms. Volker, Steven Wichar, and the board worked to advance the quality of life for seniors. Mr. Wichar continued his dedication for 14 years, which saw the Village gain in stature and reputation in the Ukrainian American community, as well as the city

of Warren, the state of Michigan and the federal government.

After Mr. Wichar's death, a new president, Dr. Nicholas Palmer, was elected.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has initiated a program to support "Aging in Place." This program's goal is to promote healthy lifestyles to allow seniors to live a longer, vigorous life. Research has shown that eating healthy and exercise are the keys to longevity.

On October 1, 2006, the board of directors took the first step toward making the Ukrainian Village the most advanced HUD-subsidized housing facility in the United States, as ground was broken for an addition to the present building. The addition will make the Ukrainian Village the first such facility to have a Wellness Center. This center will house the most modern equipment designed for senior citizens.

As well, the new addition will have a craft and learning room that will have programs to help residents learn to enhance their lives through better nutrition. Also planned is a library/computer room, where classes will be held to teach the fundamentals of the Internet and computers.

In its efforts on behalf of Ukrainian

Village residents, the board applied for and received a grant from the federal government for a service coordinator. The job of the coordinator is to provide assistance to residents, which includes applying for appropriate state and federal programs.

The blessing of the ground for the new addition was performed by the Very Rev. Philip Sandrick, OSBM, pastor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Warren, Mich.

After the service, a meeting was held in the multipurpose room. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Palmer, who informed all present about the necessity of additions to the building. Representatives of the city, county, state and federal government expressed their congratulations on the project.

Afterwards, board member Dr. Michael Maddens Sr. provided brief information on a healthy way of life for senior citizens.

During the whole program slides showing various facets of life in the Ukrainian Village were presented.

At the conclusion of the program Mr. Wasylkevych, first vice-president on the board, expressed appreciation for the necessary addition to the building while Dr. Palmer offered thanks for support of the new project.

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## Livonia Symphony's "Night at the Opera" features two Ukrainians

by Marianna Liss

LIVONIA, Mich. – There is a strong Ukrainian flavor to music in the Detroit suburb of Livonia. In the fall of 2006 the Livonia Symphony opened its orchestral season, called "A Night at the Opera," with two Ukrainian Americans – its director and conductor Volodymyr Shesiuk and soprano and soloist Maria Nazarenko.

Besides being the hometown of well-known pop star, Madonna, Livonia also prides itself on the professional quality of the Livonia Symphony. That orchestra has been enriched considerably by Maestro Shesiuk. Even when he was the resident conductor of the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, his heart lived for the songs of Ukraine.

After emigrating to the U.S., he has enjoyed introducing American audiences to that music, as well as to talented musicians and singers of Ukrainian descent. He gives many Ukrainian musicians – many of them famous in Eastern Europe – the opportunity to perform for American audiences. In fact he is passionate about such performers.

This season is no different. The first concert of the season featured the Ukrainian American soprano, Maria Nazarenko of Southeast Michigan. This concert was both challenging and engaging. Maestro Shesiuk wanted to introduce his Livonia audiences, both those attending the concert and the television audience, to the joys of opera and to dispel its reputation as stuffy music. He



Conductor Volodymyr Shesiuk (left) with soprano Maria Nazarenko and Keller Williams, president of the Livonia Symphony.

## Party of the Regions...

(Continued from page 1)

lowing the March parliamentary elections – violating not only European standards, but the Ukrainian Constitution as well.

A parliamentary vote on the ombudsman position expected to take place on January 11 was postponed until February.

After visiting Ukraine in October, Ms. Severinsen stressed to Mr. Moroz that the Rada's ombudsman is supposed to be a person of high qualifications, experience, moral reputation and political independence.

The next month, Mr. Moroz led a vote to dismiss Ms. Karpachova from the ombudsman post, however she remains as the acting ombudsman until the Parliament re-elects or replaces her.

After independently serving as the Verkhovna Rada's ombudsman for human rights since April 1998, Ms. Karpachova shocked many by announcing in December 2005 that she was joining the Party of the Regions – a decision that tainted her otherwise strong reputation.

The ombudsman in Ukraine is appointed by the Verkhovna Rada and is charged with representing the interests of the public by investigating and addressing human rights complaints reported by individual citizens.

Among her accomplishments, Ms. Karpachova lists her initiation of a project to combat international human trafficking and her leadership of the National Coordination Council against Human Trafficking since 1999.

She also authored bills passed by parliament on criminal responsibility for human trafficking, the adoption of orphans and elimination of discrimination against women. Ms. Karpachova also initiated the establishment of the National Center for Orphans' Adoption.

As Ms. Karpachova's replacement, the Western-oriented Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko blocs will nominate Yevhen Zakharov, the chair of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union for Human Rights and co-chair of the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group.

Mr. Zakharov actively fought for human rights during the Soviet era, providing support to families of political prisoners, removing healthy people from psychiatric hospitals and helping to publish works by human rights advocates.

He criticized Ms. Karpachova's candidacy during a January 10 press conference. "When she went into politics, she immediately became biased," Mr. Zakharov said. "She was no longer criticizing her party. She was telling the truth, but not the whole truth."

Mr. Zakharov said he sent letters to the Party of the Regions, the Socialist Party of Ukraine and the Communist Party of Ukraine to share ideas for reforming the ombudsman position.

So far, nobody has responded. Socialist National Deputy Ivan Bokyri reaffirmed on January 11 that the Socialists were supporting Ms. Karpachova's candidacy. The Communists also expressed their support.

## CALL FOR ENTRY

### Ukrainian-American Archives and Museum of Detroit for Upcoming Art Exhibit Titled "In Search of Ukrainian Symbolism and Motifs"

The Ukrainian American Archives and Museum of Detroit, Michigan is preparing an exhibit entitled, "In Search of Ukrainian Symbolism and Motifs" at the prestigious Scarab Club in Detroit, which is located next to the Detroit Institute of Arts. This will be the fourth time Ukrainian artists will have an opportunity to exhibit at this gallery. The three previous exhibits held at the Scarab Club were "21 Ukrainian Artists," "Chornobyl Five Years After" and "Ukrainian Myths, Legends and Folklore," all highly successful and well attended shows. "In Search of Ukrainian Symbolism and Motifs" will be on exhibit during the months of April 2-May 14, 2007 with an opening reception to be held on April the 15th. The juror of the exhibit will be Daniel Grashuck, a well-know artist and photographer. Artists of Ukrainian descent, eighteen and older, are welcome to submit slides of their work. The deadline for submission is January 30, 2007. The theme must be Ukrainian symbolism or motifs with a description of what each work represents. A photograph of the artist is also required. If interested please call or write to 11756 Charest Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212 for CALL FOR ENTRY FORM. E-mail: Dzvinika Nykorak Hayda at dzvinbell@juno.com or call Chrystyna Nykorak at 313-366-9764 e-mail: ukrainianmuseum@sbcglobal.net

chose passionate pieces by Richard Wagner, the flirtations of Mozart in the "Magic Flute," the terrors of the opera, "Faust," and sections from "Aida," among others.

The audience was taken by the range of Ms. Nazarenko as she sang the aria "Dove Sono I Bei Momenti," from "Figaro," the love song from La Traviata, "Ah, Fors'e Lui Sempre Libera" and then the plaintive melody from Madame Butterfly, "Un bel di vedremo." At the end of Ms. Nazarenko's performance, the musicians of the Livonia Symphony applauded her performance with gusto.

Ms. Nazarenko could not be more steeped in Ukrainian musical culture. Her

father, Hryhory Nazarenko, a bandura soloist and performer, as well as music director of bandura choruses, including the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, instilled in her the love of both singing and the bandura. Her training was further developed by opera coaches like the Italian Lilo Genari and others, among them Dina Winter, and Gerta Malutina.

She has been singing opera, religious concerts and Ukrainian compositions in Canada and in the United States. Lately she has also performed with Metropolitan Opera bass Stefan Szkafarowsky.

And thus, on October 14, 2006, an audience in Livonia heard wonderful music infused with Ukrainian soul.

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### BOOK NOTES

## 'A Surgeon's Universe' picks up where its first edition left off

"*Vsesvit Khirurha*" (*A Surgeon's Universe*), second edition, by Andrew S. Olearchyk. Lviv: Publishing House "Medytsyna Svito", 2006. 800 pp., \$75.

The second edition of the book "A Surgeon's Universe" embodies data about the universe, Europe and America, alluding to their history as well as Ukraine's. This book also explores the fate of the Peremyshl region, from antiquity, about 500,000 years before Christ, through the year 2005.

The book's author is Andrew S. Olearchyk, a board-certified surgeon. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, honorary member of the Association of Cardiovascular Surgeons of Ukraine, diplomate of the American Board of Surgery (1976-1987) and a member of the American Board of Thoracic (and Cardiac) Surgery.

While the first edition of "A Surgeon's Universe" focuses on Dr. Olearchyk's own experiences and events through seeing the world, it also concentrated on the topics of politics, history, health, welfare and medicine. The second edition focuses on historical events related to Ukraine and explores more of the achievements by Ukrainians in the fields of science, medicine and culture.

Along with the achievements and history of Ukraine, Europe and America, Dr. Olearchyk includes many of his clinical observations, his contribution to general surgery, anesthesiology as well as cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgery.

This book contains 486 figures and 11



tables. It is written predominantly in Ukrainian, with parts in English, Polish, Russian and German.

The second edition of "A Surgeon's Universe" may be purchased for \$75 (plus shipping: \$3.05 within the United States, \$11.65 to Canada) from the author: Andrew S. Olearchyk, M.D., 129 Walt Whitman Blvd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-3746; telephone, 856-428-0505; e-mail, [asolearchyk@yahoo.com](mailto:asolearchyk@yahoo.com).

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## Two years after...

(Continued from page 3)

by playing off the Party of the Regions against the Tymoshenko Bloc – and losing everything in the process.

The third cause is distrust of Mr. Yanukovich and his party. Mr. Yanukovich and the Party of the Regions tried to change their image, with the assistance of the veteran American political consultant Paul Manafort. Mr. Yanukovich now sports better clothes and, in an attempt to dispel his pro-Russian reputation, makes an effort to speak in Ukrainian.

His speeches, statements and interviews say all the right things and studiously avoid President Vladimir Putin's predilection for alarming rhetoric. Prime Minister Yanukovich has even openly endorsed the values of the Orange Revolution and, in an interview with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, supported Ukraine's membership in NATO – after having told the alliance in September that Ukraine wasn't ready for the Membership Action Plan.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Yanukovich's detractors remain unpersuaded, point to the mismatch between words and deeds, and decry what they consider his seeming willingness to sacrifice Ukraine's best interests to better relations with Russia. Ardent supporters of the Orange Revolution retain a visceral dislike of him and tend to interpret every one of his actions as indicative of evil motives.

The fact that the power behind the throne is Ukraine's richest oligarch, the Donetsk-based billionaire Rynat Akhmetov, a man with a decidedly checked past who claims to want to move Ukraine's economy toward Europe, only increases suspicions. But even a substantial chunk of Mr. Yanukovich's electoral base in Ukraine's southeast has serious doubts about his ability to improve the economy, unite the country and govern effectively. Thus far, Prime Minister Yanukovich has done little to assuage those doubts. And blaming his predecessors for his own government's failings is beginning to wear thin.

The fourth cause of the malaise is the belief that the Orange Revolution's primary promise – to implement justice by throwing the “bandits into jail” and to empower the people – has proven hollow. The bandits – whether Mr. Yanukovich the ex-felon and his thuggish Donbas pals, the high-flying Mr. Akhmetov who was elected parliamentary deputy, the tycoons bankrolling Our Ukraine and the Tymoshenko Bloc, or Vitalii Haiduk, the Donbas oligarch and Akhmetov opponent whom President Yushchenko appointed to head his National Security and Defense Council – are not just around, still. They're running politics.

Optimists argue that having the rich play openly formal governmental roles is preferable to their pulling strings in the background or to their languishing in jails. That way, they can be kept accountable, at least to some degree, they can channel their formidable resources into legitimate political activities, and they can balance the equally dubious personal ambitions of the politicians. That may very well be the case, but it's no surprise that the Ukrainian people, who expected their country to join Europe, become fully democratic and escape Russia's grip, feel irrelevant and betrayed.

The fifth cause concerns Europe. During the Orange Revolution Ukrainians either expected or feared that Europe would welcome them with open arms. But nothing of the sort has happened. The European Union did declare that Ukraine had a market economy, and it does hope to sign a new partnership agreement with Ukraine by 2008. But the EU has signally failed to give Ukraine a clear signal of its willingness to take it in – even if at some point in the distant future.

President Yushchenko implored the EU

to do just that on the eve of its summit in Finland – arguing that it could play the role of a lighthouse or guiding star for Ukraine – but the EU failed to budge. Poland supports Ukraine's EU aspirations, but the prickly Polish government has few friends in Europe. Finland and the Baltic states have also been supportive, but they lack the weight of Germany and France, which are manifestly indifferent, preferring good terms with Russia – and especially the state-controlled gas giant, Gazprom – to close relations with a budding democracy such as Ukraine.

To be sure, Europe has its own worries – a fact that Ukrainians often overlook. The French are distracted by forthcoming presidential elections and the possibility of a female president (which raises the intriguing possibility that, by 2009, France, Germany, the United States and Ukraine could all have women leaders). The Germans worry about where Angela Merkel's reforms might lead. The Italians fret about their country's inability to reform itself. The Dutch are obsessed with veils. The Poles, Hungarians, Slovaks and Czechs are trying to cope with bad governments (or in the last case, effectively none).

The EU has to finesse Romania's and Bulgaria's imminent membership, while trying to prevent the Turkish “train-wreck” that the EU's own irresponsible policies toward Cyprus and Turkey directly brought about. And the United States, labelled Ukraine's “strategic partner” even by Prime Minister Yanukovich, is focused on unfolding defeat in Iraq and the possibility of failure in North Korea and Iran.

It's small wonder, then, that Ukrainians are in a funk. Their leaders look incompetent at best and malevolent at worst, and no one – and especially those countries that wax eloquent about the virtues of soft power – seems to care.

### Russia, and Ukrainians, to the rescue

Russia, of course, does care about Ukraine – but only Ukraine's deeply conservative, ethnically Russian population in Luhansk or Crimea might be inclined to see that as an indisputably good thing. The pro-Orange forces tend to see Russia as the source of all bad things. Mr. Yanukovich's supporters have always taken a far more sanguine view of Russian intentions, but even they must be having second thoughts today. It's hard to have any illusions about Gazprom's boundless ambitions anymore. And no one living in Ukraine can fail to appreciate that their country's energy dependence on Russia is a source of growing instability and insecurity.

The Yanukovich government, which criticized its Orange predecessors for striking a bad gas deal with Russia at the height of the January 2006 “gas war,” has done little better. Like the Orange governments, it agreed to a price increase – from \$95 per thousand cubic meters to \$130 in 2007 – in exchange for a greater market presence in Ukraine for the shadowy Gazprom-controlled middleman organization RosUkrEnerg. And, like the Orange governments, it is pursuing energy-diversification negotiations with Poland, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, and encouraging foreign investment in the development of Ukraine's own supposedly ample oil and gas deposits.

No less disturbing, even for Mr. Yanukovich's eastern Ukrainian supporters, are several developments in Russia. These include Moscow's strong-arm tactics toward Georgia, Moldova and the unabashedly pro-Russian Belarus (whose dictatorial president, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, has responded with, of all things, a resoundingly nationalist defense of Belarusian sovereignty); the alarming outbreaks of chauvinism and xenophobia in a variety of Russian cities; the officially encouraged mass expulsion of Georgians from Moscow in the aftermath of Russia's cold war with Georgia; and the recent

spate of killings of Kremlin critics.

The professional “hits” are especially worrisome. Whether or not the Kremlin was actually responsible for the assassinations, the KGB's longtime record of “wet works” and Russia's sharp turn to the right make it all too easy to believe that it was. Russian and Ukrainian rumor mills have constructed fantastic interpretations that, their veracity aside, all serve to discredit President Putin and his government – as either complicit or incapable of controlling rogue elements.

The killings have special meaning for Ukrainians, who know that Anna Politkovskaya was born Hanna Mazepa, the daughter of Ukrainian diplomats in New York. They also know that the poisoning by radioactive polonium of the former KGB officer, Alexander Litvinenko, in London is all too eerily reminiscent of the poisoning by dioxin of their own president on the eve of the Orange Revolution. At that time Mr. Yushchenko's domestic opponents used to quip that he had probably eaten some spoiled food or that the poisoning had been staged for political reasons. Even his most fanatical and closed-minded detractors must now be having doubts about the benign nature of Russian power.

The growing suspicion of Russia and growing disillusionment with Europe leave Ukraine and Ukrainians with no choice but to rely on themselves – a turn of phrase that even Mr. Yanukovich has adopted. The doubts may, therefore, turn out to be a blessing in disguise. The expectation of salvation from East or West was always illusory, and it arguably deterred Ukraine from making some of the tough choices that it still has to make.

The main task before the government is further liberalization of the economy and decentralization of the state. The government is still too heavily involved in running key sectors of the economy, and government regulations remain far too many and far too burdensome – the result being economic inefficiency and bureaucratic corruption. Ukraine is also much too centralized, and the administrative structure it inherited from Soviet times is no longer appropriate for a democracy and market economy.

Besides, the government is far too ineffectual to run too many things well. Joining the World Trade Organization would break some of these habits. Mr. Yanukovich says he expects Ukraine to enter the WTO in early 2007. His critics doubt his sincerity, but he probably means it – if only because Mr. Akhmetov knows that his own wealth depends on Ukraine's ability to integrate into the world economy.

The expectation of salvation from Ukraine's government was also illusory, and it has deterred Ukrainians from recognizing that only they, and not their

incompetent elites, can build a real democracy and a genuinely prosperous society. The main task before the population is thus to pursue their economic, social and cultural interests as if there were no government to rely on, to plead with, and to expect to save the day.

### A mixed legacy

Old Soviet paternalistic habits die hard, but growing self-reliance may already be happening – thanks in no small part to the Orange Revolution's empowerment of large segments of the population. A few examples may suggest that, despite elite squabbling in Kyiv, life goes on in ways that justify a cautious optimism about Ukraine's future.

The city of Lviv now has four branches of the Rotary Club, each of which consists of self-confident and affluent business people who know they have the power to change things and recognize that they do not need the government to do so. The Kyiv-based newspaper Den (The Day) recently organized a student conference, consisting of young political scientists from four regional universities, in Odesa. The students spent several days arguing, disagreeing and learning to bridge their differences – in an undertaking that could herald the emergence of a national student dialogue.

One civic organization, disturbed by the absence of Ukrainian-language films in Ukraine, decided to start a petition demanding that foreign films be dubbed into Ukrainian and not just Russian. Much to their surprise, the organizers collected 600 signatures in just two days.

Perhaps the most impressive example of civic activism is, paradoxically, the Parliament's adoption of a law designating the Terror-Famine of 1932-1933, in which several million Ukrainians died, a genocide. That wouldn't have happened if Ukraine's intellectuals hadn't been arguing the case for the last 15 years, thereby creating a discursive force that even skeptics couldn't resist. Accordingly, the Party of the Regions and the Communists, not wanting to be seen opposing an apple-pie issue, abstained from the parliamentary vote.

The news from Ukraine, therefore, is mixed. The population is demoralized, but, with continued economic growth, foreign direct investment, a critical press, a fire-breathing Russia conveniently demonstrating that the alternative to democracy really is lousy, and a little luck, that demoralization may not matter too much.

In any case, it may not impede ongoing positive trends within society. Despite their funk, despite – or because of – their declared disillusionment with politics and politicians, Ukrainians may have finally figured out what the real meaning of the Orange Revolution was: that an empowered population can, and should, decide its own fate.

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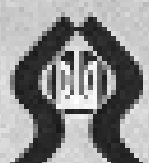
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# OUT AND ABOUT

<p>January 19 Calgary, AB</p>	<p>Malanka dinner and dance, Thorncliff/Greenview Community Center, 403-274-6840 or info@suzirya.com</p>	<p>January 21 Washington</p>	<p>Art exhibit, "The Societe Anonyme: Modernism for America," featuring Ukrainian artist David Burliuk's painting "The Eye of God," Phillips Collection, 202-387-2151</p>
<p>January 20 Philadelphia</p>	<p>Ukrainian American Nautical Association Inc. gathering at Strictly Sail Philadelphia boat show, Pennsylvania Convention Center, info@uanai.com or 215-680-7787</p>	<p>January 25 Toronto</p>	<p>Workshop, "Human Trafficking from Eastern Europe: Canadian Responses," with Louise Shelley and Alexandra V. Orlova, University of Toronto, 416-946-8938</p>
<p>January 20 Whippany, NJ</p>	<p>Malanka featuring music by Luna, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, advance tickets only, 973-540-9144</p>	<p>January 26 San Francisco</p>	<p>"Songs from Beyond the Black Sea," Kitka women's vocal ensemble and Trio Kavkasia, Church of St. John the Evangelist, 510-44-0323 or kitka.org</p>
<p>January 20 Calgary, AB</p>	<p>Malanka featuring music by Zolota Bulava, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Calgary Petroleum Club, info@calgaryucc.org</p>	<p>January 26 - February 15 New York</p>	<p>Art exhibit, featuring works by Anna Aizic, Agora Gallery, 212-226-4151</p>
<p>January 20 Edmonton, AB</p>	<p>15th anniversary of Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, performance of "The Legend Unfolds," Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, 780-451-8000 or Ticketmaster outlets</p>	<p>January 27 Astoria, NY</p>	<p>Malanka at Holy Cross Church, featuring the music of Hrim, 718-932-4060</p>
<p>January 20 Carteret, NJ</p>	<p>Malanka featuring the music of Fata Morgana, St. Demetrius Banquet Center, 732-541-5452 or 732-541-6163</p>	<p>January 27 Santa Cruz, CA</p>	<p>"Songs from Beyond the Black Sea," Kitka women's vocal ensemble and Trio Kavkasia, Holy Cross Church, 510-444-0323 or kitka.org</p>
<p>January 20 San Bruno, CA</p>	<p>Classical Guitarist Arina Burceva, St. Andrew Church, info@arinaburceva.com or www.arinaburceva.com</p>	<p>January 27 New York</p>	<p>Lecture by Alexander Motyl, "Ukraine - 2007: What Next?," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130</p>
<p>January 20 Baltimore</p>	<p>Malanka featuring the music of Halychany, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-675-7557 or 410-248-0359</p>	<p>January 27 Chicago</p>	<p>Debutante Banquet and Ball, Ukrainian American Medical Association, The Hotel InterContinental, music by Veseli Chasy, 312-282-7017</p>
<p>January 20 Warren, MI</p>	<p>Malanka dinner and dance, featuring the music of Vorony, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 586-757-8130 or 586-558-8508</p>	<p>January 27 New Britain, CT</p>	<p>Malanka featuring music by Zolota Bulava, St. George's Hall, sponsored by the Zolotyj Promin Dance Ensemble, 860-716-0334, 203-405-2590</p>
<p>January 20 Jenkintown, PA</p>	<p>Malanka dinner and dance, featuring the music of Hrim, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-969-4101, 215-379-2676 or 215-638-4103</p>	<p><i>Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. We 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.</i></p>	



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## Soyuzivka's Datebook

**January 19-21, 2007**

Church of Annunciation, Flushing, NY  
– Family Weekend

**January 20, 2007**

Kerhonkson Fire House Installation  
Dinner Banquet

**January 27, 2007**

Soyuzivka's 2nd Annual Malanka  
sponsored by the Ukrainian  
Engineers' Society of America

**March 3-4, 2007**

Plast Fraternity "Khmelnychenky"  
Annual Winter Rada

**March 23-25, 2007**

Plast Sorority "Chornomorski  
Khvyli" Rada



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

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Thursday, January 18**

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Film Club's first event of 2007 will feature new films from Ukraine in narrative, documentary and animation: "The Name" (2006), directed by Alla Yakovleva; "There Was a Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" (2005), directed by Olena Fetysova; and "Wandering Around" (2005), directed by Anatoliy Lavrenyshyn. All the films are in Ukrainian with English subtitles. The program will be introduced by Yuri Shevchuk, the director of the Ukrainian Film Club at Columbia University. Discussion will follow the screening. The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 717 Hamilton Hall, Columbia University, 1130 Amsterdam Ave., New York (take the No. 1 subway to 116th Street). The screening is free and open to the public.

**Saturday, January 20**

**NEW YORK:** The "Music at the Institute" chamber music series invites the public to a concert by Jerome Lowenthal and Friends. The program will feature the highly acclaimed American pianist Jerome Lowenthal joined by violinist Jesse Mills, violist Maureen Gallagher and cellist Jakub Omsky in a performance of Sergey

Taneyev's Quartet for Piano and Strings in E Major, Op. 20, and George Enescu's Quartet for Piano and Strings No. 2 in D Minor, Op. 30. A reception will follow the program. The concert will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 8 p.m. Donation: \$30; UIA members and senior citizens, \$25; students, \$20. For additional information and reservations call 212-288-8660 or visit [www.ukrainianinstitute.org](http://www.ukrainianinstitute.org).

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

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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

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## Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!



As in the past, The Ukrainian Weekly is planning to publish a special section devoted to the Ukrainian community's debutantes.

The 2007 debutante ball section will be published in March.

The deadline for submission of stories and photos is March 9.

## NEW BRITAIN MALANKA

ONE OF THE BEST UKRAINIAN NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS IN THE COUNTRY

Featuring

Zolota Bulava from Montreal, Quebec, CANADA

Saturday, 27 January 2007

9:00 pm

St. George's Hall  
301 West Main Street  
New Britain, CT

Raffle - Food - Table Setups  
ALCOHOL WILL NOT BE SOLD-BYOB

Tickets and Table Reservations:  
Chris Iwanik, 860-716-0334  
Bohdanna Szafran, 203-405-2590

Nearby Hotel: Hotel Plainville,  
formerly The Ramada Inn, 860-747-6876

Sponsored by Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble