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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Solemn march recalls 10 million victims of Holodomor



Khristina Lew

Ukrainian youth gather in front of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church to lead the Holodomor march up Third Avenue.

by Matthew Dubas

NEW YORK — Multitudes of Ukrainians gathered here in front of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church on Seventh Street before heading uptown along Third Avenue to St. Patrick's Cathedral, located at Fifth Avenue and 51st Street, in a march to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

Among the marchers was a requiem bell that pealed throughout the streets of New York capturing the gaze of onlookers who saw the many flags, banners and posters that told of the story of the Holodomor, which systematically killed by starvation between 7 million and 10 million Ukrainians.

The mass of marchers stretched more than 10 city blocks on their way to St. Patrick's as volunteers distributed informational brochures to curious New Yorkers. According to police estimates, approximately 2,000 marchers participated to bring awareness to the horrific events of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

The brochures, prepared by the National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933, which represents Ukrainian community organizations from

across the United States, contained information on the Holodomor and its effects, and identified the Soviet regime under Joseph Stalin as the perpetrator of the largest crime against humanity of the 20th century.

The brochure also contained a tear-out card that could be mailed to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, urging her and the U.S. government to recognize the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people. The brochure provided a website address ([www.ukrainegenocide.org](http://www.ukrainegenocide.org)) for more information. It also directed individuals who would like to get involved with future projects to contact the Ukrainian National Information Service at 202-547-0018 or [unis@ucca.org](mailto:unis@ucca.org).

Adriana Paska, 26, of Woodside, N.Y., said: "I think it's crucial that not only New Yorkers, but the world recognizes that the Ukrainian Genocide did happen, that millions of innocent people died. People always talk about the Jewish Holocaust, and they make sure that it is known and that the world never forgets. It's about time that Ukrainians go and do the same thing. Ukrainians have been marching and trying to increase awareness on this matter and

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## At least 90 killed in Ukraine's worst-ever mining accident

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine suffered the worst mining accident in its history on November 18 when a methane gas explosion caused a collapse at the Zasiadko Mines in Donetsk, killing at least 90 miners working inside.

President Viktor Yushchenko declared a National Day of Mourning on November 20, the same day that 28 of the fallen miners were buried by their weeping families, relatives and friends.

"The tragedy in Donetsk is the latest challenge not only for Ukraine's coal industry, but for the nation's entire government," the president said in Donetsk. "I am convinced that all politicians should demonstrate a national policy. This is a great tragedy, and we're supposed to emerge from it with the appropriate lessons."

Though lessons may be learned this time, they certainly weren't taken into account in the past.

Although one of the best-equipped mines in the Donbas region, the Zasiadko Mines have a history of accidents causing scores of deaths. A methane explosion in August 2001 killed 55 miners, while 50 were killed in May 1999 during drilling and blasting operations.

The accident rate at the Zasiadko Mines is seven times higher than others in Ukraine, according to the Dielo newspaper, a Kyiv business daily.

The Zasiadko Mines are property of the Ukrainian government, but they are leased and operated by Yuhym Zviahliyskyi, an oligarch who has controlled the mines for more than three decades.

During the early 1990s he attempted to seize control of Ukraine's prime ministership, only to have some of his corrupt practices exposed by his rivals, said Ivan Lozowy, a Kyiv political observer and New York University Law School graduate.

To resolve the corruption accusations, he lived in Israel for nearly three years before returning to Ukraine. He is a key member of the Party of the Regions of Ukraine.

By eluding ownership of the mines, Mr. Zviahliyskyi is able to avoid accountability for their problems, Mr. Lozowy said. For example, as the mines' owner, the Ukrainian government will foot the bill to compensate the victims' families. President Yushchenko said each family will receive \$20,000 in compensation.

The miners killed in the explosion,

(Continued on page 3)

## Thousands flock to St. Patrick's Cathedral for requiem service for Holodomor victims

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEW YORK — Close to 3,000 Ukrainians filed into the Cathedral of St. Patrick on Saturday afternoon, November 17, for a solemn prayer service in memory of the 7 million to 10 million who perished in the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

The requiem service marked the official beginning of a year of commemorations by Ukrainians worldwide of the Holodomor's 75th anniversary. Opening the service, Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian

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Matthew Dubas

During the requiem service at the Cathedral of St. Patrick (from left) are: Father Bernard Panczuk, Bishop Paisii, Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Archbishop Antony and Bishop John Bura.



## ANALYSIS

## Ukraine and Russia face off over cleaning up oil spill

by John C.K. Daly  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

On November 11 a powerful storm arose in the northeastern Black Sea. By the end of it, Russia and Ukraine faced serious environmental damage from an oil spill and a potentially acrimonious diplomatic situation.

According to Ukraine's Emergency Situations Ministry, after the storm four ships had foundered, another six had run aground and two tankers were damaged in the narrow Kerch Strait, at the entrance to the Sea of Azov between Russia and Ukraine. One of the damaged ships was the Volgoneft-139, which was carrying more than 4,000 tons of fuel oil. Smashed by 67-mph winds and 16-foot waves, the ship split in two, spilling more than half its cargo (Ukrainske Radio, November 13).

The only good news from the storm was that the ecological catastrophe could have been much worse. The majority of the nautical damage took place in the Kerch Strait, where, despite the storm alert, there were nearly 150 ships.

Besides the Volgoneft-139, the dry cargo bulk carrier Volnogorsk sank with its cargo of about 2,600 tons of sulfur near Kerch port, while the Kovel freighter, also carrying sulfur, crashed into the sunken Volnogorsk and slid beneath the waves. The Georgian vessel Khach-Izmail also sank. Another sulfur carrier, the Nakhichevan, wrecked.

Groundings included the Ukrainian dry cargo vessel Vira Voloshyna, beached near Kapsel Bay, and the Turkish Ziya Kos and a Georgian ship carrying about 800 tons of metal, both of which ran aground close to the port of Novorossiysk. Completing the scene, the Dika barge, loaded with 4,149 tons of fuel oil, was beached on a sandbar at Tuzla, along with the Demetra barge, which was carrying 3,757 tons of fuel (Kommersant, November 12).

In all, about 10 ships sank or ran aground and 20 sailors remain missing.

Black Sea neighbors were quick to assist, with the Romanian Navy's Constanta Maritime Rescue Center Director Adrian Alexe responding to a request from Russian naval authorities for the 100-ton capacity Gigant floating crane to assist commercial vessels sunk in the storm (Rompres, November 13).

The finger-pointing has already started. Krasnodar Governor Alexander Tkachev said, "Some 30,000 birds have died and it's not possible to count how many fish. The damage is so great that it's hard to assess. It can be equated with an ecological catastrophe." (Interfax, November 13). The damages caused by the wrecked ships have been estimated at up to \$163 million.

Russian and Ukrainian tugs have hauled the stern of the Volgoneft-139 into Kavkaz, where an additional 933 tons of fuel oil were pumped out (Interfax-Ukraine, November 15). While clean-up crews are already attacking the oil drifting onto beaches, the authorities are nervously awaiting possible additional pollution from sulfur granules (ITAR-TASS, November 15).

A Russian-Ukrainian intergovernmental committee began meeting on November 15 in Kerch to discuss the progress of search-and-rescue and clean-up operations. Deputy Transport Minister Boris Korol heads the Russian delegation, while participating Ukrainians include officials from the Emergencies Ministry, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Foreign Affairs Ministry. Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications Vladimir Korniyenko heads the Ukrainian team (ITAR-TASS, November 15).

The catastrophe has already wreaked havoc on the Sea of Azov's commercial fish stocks, including gobies and Azov anchovies, while World Wildlife Fund officials remain concerned about the fate of dolphins located around the Kerch Strait; two dead dolphins have already washed ashore.

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## Is big brother watching Ukrainians?

by Pavel Korduban  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Ukrainian government has simplified the procedure allowing the special services and police to procure confidential information about citizens. Ukrainian human rights activists and Internet providers believe that the government violated the Constitution of Ukraine by legalizing widespread surveillance, giving the secret services almost unlimited access to private information. The government apparently believes that it did nothing but systematize the procedure for obtaining permission to gather information about individuals suspected of illegal activities.

Cabinet Resolution No. 1169, "On Setting the Procedure for Obtaining Court Permission to Take Measures that Temporarily Restrict Human Rights and On Using Evidence Obtained Thereby," stipulates that courts can allow law-enforcement bodies to secretly enter private premises, use special equipment to obtain information, take private information from communication lines, as well as monitor ordinary mail, telephone conversations and other means of communica-

tion, including e-mail. Opponents of the decree say that the special services from now on will not have to bother about court permission, because it should be sufficient for them to obtain permission for eavesdropping personally from the chairman of a regional court of appeals.

Resolution No. 1169 was quietly issued on September 26. Ukrainians were going to vote in an early parliamentary election on September 30, so the resolution passed unnoticed by the mass media. Internet providers were the first to ring the alarm bell over the perceived threat to personal freedoms. The daily Segodnya said that one Internet provider was visited by Security Service of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SBU) people who insisted that, based on resolution No. 1169, the company had to allow them access to the e-mail box of one political party. The SBU reportedly said that it had obtained the necessary permission from one regional court.

The Internet Association of Ukraine, which represents the interests of tens of IT and telecom companies, has urged the

(Continued on page 22)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Memorial unveiled in Zhytomyr region

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on November 20 took part in the unveiling of a monument to victims of famines and political repression in Ukraine in the settlement of Popilnia, Zhytomyr region. The monument was erected on a mound containing capsules with soil from 34 mass graves of Holodomor victims of 1932-1933. The granite monument is shaped like an Orthodox Christian cross, which is split in half as a symbol of human pain and suffering. The void of the split is filled by another cross signifying the memory of the living. The monument was funded by local philanthropist Valerii Shypnivskyi, who lost four of his family members to Soviet repressions. (Ukrinform)

### Vandals target Holodomor exhibit

KYIV – The Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ukraine on November 19 expressed a categorical protest against the actions of the Eurasian Union of Youth representatives who on November 17 desecrated the exhibition dedicated to the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine staged at the Cultural Center of Ukraine in Moscow. According to the statement posted on the ministry's website, the ministry regards these actions as unlawful, provocative and anti-Ukrainian. The ministry has sent a note to the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation demanding that an investigation be quickly concluded and that the culprits are brought to justice. The deputy director of the Cultural Center, Yurii Vasylenko, said the exposition devoted to the Famine-Genocide was destroyed by several young people. They overturned the exhibition stands and tried to break the glass doors and windows of the center. During the act of vandalism they shouted their defiance of the Holodomor or any genocide of the Ukrainian people. (Ukrinform)

### Coalition remains uncertain

KYIV – Viacheslav Kyrilenko, the head of the Political Council of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc (OU-PSD), said on November 15 that his grouping and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc

(YTB) will on November 23 sign a formal agreement on the creation of a coalition in the Verkhovna Rada, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. Mr. Kyrilenko said that after the OU-PSD and YTB conclude their agreements, they will make every effort to elect the leadership of the Parliament and parliamentary committees as soon as possible, and to quickly approve a new Cabinet. First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, one of the leaders of the Party of the Regions, announced the same day that his party is also working on the creation of a coalition in the newly elected Parliament. "You like the words 'broad' and 'democratic'?" he asked. "I like the term 'effective coalition' – one that is able to create a government and carry out the reforms required by the country. The Party of the Regions is seriously working on the creation of such a coalition," Mr. Azarov said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Rada to convene November 23

KYIV – The committee preparing for the first session of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada announced on November 15 that the Parliament will convene on November 23, Ukrainian media reported. The committee also elected Raisa Bohatyriova of the Party of the Regions as its head, Roman Zvorych of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense Bloc as its deputy head, and Ihor Sharov of the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc as its secretary. The group scheduled its next meeting for November 20. The committee has been unable to gather a quorum and carry out its work on several occasions in the previous week due to some parties' failure to attend. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### PM calls for political compromise

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich on November 14 called on Ukrainian political forces to agree to a compromise in order to convene the newly elected Verkhovna Rada as soon as possible, Interfax reported. "The balance of forces [in a new Parliament] is such that neither can pre-

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Editors:

Zenon Zawada (Kyiv)  
Matthew Dubas

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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: [adukr@optonline.net](mailto:adukr@optonline.net)

Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042

e-mail: [ukrsubscr@att.net](mailto:ukrsubscr@att.net)



# Positions of new prime minister and Rada chair in question

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Though a coalition of democratic forces remains the likeliest outcome on paper, its proposed candidacies of Viacheslav Kyrylenko as Verkhovna Rada chair and Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister are in jeopardy.

Several Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense deputies aligned with Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha indicated they wouldn't support those candidates – a significant threat because only three dissenting votes are needed to subvert them.

"Kyrylenko has had poor relations with Baloha for several months because he has been pursuing his own personal interests in gaining more power and authority, while Kyrylenko is more interested in building a stronger Our Ukraine political force," said Ivan Lozowy, president of Kyiv-based the Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is financed by Ukrainian businesses.

Under Mr. Baloha's influence, President Viktor Yushchenko has abandoned his support for Mr. Kyrylenko in favor of Ivan Pliusch, the centrist-oriented politician who has advocated a broad coalition, several influential Ukrainian publications reported this week.

The Verkhovna Rada was scheduled to convene its first session of the sixth convocation on November 23, and the vote for chairman could occur within the first several sessions.

First, a parliamentary coalition must emerge with each participating deputy signing an official agreement.

While Mr. Kyrylenko vowed to have all the necessary signatures for a democratic forces coalition, at least three members of his own bloc remain opposed to uniting with the Tymoshenko Bloc, including Mr. Pliusch.

For several weeks, Mr. Kyrylenko and

Ms. Tymoshenko vowed support for each other's candidacies, but such statements were part of an attempt to combat Mr. Baloha's influence, which appears to have triumphed, Mr. Lozowy said.

"Kyrylenko is a young guy brought in because Yushchenko knows him and likes him, and he was agreed to by Baloha as another useful pawn in elections," Mr. Lozowy said.

"Without any economic base, Kyrylenko is largely ignored because it's Baloha who holds the real power in Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense."

Mr. Kyrylenko's candidacy is fiercely opposed by the Russian-oriented parties because he is a strong advocate of Ukrainian culture and Ukrainization policies, and adopts a pro-Western approach in all his politics.

Certain members of his own Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc (OU-PSD) have demonstrated they are unreliable for support, including former Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov and politicians aligned with Mr. Baloha, including Ihor Kril and Vasyl Petiovka, who is the Presidential Secretariat chair's first cousin.

The Party of the Regions of Ukraine (PRU) suggested its compromise nominees for Verkhovna Rada chair on November 20, acting as though it would ultimately decide the matter, regardless of whether it was shut out of a democratic forces coalition.

PRU leader Raisa Bohatyriova said her party and its allies could support Mr. Ivan Pliusch, an elected deputy from OU-PSD who currently serves as National Security and Defense Council chair.

For weeks, Mr. Pliusch has refused to sign an agreement to form what is being called the Democratic Forces Coalition, offering various excuses.

A "kum" (parent of a godchild) of President Viktor Yushchenko, Mr. Pliusch has advocated a broad coalition that



Zenon Zawada

**The Democratic Forces Coalition's nominee for Verkhovna Rada chair, Viacheslav Kyrylenko, is unlikely to gain enough votes.**

includes many political factions in the next government.

The latest politician to emerge from the bloc to support this notion is former Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko.

Meanwhile, Ms. Tymoshenko's right-hand man, Oleksander Turchynov, said his bloc will support any candidate proposed by its coalition counterparts. The Tymoshenko Bloc can't support Mr. Pliusch's candidacy at present because he hasn't agreed to sign the agreement to form the Democratic Forces Coalition, Mr. Turchynov said.

While OU-PSD might be willing to compromise on Mr. Kyrylenko's candidacy, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc has made it clear it will not settle for any nomination for prime minister other than that of its leader.

Should more than three national deputies from the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc not support Ms. Tymoshenko's candidacy, the Democratic Forces Coalition won't nominate anyone else and a deadlock will emerge.

At the first Verkhovna Rada session on November 23, the current government ministers will step down from their positions and serve as acting ministers until the new government is formed.

Should the Democratic Forces Coalition fail to elect a prime minister, the acting government led by Viktor Yanukovich could remain in power indefinitely, while a de jure Democratic Forces Coalition will exist on

paper, said Yuriy Syrotiuk, a political analyst with the Kyiv-based Open Society Foundation, financed by American, British and Polish grants.

Although the divisions within OU-PSD reveal a rift in the bloc, Mr. Baloha will ultimately get his way, Mr. Lozowy said. Two of the elected deputies (besides Mr. Pliusch) who have declined to sign the coalition agreement happen to be Mr. Baloha's close associates and fellow Zakarpattia natives, Mr. Kril and Mr. Petiovka, he said.

Another Tymoshenko opponent, Mr. Yekhanurov, is a close presidential ally and wouldn't have voiced his opposition to her candidacy publicly without clearing it with Mr. Yushchenko, Mr. Lozowy said.

Until a new chairman is selected, the Verkhovna Rada's first sessions will be led by a rotating presidium with representatives of four of the Parliament's five factions, Mr. Syrotiuk said.

The oldest national deputy, 86-year-old Ivan Herasymov of the Communist Party of Ukraine, will read the deputies' oath of office from the tribune.

"Everyone will sing the Ukrainian anthem with inspiration, and then we will be dismissed to write statements on forming factions and officially select faction leadership," Mr. Yekhanurov said of his expectations of the first session. "I think we won't be able to do more than that."



Serhii Svetlytskyi/UNIAN

**Donetsk miners bury a colleague at a November 20 funeral, two days after the biggest mining disaster in Ukraine's history at the Zasiadko Mine.**

## At least 90...

(Continued from page 1)

which occurred around 3 a.m. Sunday, November 18, ranged in age between 21 and 49.

After the accident, various media reported that Mr. Zviahilskyi said he would consider closing the mines, where about 200 miners have died in the last eight years. However, on November 20 he denied any intentions of closing the mines.

The Donetsk community generally supports Mr. Zviahilskyi and the Zasiadko Mines, which employ close to 10,000 people, because they offer some

of the best salaries in town, reaching as high as \$1,000 a month, Dielo reported.

"The situation is bleak because the locals are under the influence of this clan boss and don't know any better," Mr. Lozowy said. "Meanwhile, rival businessmen are killed or driven out."

Ukraine has among the world's worst mining standards, reported Dielo, as two Ukrainians die for every million tons of coal mined, compared to 1.8 Russians per million tons and 0.4 Americans per million tons.

At the Zasiadko Mines, one miner dies for every 175,000 tons of coal mined. The death rate in China is one miner per 240,000 tons of coal mined.

## Ukrainian president pardons two involved in Sknyliv air show disaster

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on October 24 signed a presidential order pardoning two air force commanders convicted in the Sknyliv air show catastrophe in July 2002, which caused 77 deaths and more than 200 injuries.

Gen. Anatolii Tretiakov, former assistant commander of the 14th air division, received a six-year sentence for his role in the disaster. He was released from prison on October 31, reported Viktor Moiseyenko, director of the Presidential Secretariat's pardoning service.

Col. Yuriy Yegorov, one of the Su-27's co-pilots who ejected safely before letting the jet plow into the crowd, had his prison sentence reduced from eight years to three and a half years, allowing him to go free next year.

The president signed the decree after a decision was reached by a commission, which received a series of appeals from pilots with pardon requests, Mr. Moiseyenko said.

Those petitioning for the pilots' freedom included the chair of the Council of Air Force Officers of Ukraine, the president of the Kozheduba Association of Pilots of the Kharkiv Aviation University and the chair of the Vinnytsia City Organization of Veterans of Ukraine, Interfax reported, without giving their names.

A total of five pilots were prosecuted in relation to the Sknyliv catastrophe – the worst air show disaster in history.

In June 2005 a military court ruled the jet's pilots were guilty of technical piloting mistakes in executing an unplanned

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# Ukrainian American Veterans hold 60th national convention

by Bernard W. Krawczuk

YONKERS, N.Y. – The 60th annual national convention of the Ukrainian American Veterans Inc. was held on October 12-13 here at the Ukrainian Youth Center. This event was hosted by UAV Post 301 of Yonkers, N.Y. The UAV national executive board met on the eve of the convention to address last-minute issues.

UAV National Commander Anna Krawczuk led the opening ceremonies and officially opened the national convention. Prayer was read by UAV National Welfare Officer Myroslaw Pryjma. The roll call of the UAV national executive board officers, past national commanders, state commanders and post commanders was carried out by National Adjutant Walter Bodnar, and quorum was established.

Commander Krawczuk thanked the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary (NLA) for registering delegates and fund-raising on behalf of the UAV Welfare, Scholarship and National Memorial funds. UAV NLA President Oksana Koziak reported on the registration and thanked everyone for their support.

The morning sessions were dedicated to the financial reports, with UAV National Finance Officer Wasyl Liscynsky leading the way. This was followed by activity and financial reports of the National Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki, National Welfare Officer Pryjma and Scholarship Officer Nicholas Skirka, who announced the winners for 2007. UAV Registration Project and UAV National Monument Committee financials were given by Ms. Krawczuk. Reports were accepted upon the recommendation of the Auditing Committee, signed by George Mutlos and Jerry Nestor of UAV Post 27.

The afternoon session was dedicated to UAV national executive board officers' activity reports.

Commander Krawczuk congratulated Brig. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk, UAV Post 31 member, on his promotion and thanked him for his expertise, advice and promotion of the UAV. She reported that the UAV's Department of the State of Connecticut was established last June, with Wiroslaw J. Snihurowych elected as state commander. The installation of UAV Connecticut state officers Commander Snihurowych and Michael Wowk was performed by UAV Judge Advocate Michael Demchuk the next day.

The commander emphasized the importance of recruiting and membership. She congratulated Past National Commander (PNC) Mathew Koziak for establishing the

new UAV Post 42 in Lehigh Valley, Pa. She also noted that UAV membership-at-large is on the increase with 38 members duly registered according to Vice Commander Paul J. Hlynsky's submitted report.

She informed delegates that the 61st UAV national convention and celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Ukrainian American Veterans will be held in New Jersey at the end of September 2008.

UAV Post 101 Senior Vice Commander Ihor Kunynskyj's proposal at the 59th UAV Convention, for a first-of-its-kind UAV commemorative coin, has become a reality and 1,000 coins have been minted. Brig. Gen. Kondratiuk did the presentation with detailed information of its significance.

Activity reports by Judge Advocate Demchuk, Historian Vasyl Luchkiw, Public Relations Officer Bernard Krawczuk on the UAV Tribune and PNC Koziak on the UAV National Monument followed. Mr. Demchuk also reported on the successful fund-raiser that he chaired.

After the discussion and acceptance of reports, delegates attended meetings of their assigned committees and presented their recommendations.

The Resolutions Committee was chaired by Brig. Gen. Kondratiuk, with Mr. Bodnar, UAV Post 6, and Ihor Hron, UAV Post 40, members. The following proposed resolutions were accepted:

- 1. To urge the administration and the U.S. Congress to continue to support, with all means, the men and women in the U.S. armed forces currently engaged in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan until their mission is accomplished.

- 2. To urge the administration and the U.S. Congress to continue full funding to the U.S. military hospitals for the care of wounded and injured servicemen and servicewomen; to urge the administration and the U.S. Congress to increase funding to the Veterans Administration for the medical care of wounded and injured veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

- 3. To appeal to all American veterans of Ukrainian heritage to register in the UAV Registration Project and to become members of Ukrainian American Veterans Inc.

- 4. To urge the UAV national executive board, all UAV posts and members to take a professional and aggressive approach to build the Ukrainian American Veterans National Monument, as well as to appeal to the Ukrainian American community to contribute to this most worthy endeavor that will honor all past, present and future Ukrainian American veterans.

The committee on the UAV National Monument, chaired by Mr. Koziak, proposed that \$10,000 be allocated from the national UAV for this project. After due discussion, the motion was passed.



Delegates to the UAV's 60th national convention.

All other UAV officers presented their committees' recommendations.

Next, Mrs. Krawczuk called upon State Commanders Harold Bochonko (New York) and Snihurowych (Connecticut) and attending post commanders to present their reports.

UAV Post 301 Commander John Tkachuk reported on the 60th Convention Committee, Mr. Skirka on the banquet and Mrs. Krawczuk on the 60th Convention Journal, which was dedicated to American and Coalition forces on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan fighting the war on terror.

With a prayer by Mr. Pryjma and official closing ceremonies by the national commander, the 60th annual UAV national convention was adjourned.

## Convention banquet

The convention banquet started at 6 p.m. at the Ukrainian Youth Center. During this time Yonkers Mayor Philip A. Amicone presented a proclamation declaring October 13, 2007, a day of tribute to the Ukrainian American Veterans 60th convention and another one to UAV Post 301. Other local dignitaries made brief remarks as well.

Opening the banquet program, Commander Krawczuk called on the local high school Color Guard to post the colors. Mary Olijarczyk sang the American and Ukrainian anthems, and Peter Olijarczyk gave an emotional presentation of the "Missing Man Table" and honors ceremony for prisoners of war and those missing in action.

The national commander then called for a moment of silence for more than 3,800 fallen heroes in the war on terror, including 18 from Ukraine who fought with the Coalition forces. She also called for honoring and remembering all the freedom fighters of Ukraine: from the brave kozaks of Zaporizhia to the unyielding and courageous insurgents of Halychyna on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

A highlight at the banquet was the presentation of the Purple Heart, after 40 years, to Vietnam veteran and UAV Post 301 member Bohdan Mykitschak by Brig. Gen. Kondratiuk.

The UAV Connecticut State Department charter was presented to State Commander Snihurowych, the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary was recognized and certificates of appreciation were presented to President Koziak, Irene Pryjma, Alberta Cieply and Irene Demchuk (received by her husband).

On behalf of UAV Post 301, Post Commander Tkachuk accepted a certificate of appreciation for hosting the 60th national convention.

At the end of the ceremonies the national commander recognized World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and Iraq and

Afghanistan veterans. As they stood up, they were met with a round of applause.

Mr. Tkachuk of Post 301 then welcomed everyone and introduced the master of ceremonies, UAV Past National Commander and current UAV Historian Vasyl Luchkiw, introduced the officers of the national executive board, National Ladies Auxiliary and special guests.

The Rev. Ivan Kaszczak, fellow veteran and UAV Post 301 member, officiated



Brig. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk with Purple Heart recipient Bohdan Mykitschak.

before dinner and at the closing of the banquet program.

Introducing the guest speaker, Mr. Luchkiw underlined the importance of the U.S. military historical research that has been done by Brig. Gen. Kondratiuk, not only as a U.S. Army historian, but also pertaining to the Ukrainian Americans who have served in the U.S. armed forces.

In his presentation Brig. Gen. Kondratiuk noted that currently there is only one major general, David Sprynczynatyk, of Ukrainian heritage on active duty. He named other decorated Ukrainian Americans, including Maj. Myron Diduryk, who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1970.

The brigadier general underlined the importance of the UAV Registration Project which aims to collect information on Ukrainian Americans who have served or are on active duty in the U.S. armed forces – information that is largely nonexistent at this time.

After completion of the banquet program, Post Commander Tkachuk thanked everyone for coming and wished them a pleasant evening to the sounds of music by the Na Zdorovya band.

Bernard W. Krawczuk is UAV national public relations officer.



At the UAV convention (from left) are: UAV Judge Advocate Michael Demchuk, UAV Connecticut State Officer Michael Wowk, UAV National Commander Anna Krawczuk and new UAV Connecticut State Commander Wiroslaw J. Snihurowych.



**THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM**

**Young UNA'ers**



Christina Marta Silver and Thomas George Silver, children of Maria and Stanley Silver, are new members of UNA Branch 15. The Silvers are serving at the U.S. Embassy in Oslo, Norway. The children were enrolled by their grandparents George and Olga Rudensky.



Nicholas Ryan Olivette, son of Halia and Danny Olivette of River Edge, N.J., is a new member of UNA Branch 42. He was enrolled by his grandmother Maria Romancio.

**UNA represented at 'Open Doors Niagara'**



BUFFALO, N.Y. – On October 13-14, one of the participants in "Open Doors Niagara" was the Ukrainian Cultural Center Dnipro, located at 562 Genesee St. in Buffalo. At the event Judie Hawryluk, UNA district chairperson for Buffalo, demonstrated how to make Ukrainian pysanky, gerdany and embroidery. In addition, there were UNA informational materials. Many people stopped by the table to watch and ask questions about Ukrainian culture and heritage, and also about the UNA and the various products it has to offer.



Joseph Jakubowsky and Andrew Jakubowsky, sons of Andrew and Raylyn Jakubowsky of Marina, Calif., are new members of UNA Branch 360. They were enrolled by their great-grandmother Olga Jakubowsky.



Arthur John Hrycak and Peter Matthew Hrycak, sons of Orest and Margaret Hrycak of Cranford, N.J., are new members of UNA Branch 234. They were enrolled by their grandparents Rea and Peter Hrycak.

**SURVEY REGARDING  
POSTAL DELIVERY  
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**Do you have a young UNA'er,  
or potential young UNA'er in your family?**  
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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

# Our community united

Saturday, November 17, was a solemn day of remembrance for our community here in the United States. On that day, thousands of us traveled to New York City to participate in the solemn march in memory of the 7 million to 10 million of our kinsmen who were systematically killed in the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. Joined by hundreds more, the throng filled the Cathedral of St. Patrick for a requiem service to these millions of innocents. Thanks to the clergy officiating and the Dumka Chorus singing the responses, we all were united in fervent and uplifting prayer.

The day's events were a reaffirmation of our nation's firm intention to seek, not revenge, but historical justice; to seek to right the wrongs committed to our people by spreading knowledge and the truth about what occurred in those horrendous years.

The day's events also marked the beginning of a year that has been designated by the National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 as a year of memorial programs, activities, ceremonies, exhibits, etc. that will culminate in 2008 with the unveiling of a monument in Washington to victims of the Holodomor.

One of the most significant and salutary aspects of our memorial events on November 17 was the participation of large numbers of our younger generations. Yes, among the marchers and mourners were our senior citizens, but there were great numbers of young adults, young families, teenagers, children. Youth organizations, parishes and schools made a concerted effort to have their young members and students attend; parents made sure to bring their children.

Thus, the march and memorial service became not only a manifestation of our community's sorrow, but a teachable moment – a time of educational opportunity when a child or teen can be most responsive to learning. And the lessons in this case are very important.

First of all, there is the lesson about the Holodomor itself. Reading the banners and signs being carried and the pamphlets being handed out, and then hearing the speeches of religious, political and community leaders, diplomats and writers – each of whom shed light on a different aspect of the Famine-Genocide – the youth of our community was sure to grasp at least some portion of the Holodomor's enormity. For many, this will be food for thought, for discussion, for further reading and research.

And there is yet another lesson in the events of November 17, and this is that we all are part of a greater whole, that there are certain truths and values that unite all Ukrainians. And, these truths and values unite us all regardless of religious denomination, organizational membership, political affiliation, generation, place of birth or Ukrainian-language proficiency. Our children need to feel they too are a part of our community and to understand its value for all of us. Attending such community-wide events as the one on November 17 nurtures and strengthens that feeling.

A year from now in Washington, we will come together yet again as a community united in sorrow and in purpose. Meanwhile, between now and then, all of us can continue our work – as one community – to seek universal recognition of the Holodomor.

Nov  
30  
2003

## Turning the pages back...

Four years ago on the eve of the 70th anniversary commemorations of the Holodomor, the Pulitzer Prize Board announced that after six months of study and deliberation, it would not posthumously take away Walter Duranty's 1932 Pulitzer Prize, as reported by The Ukrainian Weekly on November 30, 2003.

The announcement on November 21, 2003, came after a semiannual meeting of the 17-member board held at Columbia University in New York City.

A portfolio of 13 articles was reviewed by the Pulitzer Prize Board and measured according to current standards for foreign reporting. A statement that followed the review said that the articles fell seriously short of the current standards and agreed that their findings were similar to that of scholars like Dr. Mark von Hagen of Columbia University, who found the articles to be "cynical in tone and apologist in purpose and effect in terms of justifying what the Stalinist regime was up to." The New York Times called Mr. Duranty's work "slovenly" but did not see it fit to remove the award from Mr. Duranty's journalistic record. Justifying the board's decision not to revoke Mr. Duranty's award, the board said "there was not clear and convincing evidence of deliberate deception, the relevant standard in this case."

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, which initiated the international campaign for the revocation of Mr. Duranty's prize, said, "It is a documented fact that Duranty was Stalin's apologist, a shill for the Soviets before, during and after 1932-1933. For the Pulitzer Prize Committee to render this tartuffish decision and announce it on the eve of the fourth Saturday in November, a day officially set aside in Ukraine for national mourning, is base."

According to the Pulitzer Prize Board, the prize is not awarded for an author's body of work, or for the author's character, but for the specific pieces entered into the competition. The 13 articles under review for the prize were written and published in 1931.

Dr. Luciuk said that those articles under review were "nothing more than a regurgitation of the official Soviet line." The Pulitzer Prize Board, he continued, was "concentrating on minutiae and ignoring the greater truth. It's a sleight of hand."

"All who hold a Pulitzer Prize should think about whether what was once the most prestigious distinction in journalism still is. Duranty's prize soils all Pulitzer Prizes," Dr. Luciuk added.

A statement issued by the Pulitzer Prize Board said, "The famine of 1932-1933 was horrific and has not received the international attention it deserves. By its decision, the board in no way wishes to diminish the gravity of that loss. The board extends its sympathy to Ukrainians and others in the United States and throughout the world who still mourn the suffering and deaths brought on by Joseph Stalin."

Source: "Pulitzer Board declines to revoke Duranty's prize," by Andrew Nynka, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, November 30, 2003.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Two New York events worth experiencing

Dear Editor:

Brian Cherwick was in town a couple of weeks ago. In case you don't know of him, Mr. Cherwick is a renowned Ukrainian Canadian musician from Edmonton, Alberta. He was in New York City participating in the "Sounds of the Prairies: Music and Dance of the Ukrainian Settlers of Western Canada" program sponsored by the Center for Traditional Music and Dance as part of its "Ukrainian Wave" series. This series ran from October 16 to 22, and I was able to attend two of the events.

The first event I attended was the "Sounds of the Prairies" concert at The Ukrainian Museum on October 19. This program was organized by the CTMD and by Julian Kytasty of the New York Bandura Ensemble as part of the Bandura Downtown series. This concert featured Mr. Cherwick playing tsymbaly, sopilky, accordion, guitar, lira and koza, accompanied by Sprocket Royer on acoustic bass, and Valery Zhmud on violin, with Halya Remezova joining in on violin for a few pieces. Mr. Cherwick played a variety of songs, ranging from traditional Ukrainian dance melodies to old-time Ukrainian prairie dance tunes and a Ukrainian Canadian version of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land." He also played a few of his own songs from his group, the Kubasonics, songs about the wholesome goodness of kyshka and about baba rolling her own holubsti. We heard the full gamut of songs. If this had been the only concert I had seen, I would have been greatly satisfied.

However, I went to the event the next night, on Saturday, October 20, which was held in the hall at the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant. This was the "Western Canadian Vechornytsi," a western Canadian prairie village dance, if you will. The evening started out with Andriy Nahachewsky, the dance master from the University of Alberta. He taught us a number of dances from western Canada, dances that are still done as they were done in Ukraine a hundred years ago. These included the "chaban," "syidemka," "kolomyika," "verkhovyna," "toe-heel polka" and the "arkan."

The high point for me was the arkan, learning all the steps that can be done. Okay, maybe not all the steps – as Andriy said that there are many variants, but he taught us more than enough steps to show off with.

The music for these dances was provided by Mr. Cherwick on accordion and tsymbaly, Mr. Royer on acoustic bass, Andriy Milavsky (of the group Cheres) on various sopilky and clarinet, Ms. Remezova on violin, Stefan Kuziv playing the drum/cymbal/bells kit, and joining in later, Peter Rushefsky (of the CTMD) on tsymbaly. It was nicely played music to learn to dance to.

After about an hour of dance lessons, the dance started. At first the musicians

played for us, but then ... let's just say that the music soon dissolved into the musicians playing more and more difficult or unknown songs, teaching the other musicians old songs, showing off ... This became an "all star" jam session that we had the privilege of watching and listening. What a treat!

Mr. Cherwick on accordion traded off leads with Mr. Milavsky on sopilky and clarinet. Mr. Royer, on bass, kept a solid rhythm that swung just so nicely. Mr. Kuziv added to that with his percussion kit. Ms. Remezova played violin. By the end of the evening, I was sure that her violin strings were glowing red-hot – she is that good. Mr. Rushefsky, the music director at CTMD, filled out the songs on the tsymbaly, completing the group.

What did they play? We had polkas, arkans, kolomyiky, waltzes, marches and many, many more. To give you an idea of the quality and caliber and level of the musicianship and vast musical knowledge of this group, the last song that was played featured Messrs. Cherwick and Rushefsky on tsymbaly, vocals by Mr. Kuziv, and an unknown piano player. They played "Skhody Do Neba," the song made popular by that British group "Olyvianyi Zepelyn" (Led Zeppelin).

The talent, the musicianship, the music – I am still abuzz even as I write this. Let's just say that one will not see or hear music like this again any time soon – this was a true musical experience.

Ihor Slabicky  
Portsmouth, R.I.

### Ukrainians' skepticism about agricultural land

Dear Editor:

Earlier this year, Ukraine's Parliament reaffirmed a law prohibiting the sale of agricultural land. It can be inherited or leased from current owners – who were in collective farms during the Soviet era.

This arrangement apparently is favored by most Ukrainian citizens. Having lived through privatization scandals in the 1990s, Ukrainians seem to be very skeptical of the virtues of marketing agricultural land. Land is just about the only major asset not yet gobbled up by a handful of oligarchs.

There are good reasons to be skeptical. Examples of most countries with market economies show what happens when land is a marketed commodity. In the United States, family farms are an endangered species. Only a small fraction still exist. Most land is cultivated by large agro-businesses with hired labor, many of them migrant workers living in dismal conditions. The saga of farm worker abuse to this day stains America's conscience. Not much has changed since the days of John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" and Caesar Chavez's struggle for union recognition. This is not a world of purist con-

(Continued on page 22)

### We welcome your opinion

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Letters should be typed and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com). The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions. Please note: THE LENGTH OF LETTERS CANNOT EXCEED 500 WORDS.



## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



### Playing the Nazi card

Two armies met in triumph at Brest-Litovsk. I don't know if Gen. Mykola Vatutin was there, but I'd bet he was. As chief of staff of the Red Army Southern Group, he was responsible for planning operations for the joint German-Soviet invasion of Poland, so he had every right to claim credit ... and share history's opprobrium: if ever there was a Nazi collaborator, Gen. Vatutin certainly was. And yet, when he died of wounds three and a half years later, Soviet Ukraine held a state funeral in Kyiv and put up a statue of him, a stone's throw from the Verkhovna Rada.

Now, labeling a man a Nazi collaborator when he led troops at Stalingrad and Kursk and liberated Kyiv from the Wehrmacht surely takes things crudely out of context. Well, the issue of who's a Nazi and who isn't is stirring controversy, largely because Russian President Vladimir Putin and others hurl that charge routinely and crudely out of context.

In May, for example, Mr. Putin said Latvia and Estonia were "openly glorifying Nazis." In the same speech, he accused the United States of "having the same contempt for human life and claims of exceptionality and diktat as during the time of the Third Reich." Then, in October, he condemned "certain political forces" in Ukraine for working to "clear the name" of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and its commander, Roman Shukhevych, also linking them, of course, to the Nazis.

As it happens, the "political forces" that Putin condemns is none other than the president of Ukraine who paid tribute to all those who defended the country and struggled for its independence. And among those he singled out was Gen. Shukhevych.

Predictably, this drew denunciations for his alleged collaboration with the Nazis. No one complained that Mr. Yushchenko also praised Gen. Vatutin.

All this begs for an explanation, so let's start with January 30, 1933. That was when Adolph Hitler came to power in Germany, even as Joseph Stalin was grimly massacring the Ukrainian rural class and cultural elite. From that day forward, the destinies of two dictators were linked. Achieving total control over their societies, they began implementing plans for world domination.

By 1938, Hitler had remilitarized the Rhineland, occupied Austria and the Sudetenland, and was bent on further conquest. As for Stalin, he was the ruthless idealist, steering history towards utopia – never mind how many people he had to kill to get there. Seemingly on a collision course, the two dictators astonished the world with a Non-Aggression Pact in August 1939 – an agreement to divide Europe between them. As part of the deal, Stalin would also provide Germany with strategic raw materials – oil, grain, ore.

World War II started on September 1, 1939, when Hitler invaded Poland from the west. Soon after, Stalin invaded from the east; hence the victory parade on September 23. In the year that followed, Hitler conquered France, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and Belgium, while Stalin, with Vatutin playing a key role, absorbed western Ukraine and Belarus, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, and parts of Finland and Romania.

When Germany attacked the USSR on June 22, 1941, no one was more surprised than Stalin. He not only refused to believe that Hitler might betray him, he punished those who warned him. Hours before the

invasion, a Soviet freight train entered the Third Reich with one last delivery for the Nazi war machine.

Among those invading the Communist empire was a Ukrainian battalion, Nachtigall, led by Shukhevych. These were men with major grudges. Over the course of the previous decade, the Soviet Union killed 10 million of their countrymen – nearly everyone had lost someone, including Shukhevych, whose brother was murdered in an NKVD prison. Offered the opportunity to form a military unit, however small, Shukhevych seized upon it. Further conflict was inevitable and without an army, a nation was helpless. The training and arms a small unit received could well be critical.

Entering Lviv, Nachtigall took strategically important positions, including the radio station. A week later the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) used it to declare Ukrainian independence. Sadly, the declaration had no substance. The Germans arrested the leaders and interned them in concentration camps. Some, including Shukhevych, managed to escape. By then, the Nazis had unleashed horror – forced labor, mass executions, Babyn Yar. Any remaining illusions were dispelled.

Confronting this calamity, Shukhevych organized a potent guerrilla force: the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. Initially, they fought the Nazis. As the Red Army advanced, pushing the Wehrmacht toward Berlin, the UPA took it on as well. In February 1944 Vatutin fell victim to an UPA ambush and died a couple of months later. He was 43. So was Shukhevych when he died in an NKVD ambush six years later.

Bitter disputes about the past are rarely about history and much more about politics today. President Putin spoke for many Russians when he described the collapse of the Soviet Union as "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century." Ukrainians hail that "catastrophe" as a blessing that led to independence.

As president, Mr. Yushchenko is working to reorient Ukrainian history to accommodate all its complexities, while reconciling the country's warring perspectives. This isn't easy, and it's not for the timid. To put the UPA into that context, he has to steer against a powerful political current generated by half a century of Soviet propaganda that painted the guerrilla army and its leader as Nazi collaborators.

Actually, the exact opposite is true. Long before Mr. Yushchenko became president, the Ukrainian Rada commissioned a panel of distinguished historians to review the UPA's record. In 2000 they released their findings: UPA was an honorable unit that fought the Nazis and then continued its independence struggle against the Soviets well into the 1950s.

Accusing someone of being a Nazi worked during the Soviet era and it's a card "political forces" seeking to restore the empire are not ashamed to play today. To his credit, Mr. Yushchenko refuses to follow suit. When he honored Shukhevych, he also honored Vatutin. Everyone, he said, who fought for Ukraine – whether in the Red Army or UPA – "is worthy of eternal esteem and gratitude." Ukraine's two greatest enemies, Yushchenko said, were nazism and communism. Vatutin fought one of those evils. Shukhevych fought both.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is [fedynsky@stratos.net](mailto:fedynsky@stratos.net).

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### Canada's UNO at 75

Seventy-five years ago, Canada was in the throes of the Great Depression. Thousands of people were out of work. The Canadian economy was sinking fast, dropping 42 percent between 1929 and 1933. Ukrainian Canadians who were just stepping onto the first rung of Canada's economic ladder were knocked to the bottom. Life was grim.

Seventy-five years ago Soviet Ukraine was destitute. The Soviets were Russifying the nation and draining its wealth. Ukrainians were being starved to death in a Moscow-orchestrated Famine-Genocide that eventually killed some 10 million innocent men, women and children. Few people outside of Ukraine were aware of this ghastly crime. Walter Duranty, the infamous Moscow correspondent for The New York Times, denied its existence. Politicians, clergymen, well-known authors, university professors and other useful idiots from the West were traveling to Moscow, shaking hands with Joseph Stalin, and announcing to the world that they had been to the future and that it works. Stalin was creating a new democracy, they told us. Capitalism is dead. The USSR was a model to be emulated.

Seventy-five years ago, Ukrainian Communists in Canada were flourishing, thanks in large measure to Soviet financial assistance. Membership in the Ukrainian Labor Farmer Temples, a Communist-sponsored network of organizations, was growing. Ukrainian Communists claimed that Ukraine was an independent and sovereign nation and that all talk of a famine was a hoax. Many Ukrainian Canadians believed these lies.

Swimming against the prevailing tide was a group of patriotic Ukrainian Canadians led by Alexander Gregorovich, a school teacher. They came together on a Sunday afternoon at the Hrushevsky Institute in Edmonton, Alberta, and founded the Ukrainian National Federation (known by its Ukrainian acronym UNO).

The date was July 17, 1932. That too was 75 years ago.

Who were these intrepid UNO pioneers? Were they foolish dreamers? Were they out of touch with reality? Or were they visionaries who believed they could make a difference in the lives of their fellow Ukrainian Canadians?

Most of the UNO founding generation were members of the two Ukrainian immigrant waves (some 200,000 strong) that arrived in Canada between 1897 and 1931. Most were farmers. Others were tradesmen. Some were educated. Many were Ukrainian army veterans who fought for Ukrainian independence following World War I.

What did UNO's founding generation hope to accomplish? What was their dream, their focus? They said they wanted to unite all Ukrainians into one, strong anti-Communist organization. A tall order, that.

In 1932 Canada had many Ukrainian organizations: church organizations, Prosvita reading rooms and community centers. Their orientation was essentially local. There was little communication among them.

The odds were against establishing an organization like UNO. Just think of the obstacles: The Great Depression, limited

funds, Soviet-supported opposition groups, romanticized perceptions of Soviet life among the Western elite, and, of course, Ukrainian individualism, the "everyone a hetman" approach to community endeavors. The road ahead was not going to be easy.

But, then again, being Ukrainian in Canada has never been easy. During WWI, for example, some 5,000 Ukrainians were interred in 24 concentration camps as enemy aliens from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Their property was confiscated. Some lost everything; they were never compensated for this great travesty of justice.

UNO's founders didn't worry about the odds. Their goals resonated among Ukrainian Canadians and under the leadership of President Gregorovich, some 50 UNO branches were established between 1932 and 1936. Twelve more branches were created in 1936 and 1937 under the leadership of UNO President Michael Pohorecky. The third UNO president, Volodymyr Kossar, added 20 more branches.

In 1934 UNO members established the Ukrainian Women's Organization and the Ukrainian National Youth Federation, MUNO. The venerable Paul Yuzyk (who later served in the Canadian Senate) was the first MUNO president. Before long, UNO began to publish The New Pathway, a newspaper for its members.

Soon there were UNO community centers from Edmonton to Montreal. The Winnipeg, Manitoba, UNO established the now famed Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center in Winnipeg where for many years summer courses in the Ukrainian language, culture, history and geography were taught to teenagers.

One of the greatest contributions of UNO to the preservation of Ukrainian culture and youth interest in things Ukrainian was the creation of outstanding MUNO dance groups such as Chaika in Hamilton, Ontario; Cheremosh in Edmonton; Rusalka in Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Kalyna in Toronto. Many years ago I had the privilege of attending a MUNO dance competition at a MUNO convention in Winnipeg. I'll never forget the intense competition and the professional-like quality of the performances.

UNO also established summer youth camps in Sandy Hook, Manitoba, and Hawkstone, Ontario, where UNO member Bohdan Bociurkiw, an expert on Ukrainian church history, once taught.

UNO members also served in the national assembly and executive of the Ukrainian National Association. Walter Hirniak and Leonid Fil were advisors. Mr. Kossar and Stefania Zorych were auditors. Bohdan Zorych, Sen. Yuzyk and John Hewryk served as vice-presidents.

UNO's loyalty to Canada was always firm and steadfast. UNO members were among the 40,000 Canadians who served in the Canadian military in WWII during which some 4,000 Ukrainian Canadians were killed. The booklet "Seven Presidents in Uniform" features MUNO presidents who volunteered for the armed services during the war.

(Continued on page 20)

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



# Solemn march...

(Continued from page 1)

more Ukrainians should show up to events like this and show the world they are proud of their history and want others to learn from it," she added. "There are those who are probably sitting at home because it's cold outside. I say to them: Come out and show your Ukrainian pride, march for your people, for those who perished. It's something that all Ukrainians should do."

Petro Nikitin, 23, originally from Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, who now resides in Manhattan, said: "The Holodomor was a horrific event that was directed against the Ukrainian people. We have to remember it and make sure the world never forgets about it. This march is very important, and it is good to see so many people participating in this event to bring awareness to the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933."

Yuriy Symczyk, 19, of Union, N.J., said: "I feel that the Holodomor is an important event in history, not only for Ukrainians, but for the world. The world should recognize it as a genocide and making this march is a pretty big event for the Ukrainian community."

"I felt participating in this march was way more important than sitting at home. For those that did stay at home, they need to get their priorities straight and stand shoulder to shoulder with their fellow Ukrainians for a great cause," he said. "This march has been a demonstration of what truly unites us as Ukrainians, regardless of religion, being affiliated with SUM [Ukrainian American Youth Association] or Plast [Ukrainian Scouting Organization], or any other organization we belong to."

Andriy Olyneec, 39, of Accord, N.Y.,



Matthew Dubas

A section of the marchers escorted by police motorcycles along Third Avenue.

commented: "As I was handing out the informational brochures, a woman showed me that she already had one, and she looked at me, on the brink of shedding tears, and said, 'I'm so sorry. I had no idea. I could cry.' And I could see that she

was very moved by the march and the pamphlet, and thanked her for her sympathies."

Upon reaching St. Patrick Cathedral, the crowd of Ukrainians seemed to swell to over 3,000 and began to fill the cathedral

to near capacity with those who arrived by one of the many charter buses provided by area Ukrainian churches, communities and credit unions for those who could not physically endure the three-mile march from St. George Church.



Khristina Lew

Seminarians carry one of 10 symbolic coffins.



Khristina Lew

Sign-bearers gather in front of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church with symbolic coffins.



Matthew Dubas

Hierarchs, diplomats and clergy march together up Third Avenue.



Khristina Lew

Participating in the march are: Father Bernard Panczuk, Archbishop Antony, Ambassador Oleh Shamshur and Consul General Mykola Kyrychenko.



## Statement by Viktor Yushchenko

*Statement by President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine, which was read at St. Patrick's Cathedral.*

Dear Ukrainians of the world, Brothers and sisters:

These days Ukraine commences to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933.

The Holodomor was one of the most terrible humanitarian disasters in the history of mankind. As a result of the deliberate and thoroughly planned policy of the totalitarian Communist regime, millions of our compatriots were killed. By its shocking scope it exceeds even the Ukrainian World War II death toll. We still feel the impact of this ruthless terror aimed at systemic extermination of the Ukrainian nation.

The totalitarian regime's actions call for global condemnation. Ukrainian diplomats and Ukrainian communities abroad made major efforts for the recognition by the world community and international institutions of the Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian people. This work has to be advanced in a persistent and consistent way to bring across to the world the truth about those evil times in full measure.

In every quarter of the world where our community is present, the memory of innocent victims of the Holodomor must be preserved and revered. I urge you all to actively promote creation of information centers, study programs and exhibitions on the tragic events of 1932-1933.

In particular, I would like to address young Ukrainians around the world. I ask you to most actively respond to my call and form a sincere and ardent base of a great endeavor of revealing the truth about the Holodomor to the world.

Respectfully, I call upon Ukrainians of the world and all people of good will – regardless of their origin – to honor the memory of the Holodomor victims on November 24 by lighting candles around the globe.

Carry these rays of truth to every nation and every land, and in November 2008 bring it as a unified candle back to Ukraine for it to become the eternal and unquenchable symbol of our sorrow over millions of our lost brothers and sisters, of our unity and our faith in unconquerable strength of the Ukrainian people.

Our duty is to unite our efforts and to do our utmost to ensure that these tragic events are never forgotten.

Ukraine remembers! The world acknowledges!

## Statement by George W. Bush

*Statement by President George W. Bush read at St. Patrick's Cathedral.*

I send greetings to those commemorating the anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine. On this occasion, we pay tribute to the lives lost in this horrific atrocity.

During 1932 and 1933, millions of Ukrainians died from starvation and persecution by the Soviet government. Denying the people of Ukraine the right to live and work in freedom, Stalin's totalitarian regime seized crops and farms across the country. As Ukrainian Americans and others around the world mark this anniversary, we recognize the strength and resilience shown by the people of Ukraine under such hardship and suffering. By recognizing this tragedy and honoring the victims who perished, we remember to never avert our eyes from the plight of those suffering under tyrannical regimes around the world.

Today, Ukraine is an inspiration to all who love liberty and a powerful example of democracy across the globe. The United States and Ukraine share a commitment to the ideals of personal and economic freedom, democracy and open trade. A free Ukraine is a friend to the United States, and we will continue to work together to improve the lives of both our peoples.

Laura and I join all Americans in sending best wishes to the people of Ukraine on this solemn anniversary.

## Remarks by Yuriy Sergeyev

*Remarks by the permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Yuriy Sergeyev, at St. Patrick's Cathedral.*

Today, everywhere in the world where Ukrainians and their friends live, candles are lit in the memory of victims of a huge tragedy of the Ukrainian people of 1932-1933. We are bowing our heads in prayer for the millions of men, women and children who were cold-bloodedly murdered by the Stalin totalitarian regime in an artificially made famine.

That was a genocide – to the fullest extent of this horrible term – which was clearly described in the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted in 1948.

What does Ukraine aspire to by honoring the memory of her murdered fellow countrymen? Why do we insist on recognition by the world community of the Holodomor as an act of genocide?

This is definitely not about having revenge or settling scores with the past.

Instead, this is for the memory of millions and millions of the Holodomor's victims; this is for those who survived the tragedy and who are here with us at this service; this is for the sake of upcoming generations that we want to establish historical justice and to unveil the truth which the Soviet regime had been carefully keeping secret until its last day.

That truth comes to us in stacks of recently unclassified documents. That truth increases solidarity of the world with us. During recent years legislative bodies of Argentina, Estonia, Canada, Poland, Peru, the United States, Hungary and of a number of other states have passed official documents denouncing the tragedy of the Holodomor.

We highly value those important signs of worldwide solidarity and support.

I am confident that the process that has started can and will not be stopped by anybody, and the international recognition of the Holodomor will continue to grow.

The engineers of the Holodomor have died ingloriously. So has the Soviet empire sunk into oblivion. Unfortunately, their evil shadows are still roaming about the planet, where authoritarianism, totalitarianism and dictatorship from time to time show their ugly faces in mass repressions, trampling of human rights and violent intolerance to political opponents.

That is why, by the sad example of the Holodomor, Ukraine is seeking to secure a future world [safe] from the horrors bred by anti-human regimes. Those ideological aspirations have no moral frontiers.

Ukraine had become a target of artificial hunger aimed at destruction of her national soul and, through it, of her physical body. God forbid a similar catastrophe will ever fall upon any of the living and forthcoming generations.

By saying "let victims of the Holodomor be remembered forever," we send to the world a message of edification and precaution.

## Remarks by Andrew Stuttaford

*Remarks by Andrew Stuttaford, contributing editor of National Review Online, at St. Patrick's Cathedral. (Mr. Stuttaford has written about the Famine-Genocide and about Gareth Jones, the courageous young Welshman who reported on the Holodomor.)*

It is an honor to be here.

A nation, it is said, that forgets its past has no future. The fact that we are gathered here today to remember the millions who starved, who were murdered, who were left to die in the years of the Holodomor is a gesture of respect to what has been, and a sign of hope for what will be, we hope, a free, independent and prosperous Ukraine.

As we remember those terrible years, we should also remember the ways that many were induced to forget. In the former USSR these were not matters that could be safely discussed. Even now, there are, I suspect, still too many secrets buried within the archives of the former empire (and, as we are reminded yet again today, it was an evil empire), secrets that need to see the light of day, secrets that should no longer be secret, secrets that need to be remembered. Commemorations like those today increase the chance that eventually they will be. They ought to be. As was said in Ukraine in a different context not so long ago, "Pora." It's time. Long past time.

In the West too we forgot, or we were misled, or we looked away or at least didn't look too hard. Maybe we didn't care. Maybe we just took refuge in euphemism. "Collectivization" somehow sounds so much more civilized than genocide.

I recall – very well – the first time I fully grasped the nature of what really happened 75 years ago. Back in 1979, when I was in graduate school in Brussels I had a good friend of Ukrainian origins. I was invited over to his family's house for Sunday lunch. The conversation turned to politics and, specifically, the fate of those peoples then trapped within the USSR. My host referred to famine. "From the 1920s?," I asked. No, he replied, "From the 1930s." "The 1930s?" He got up and returned with some copies of old newspapers. I looked at the articles (none, of which, I suspect, had been written by Walter Duranty, but perhaps there was something there by Gareth Jones, the Welsh journalist who told the truth about what was happening – incidentally his niece, Siriol, is with us today). I looked at the photographs. Now, for the first time, I properly understood what was concealed within that dry and dreary word "Collectivization."

I saw faces. I saw names. Just a few. Out of so many. We are honoring those names and their memory today.

Years later, Nikita Khrushchev, a man who knew a thing or two about mass murder, said that he didn't know how many had died in the Terror-Famine. In a phrase that has haunted me from the very first time I read it he explained why not: "Nobody was keeping count."

Well, perhaps not, but each one of those people, each one of those lost millions, counted. They still do.

And that's why we must never forget them.

May they rest in peace.



Markian Hadzewycz



Markian Hadzewycz

Speaking in St. Patrick's Cathedral are: Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations Yuriy Sergeyev (left) and Andrew Stuttaford.



Markian Hadzewycz

The Ukrainian American Veterans honor guard inside the cathedral.



## Thousands...

(Continued from page 1)

Catholic Church, said, "we are paying tribute to those who died," informing others about the deaths of innocent millions and praying for their eternal rest.

Also officiating at the service were: Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka (Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States), Archbishop Antony (Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.), Bishop John Bura (Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia), Bishop Paisii (Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, bishop of Boryspil and of UOC-KP churches in U.S.) and Father Bernard Panczuk (St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York), assisted by numerous clergy. The responses were sung by the Dumka Chorus under the baton of Vasyl Hrechynsky.

An honor guard of Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) stood at the front of the cavernous cathedral, holding American and Ukrainian national flags, as well as their organization's flag. A wreath of "kalyna" (guelder rose) and wheat, symbols of Ukraine, was placed to the left of the liturgical altar.

Once the requiem service was over, Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, came to the lectern to offer introductory remarks, touching on the theme of the Holodomor year: "Ukraine remembers – the world recognizes."

Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Oleh Shamshur read a message from President Viktor Yushchenko and Mr. Sawkiw read a statement from U.S. President George W. Bush, in which the former stated that it is "our duty ... to ensure that these tragic events are never forgotten," while the latter offered "tribute to the lives lost in this horrific atrocity." (For complete texts, see page 9).

Mr. Sawkiw noted that statements were received also from Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Sander Levin (D-Mich.) of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, as well as political leader Yulia Tymoshenko of Ukraine. Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.) was present to personally deliver a message of condolence and hope to his fellow Ukrainian Americans.

In succession, speakers shared their insights about the once unknown – and denied – genocide of the Ukrainian people.

Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, characterized the Holodomor as "a genocide to the fullest extent of this horrible term" and explained that Ukraine insists on international recognition of this genocide "for the memory of millions and millions of the Holodomor's victims" and "for the sake of historical justice."

Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, provided census numbers to prove that Ukraine and Ukrainians suffered losses during the Holodomor far greater than those endured in other parts of the USSR affected by famine in the 1930s. "Had a comparable growth rate been allowed, the Ukrainian population should have grown by 9 million" in the years between the 1926 and 1939 censuses, he said. "Thus, Ukrainians lost more than 12 million lives during that time." Furthermore, Stalin and Viacheslav Molotov "issued a directive from Moscow directing a police action to prohibit the massive departure of farmers from Ukraine and the Kuban region. No other areas of the USSR were singled out prohibiting departure 'in search of bread.'"

Andrew Stuttaford, contributing editor of the National Review Online, stated: "The fact that we are gathered here today



Markian Hadzewycz

**Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Oleh Shamshur speaks in St. Patrick's Cathedral.**

to remember the millions who starved, who were murdered, who were left to die in the years of the Holodomor is a gesture of respect to what has been, and a sign of hope for what will be, we hope, a free, independent and prosperous Ukraine." He noted that although Nikita Khrushchev once famously said that "Nobody was keeping count" of how many died in the Terror-Famine, "each one of those lost millions counted. They still do. And that's why we must never forget them."

Closing the memorial afternoon, Archbishop Antony underlined that "we have no right to forget" the millions who died in the Holodomor, for, if we forget, "then we become part of those enabling it to happen again." And, he told the

solemn gathering, "if you think it can't happen, take a look at the news." The hierarch concluded his remarks by exhorting the public to engage in more than anniversary mourning, adding, "this must be a sorrow that we bring forth each and every day of our lives."

The Ukrainian Orthodox leader thanked Cardinal Edward Egan and the pastoral staff of St. Patrick's for once again allowing Ukrainians the use of the stately cathedral for the memorial service.

At the conclusion of the program the Dumka Chorus sang "Bozhe Velykyi Yedynyi, nashu Vkrayinu khrary..." (Great and Only God, protect our Ukraine) and ended with "Presviataya Bohorodytse, spasy nas" (Blessed Mother of God, save us).

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## Philadelphia's Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center holds annual meeting

by Andrea Zharovsky

JENKINTOWN, PA. – The 28th annual meeting of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center was held Sunday, October 28, in the UECC Gallery.

Registration for the meeting for UECC members and delegates of Ukrainian member organizations began at noon. Materials pertaining to the meeting, including the annual report, published in English and Ukrainian, were distributed at registration. Shortly after 1 p.m., the meeting began with a call to order by UECC President Borys Pawluk.

Stefan Makuch, a former member of the UECC board of directors, led the opening prayer. After a verification of the quorum and approval of the agenda by the members and delegates of Ukrainian organizations with UECC membership, secretary Sophia Koropecykj read the minutes of the last annual meeting held on October 29, 2006. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Pawluk opened his president's report with an explanation of how he approached his first year as president of the UECC, focusing on a restructuring of the operations and organization of the UECC and the creation of separate sectors, each with a vice-president responsible for committees and sector work.

In his report and PowerPoint presentation he focused primarily on the UECC mission statement, UECC organization, facility and office operations and the accomplishments of the five sectors,

including the administrative, finance, building and property utilization, program, and communications sectors.

Mr. Pawluk also spoke of UECC membership, which totals 1,096 (individual and family members holding full voting rights), 52 member-organizations, and 12 new individual/or family members who received full voting rights this year.

President Pawluk ended his report with his vision of the path forward and critical success factors for the UECC. He stated that it is critical to have the cooperation of members and member-organizations and that the UECC and they need to commit to work together as unified Ukrainian community. He reminded those present that in the formative years of the UECC, the member-organizations contributed 50 percent of revenue generated, today the number has dramatically been reduced to about 15 percent. He focused on the completion of the master plan and that Phase I of that plan has begun. President Pawluk emphasized that strategic planning has been initiated and will be fully developed during the coming year.

The Audit Committee, consisting of three UECC directors who are not members of the Finance Committee, met prior to the annual meeting to audit the financial books, records, operations and financial statements of the UECC. Roman Petyk, representing the Audit Committee, reported that the committee was satisfied with its review and the UECC financial report for the 2006-2007.

In the Nominating Committee Report, Petrusia Sawchak recommended five candidates to the board. They included Tanya Husar, Lubomyra Kalyta, Basil Kuzio, Zoriana Sochatska-Atlantova and Myron Soltys. She read short biographies of each candidate and emphasized their backgrounds and strengths, which collectively included strengths in finance, event planning and organizational skills.

As stated in the by-laws, the UECC board of directors consists of 24 members whose terms of service are staggered. All UECC board terms are for three years. All five candidates for the UECC board of directors were approved by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Sawchak stated that the Nominating Committee submitted Bohdan Mizak, Larissa Patrylak and Maria Schwed, through the co-opting process, to the UECC Board during the 2006-2007 and was recommending their confirmation at the annual meeting. Mrs. Sawchak also submitted her recommendation for the re-election of current board members including: Irene Bereziak, George Danyliw, Natalka Firko and Mr. Petyk. All candidates for confirmation and re-election were approved by a unanimous vote.

Also elected were members of the Nominating Committee and the Election Committee, both consisting of UECC members and members of the UECC board of directors. Ulana Prociuk, Ms. Sawchak and Nestor Tomalishchak were elected and will serve on the Nominating Committee for 2007-2008. Halyna Horajicka-Keller, Anna Makuch and Roman Zavadowych were elected and will serve on the Election Committee for the same term.

Mr. Petyk, representing the By-Laws Committee proposed five amendments to

the by-laws. They included an increase in the length of leases, clarification of the directors' obligation to the center, clarification of the removal of directors, clarification of the powers of the president, and a revision stating that members of the Audit Committee may not be members of the Finance Committee.

After a brief discussion on the proposition, UECC members and delegates cast their ballots and the proposed five amendments passed successfully.

During the discussion at the meeting, concerned UECC members raised many issues, but the focus of the discussion centered on building UECC membership. Many members voiced their opinion on whom to reach as potential members. The issue of attracting the sons, daughters and grandchildren of present UECC members was presented emphasizing that they should be reached in addition to the Fourth Wave of Ukrainian immigrants. Various fund-raising ideas were mentioned, as was the need to apply for federal, state and local grants.

The annual meeting adjourned with UECC president Pawluk thanking members and delegates of Ukrainian organizations for their attendance and participation. He congratulated the new and re-elected UECC board of directors and thanked the outgoing board, especially Ms. Sawchak and Edward Zetick for their many years of devoted work at the UECC.

Mr. Pawluk expressed his gratitude to the group of volunteers who work diligently at the many fund-raising events. He concluded with thanks to all who donated money to this year's phonathon, making it the most successful phonathon ever, surpassing the designated goal of \$100,000.

## Philadelphia UECC re-elects president and elects new executive board



The UECC board of directors for 2007-2008: (first row, from left) Roman Petyk, Sophia Koropecykj, Lubomir Pyrih, Natalia Griga, Borys Pawluk (UECC president), Orysia Hewka (UECC executive director), Borys Zacharczuk, Natalie Firko, George Danyliw, Maria Schwed, (second row) Sylvianne Novak, Andrea Zharovsky, Larissa Patrylak, Roman Cyhan, Laryssa Krywusha, Michael Luciw, Basil Kusio, Bohdan Mizak, Myron Soltys, Tetyana Husar, Ivan Prasko, Zoriana Sokhatska-Atlantova and Lubomyra Kalyta. Also on the board, though not in the photo, are: Irena Plachta Bereziak and Larysa Stebly.

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – The board of directors of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center elected a new executive board Monday night, November 5. The 2007-2008 UECC board unanimously re-elected Borys Pawluk to a second year as president and chief executive officer of the corporation.

Also elected unanimously were the following officers: secretary – Natalia Griga, treasurer – Sophia Koropecykj, vice-president of administration – Lubomir Pyrih, vice-president of finance – Sophia Koropecykj, vice-president of property and utilization – George Danyliw, vice-president of events – Natalie Firko, and vice-president of communications – Borys Zacharczuk.

This meeting and election were in keeping with by-laws of the Ukrainian

Educational and Cultural Center, which states that the board of directors shall meet within 10 days after the annual meeting of the corporation with the specific purpose of electing a new president and executive board. The 28th annual meeting of the UECC was held on Sunday, October 28.

The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, founded in 1980, is a non-profit organization whose objective is to preserve and promote awareness of Ukrainian heritage throughout the Philadelphia community. The UECC is located at 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, PA 19046 and can be reached at 215-663-1166 or contact@ueccphila.org; website, www.ueccphila.org.

## Ukrainian liturgy to be celebrated at Boston College on December 8

BOSTON – The Ukrainian Student Society of Boston College and the school's Slavic and Eastern languages department are co-sponsoring a pontifical divine liturgy for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, December 8, at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's Chapel on the university's main campus in Chestnut Hill.

The liturgy will be concelebrated by retired Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephan Sulyk of Philadelphia, pastors of greater Boston area Ukrainian churches, Boston College President the Rev. William Leahy, SJ, representatives of the Archdiocese of

Boston and members of the resident Jesuit community. Responses will be sung by the choir of Boston's Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church under the direction of Ihor Kowal.

Immediately following the liturgy, a reception/luncheon will be held in Gasson 100, The Irish Room, to celebrate the establishment of the Archbishop Sulyk Scholarship for Ukrainian students attending the university. The scholarship is being funded by Lydia Devonshire of Chicago, a cousin of the archbishop.

Both events are open, and the public is cordially invited.

## UECC Food Drive commemorates Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933

JENKINTOWN, PA. – The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC), a non-profit organization based in Jenkintown, Pa., is holding a food drive commemorating the Ukrainian Great Famine of 1932-1933.

The Ukrainian American community in the United States is joining Ukrainians worldwide in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, which killed 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians.

Nonperishable foods may be brought to the UECC between November 17 and December 8 (the day of the UECC Christmas Bazaar). The items collected during this time will be donated to the Ukrainian American Senior Citizen

Association of Philadelphia and will be distributed to needy seniors in the community. For additional information, readers may contact the UECC office at 215-663-1166.

Suggested non-perishable and packaged items (sugar-free, no-salt, low-sodium are best): canned tuna/meat, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soups, rice/pasta/grains, canned beans, dry beans, fruit juices, coffee/tea and cereal/oatmeal.

Monetary donations are also welcome; checks should be made payable to the Ukrainian American Senior Citizen Association.



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# St. John's Parish in Newark celebrates centennial

by Lada Bidiak

NEWARK, N.J. – Twenty-five priests, bishops and metropolitans joined other clergy, sisters and hundreds of parishioners on November 4 to celebrate the centennial of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J. While this day was the culmination of yearlong preparations, it was also a true testament to the 100 years of dedication, love and hard work of thousands of individuals – each one different, yet each essential in creating St. John's Parish.

The pontifical divine liturgy in itself was a historic event. The Rev. Leonid Malkov, pastor of St. John's, was joined not only by his assistant pastors – the Revs. Andriy Manko and Dmytro Dnistrian, but also by Bishop-emeritus Michael Kuchmiak, and clergy and sisters who traveled from all over the world to celebrate St. John's Centennial.

Participating were: Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka (Philadelphia), Bishop Michael Wiwchar (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), Bishop John Bura (Philadelphia), Bishop Basil Losten (Stamford, Conn.), the Very Rev. John Sianchuk (Winnipeg, Manitoba), the Rev. Thaddeus Krawczuk (Mt. Carmel, Pa.), the Rev. Bohdan Lukie (missionary), the Rev. Frank Szadiak (Yorkton, Saskatchewan), the Rev. Methodius Kushko (Yorkton), the Rev. Vladimir Kolpakov (Wynyard, Saskatchewan), the Rev. John Fetsko (Unionville, Ontario), the Rev. Andriy Chirovsky (Arizona), the Rev. Ivan Chirovsky (Pittsburgh), the Rev. Andriy Olijnyk (Lviv), the Rev. Ivan Horban (Ternopil, Ukraine), the Rev. Joseph Szupa (Elizabeth, N.J.), the Rev. Roman Dubysky (Perth Amboy, N.J.), the Rev.

Vasyl Putera (Jersey City, N.J.), the Rev. Roman Mirchuk (Whippany, N.J.), the Rev. Ivan Turyk (Toms River, N.J.), the Rev. Andriy Dutkewych (Passaic, N.J.), the Rev. Vasyl Vladyka (Carteret, N.J.), Deacon Michael Wock (Philadelphia), Sister Laura, OSBM (Fox Chase, Pa.), Sister Michelle, SSMI (Sloatsburg, N.Y.), Sister Bohdanna OSBM (Fox Chase), Sister Bernarda, OSBM (New York), Sister Ann, OSBM (Pittsburgh), Sister Lucy, OSBM (Fox Chase), Sister Joann, OSBM (Fox Chase), Sister Jonathan, SSMI (Stamford), and Sister Zenovia, SSMI (Passaic).

The pontifical divine liturgy was followed by a grand banquet at L'Affaire Fine Catering in Mountainside, N.J. The gala was limited in space to 600 guests, and tickets were sold out well before the event. The admission price included not only the meal, but also a set of two hard-cover books about the parish.

The first, "Centennial of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church," is a collection of greetings, photographs and the history of the parish (compiled and edited by Oksana and Mykola Yaremko), complete with time-lines, listings of all pastors and associate pastors, sisters, graduates of St. John's School, and members of various church and parish organizations. The 224-page book, full of black and white as well as color photographs, is a testament to the past 100 years.

Thousands of people have belonged to St. John's Parish over the past 100 years, and all of them have personal memories of St. John's Church and school. In preparing for the centennial celebration, parish office manager Ksenia Hapij spoke with countless individuals, who reminisced to her about their parish experiences. Last year, Mrs.



St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J.



Priests, bishops and the metropolitan join in celebrating the diving liturgy marking the centennial of St. John's Parish.



Mychajlo Stashchysyn leads the choir during the centennial liturgy.

Hapij came up with the idea of publishing a book of memoirs and, with the help of 99 other parishioners, her vision was brought into reality in the form of the second centennial book, titled "One Hundred Voices." Just as Mr. and Mrs. Yaremko's book is historical, so is "One Hundred Voices," although much more personal in nature.

In her introduction, Mrs. Hapij wrote, "I invite you on a journey through the pages of the 100-year history of St. John's Church in Newark. Perhaps some of you will recall your first years in America. Others will return to the past and remember priests, sisters, teachers and old friends. Still others will be introduced to those who opened the doors of this church and blazed the trails that thousands followed over the course of these hundred years."

These words encompassed the atmosphere of the entire centennial celebration.

Master of ceremonies Ihor Rakowsky welcomed everyone to the gala banquet, and introduced the two speakers of the evening – the Rev. Malkov and George

Dolinsky, one of St. John's trustees.

Following their speeches, the guests were treated to a superb video and photo montage about the centennial of St. John's. Mr. Yaremko, along with his wife, Oksana, spent the greater part of this past year compiling photographs, video footage and sound recordings, and interviewing parishioners, priests and sisters. The final product was an hourlong visual history of St. John's Church, school and parish, which brought both laughter and tears on the part of the audience and drew a standing ovation.

In his closing remarks at the end of the gala, the Rev. Malkov expressed his gratitude to the many people who worked so hard to ensure the success of the centennial celebration. He also expressly thanked Self-Reliance Federal Credit Union for its sponsorship of the event, as well as for its constant and unfailing support of the church, school and parish over the years.

(For a capsule history of the parish, see page 14.)



At the centennial celebration banquet (from left) are: Mykola Yaremko, Daria Dolinsky, Oksana Yaremko, George Dolinsky (sitting), Ksenia Hapij and the Rev. Bohdan Lukie.



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# St. John's Parish in Newark: a capsule history, 1907-2007

The past century has seen both incredible growth and change at St. John's Parish. The original church, located at 246 Court St. in Newark, NJ, was purchased in February 1907; one month later, the first divine liturgy was celebrated there on Palm Sunday by the Rev. John Dorozynsky, St. John's first pastor.

Two years later, a young cantor-teacher by the name of Theodosius Kaskiw arrived in Newark and organized its first male church choir. His choir not only sang in church, but also put on concerts and plays, transforming often illiterate masses into conscious Ukrainian American individuals. He also organized the first parochial evening school, whose enrollment quickly grew from 12 to over 300. In 1910, the male church choir was expanded to include women, and was named the Boyan Singing Society. The Boyan Singing Society performed in concerts area-wide. In addition to strengthening and unifying the ever-growing parish, the choir helped to build a strong financial base for the church.

That same year, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky of Lviv traveled to the United States and visited St. John's parish, spiritually uplifting all the parishioners and strengthening their resolve to continue building their parish so far from home.

The evening parochial school continued to grow. In 1914, an additional building was rented to accommodate all the students. Yet, by 1918 the student body had grown so considerably, that a building was purchased on Van Buren Street in Newark to house the school.

This building served not only the school, but also became the parish's new ad hoc community center, serving as a meeting place for the choir members, the theatrical group, the bandurist orchestra and various religious organizations: St. John the Baptist Brotherhood, Ss. Peter and Paul Brotherhood, Bohdan Khmelnytsky Society, Providence Association Branch 2 of the Holy Trinity Brotherhood, Zaporozhian Society, Apostleship of Prayer and St. Nicholas Brotherhood. In 1921 the newly founded American-Ukrainian Building and Loan Association of Newark joined the list of organizations using the building.

In late 1921 and early 1922 Metropolitan Sheptytsky once again visited the United States, returning to St. John's in Newark at the end of January 1922.

In 1925 the Rev. Joseph Chaplinsky took over for the Rev. Peter Poniatyshyn, who had served his parishioners with great energy, high intellect and tremendous understanding for over 15 years. The Rev. Chaplinsky appealed to his parishioners to seek a larger church in a quieter neighborhood, since the area surrounding St. John's had become traffic-ridden and extremely loud. A new church was purchased at 37 Morton St., with additional buildings purchased on College Place to serve as a school and as a parish home. On Labor Day 1927, St. John's Church on Morton Street officially opened its doors.

In 1933 the Rev. Myron Danilovich was appointed as the new pastor of St. John's. Having taken over this role during the Great Depression, he was faced with the extremely difficult challenge of meeting all of the church's debt payments and financial obligations. Plans to build a new community center were never realized, and the parish was struggling financially. With this in mind, on September 1, 1933, on the occasion of the parish's 25th anniversary, he issued "The First Year Book of St. John's

Church." Through diligent fund-raising efforts (including donor advertising in the yearbook), the Rev. Danilovich was able to eventually settle all debts, and in December 1937 St. John's parish celebrated its 30th anniversary.

The Rev. Danilovich was also instrumental in organizing various church organizations, such as the Ladies' Sodality, Catholic Daughters and St. John's Catholic War Veterans. In 1939 he established a grammar school named the Andrew Sheptytsky Parochial School of St. John the Baptist in Newark, N.J. Run by the Basilian Sisters, the school opened with 20 students, but within seven years, the enrollment grew to 85 students.

By this time, the Ukrainian community in Newark was able to buy a building which was ideally suited to house the long-awaited Ukrainian Community Center. Located at 180-186 William St. in Newark, the building included a two-story ballroom, several halls, meeting rooms and a bowling alley.

In February 1946 St. John's Church was placed under the spiritual guidance of the Redemptorist Fathers of the Byzantine Ukrainian Rite, with the Rev. Stephen Bachtalowsky as the first Redemptorist pastor. His arrival in Newark, along with the Rev. Vladimir Krayewsky and the Rev. Demetrius Laptuta, brought significant changes to the lives of St. John's parishioners. The number of divine liturgies increased to three or four daily, and to four on Sundays. Moleben services were held every Wednesday and Friday, and the newly assigned priests were able to devote more time and energy to the spiritual well-being of those parishioners who were sick at home or in hospitals. The Redemptorist Fathers also revitalized existing church organizations and formed new ones: the Holy Name Society, Apostleship of Prayer, Rosary Altar Society, Altar Boy Society, Junior Sodality and St. John's Mother's Club.

In October 1947 St. John's Parish celebrated its 40th anniversary. School enrollment continued to grow to such an extent that the existing school building could no longer accommodate all the students. The Rev. Krayewsky, who replaced Rev. Bachtalowsky as pastor in 1948, was faced with the challenge of building a new school and a new church. William Choma was instrumental in procuring land for the proposed new school at Sanford Avenue and Ivy Street in the early part of 1949.

During this time a new wave of immigrants was permitted entrance into the United States, and many of them settled in Newark. The Rev. Krayewsky opened the doors of the rectory to anyone seeking help, and he, along with his assistant priests and numerous church and Ukrainian community organizations, provided them with moral and practical assistance. This influx of new immigrants added to the increased enrollment in the church and in the school, and on May 4, 1952, the Rev. Krayewsky, along with building committee chairman Andrew Keybida and treasurer John Burda, led the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new school.

The new school building was dedicated on November 26, 1953. By this time there were approximately 400 pupils enrolled in the school, all taught by the Sisters of St. Basil and several lay teachers. During this period, other properties were purchased in the immediate area to house the sisters and priests, and a vacant

(Continued on page 15)



## St. John's Parish ...

(Continued from page 14)

lot was purchased for a new church.

In 1956, after 50 years of dedicated service to St. John's Church and its community, Mr. Kaskiw resigned his post as cantor and choir director, and was replaced by Michael Dobosh, who served in these posts (and also as the school's music teacher) for the next 30 years.

In 1957 the Rev. Demetrius Byblow was appointed pastor, and on May 4, 1958, he announced the official opening of the fund-raising campaign for a new church on Sanford Avenue. By the end of the year, the Rev. Laptuta was named pastor; during his nine-year tenure, the dream of the new church was realized.

Construction of the new church began in June 1961. Designed by Julian Jastremski, with mosaics and stained glass art designed by Peter Cholodnyj Jr. and executed by Yaroslav Baransky, the new St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church won the Newark Chamber of Commerce Award for the most beautiful edifice of the decade. On Easter Sunday, April 18, 1965, the Rev. Laptuta celebrated the first divine liturgy in the new church.

In 1967 the Rev. Michael Hrynchyshyn replaced the Rev. Laptuta as pastor, and in 1968, St. John's parish celebrated its 60th anniversary. On August 6 of that year, Archbishop Major and Cardinal Josyf Slipyj visited St. John's. On the occasion of his visit, a mosaic of his coat of arms was installed on an exterior wall of the church.

In July 1972, the Rev. Hrynchyshyn was elected provincial of the Redemptorist Fathers of Canada and the U.S.A., and was replaced as pastor by the Rev. Paul Maluga. Prior to his departure to Canada, the Rev. Hrynchyshyn commissioned artist Sviatoslav Hordynsky to design the iconostas. The iconostas was installed in April 1973 – one month prior to Cardinal Slipyj's second visit to the church.

In July 1975 the Rev. Michael Kuchmiak was appointed pastor, and in September of that same year an additional building was purchased adjacent to the school. Once a supermarket, this building was then converted into a gymnasium, which served as a concert auditorium, with an additional room for a kindergarten. Meanwhile, the beautification of the church continued. During the summer of 1976 artists Peter Cholodnyj and J.M. Baransky installed mosaic Stations of the Cross on the walls of the church.

In October 1977 St. John's Ukrainian Social Services, in cooperation with Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 75, established a senior

citizens center with the purpose of sponsoring social events, and providing information relative to Social Security, Medicare and other federal assistance. In March 1980 the office of Education of the Archdiocese of Newark evaluated St. John's School and awarded it a Certificate of Accreditation with recognition as one of the 10 best grade schools in the Newark school system.

On May 23, 1982, St. John's celebrated its 75th anniversary. Three years later, St. John's had the unique and great honor of hosting Mother Theresa at the ordination of the Rev. Brian Kolodiejchuk – the first priest to be ordained for the Missions of Charity, Mother Theresa's congregation.

In August 1987 the Rev. Kuchmiak was replaced by the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, whose energetic three-year pastorship brought about major revitalization within the parish. With the help of the UNWLA, a certified Montessori-based Ukrainian-language preschool was established under the tutelage of Olenka Makarushka-Kolodiy, which continues to thrive to this day. The Rev. Lukie led widespread relief efforts to people in Ukraine, and was also a great proponent of cultural and musical programs, transforming the parish gym into a theater, featuring a variety of performing artists and speakers from Ukraine. The city of Newark renamed the intersection of Sanford Avenue and Ivy Street "Ukrainian Plaza." It was during this time that the Makarenko Church Art Studio was hired to clean, renovate and redecorate the entire church.

1988 marked the millennium of Christianity in Ukraine, and St. John's Parish celebrated both at home and at celebrations in New York City and in Rome. The Rev. Lukie and the Parish Council commissioned Sviatoslav Hordynsky to create a mosaic depicting the baptism of Rus-Ukraine in 988, which was installed over the main entrance to the church.

Two years later, the Rev. Michael Wiwchar became pastor. Following Ukraine's declaration of sovereignty and independence in 1991, the Rev. Wiwchar's pastorship saw an influx of new immigrants from Ukraine. In 1992 the Rev. Wiwchar was instrumental in attracting a highly educated young man from Lviv, Mychajlo Stashchyn, to fill the position of cantor, which had been vacated by Mr. Dobosh four years prior. Mr. Stashchyn serves in this function to this day. The Rev. Wiwchar was also involved in efforts to build a church and monastery in Ternopil. Thanks to the generosity of St. John's parishioners, \$100,000 was collected and donated, and the Redemptorist Fathers, in turn, sent St. John's two young priests – the Rev.

Wolodymyr Baran and the Rev. Leonid Malkov.

In 1993 the Rev. Frank Szadiak took over the position of pastor and, as the number of Ukrainian immigrants continued to grow, a special organization named The Fourth Wave was created as a haven and network for them. At the same time, many of the original families moved out of the area, with the result that parishioner enrollment diminished and so did the enrollment at St. John's School.

In 1999 the Rev. Szadiak was reassigned to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Rev. Lukie returned as pastor. He realized that the new immigrants would be the future of the parish, and he initiated various programs especially for them. Under the guidance of office administrator Ksenia Hapij, the parish office became a welcome home for the new arrivals, providing them with connections to jobs and apartments, helping with translations and even offering basic English lessons.

After many decades of dedicated service to St. John's Church and School, the Sisters of St. Basil the Great were replaced by the Sister Servants of Mary. As more and more families moved from the area, school enrollment continued to drop. In 2002 the painful decision was made to close the doors of St. John's School after 65 years of excellence.

The Rev. Malkov took over as pastor that same year. An immigrant himself, the Rev. Malkov understands the needs of his parishioners very well. Along with associates the Rev. Andriy Manko and Rev. Dmytro Dnistrian, he aims to foster an atmosphere of love and acceptance and a truly welcoming community within the parish. One of the Rev. Malkov's first projects was the establishment of a new

Ukrainian evening school for the children of the parish under the capable hands of Irene Agne, as well as the establishment of religion classes on Sundays, taught by St. John's graduate and former teacher Natalia Kudryk. The Rev. Malkov also began the tradition of an annual parish festival, held on the last Saturday of every September, with the hope that it would bring parishioners closer together, for the good of the church and the Ukrainian community.

In his foreword to the book "One Hundred Voices," the Rev. Malkov wrote, "Of all the celebrations to date, our centennial is the biggest and probably the most important. It reminds us of so very many people who have come before us, and leaves us with a strong feeling of obligation toward those who will come after us... May we all join in prayer for all of our pioneers, the people without whom this celebration would not be possible. May their remarkable vision and hard work be an example that we will all strive to follow, and may their dreams light our way as we venture onto the journey of another centennial."

\* \* \*

*The article above is excerpted from the book "Centennial of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church."*

*Copies of "Centennial of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church" and the companion volume, "One Hundred Voices," are available for purchase at the parish rectory (719 Sandford Ave., Newark, NJ 07106) for \$10 each plus \$5 for shipping. Checks may be made out to St. John's Church.*

## Ukrainian president...

(Continued from page 3)

maneuver, and their commanders were convicted of unsatisfactorily guiding the crew.

Two commanders, Gen. Tretiakov and Lt. Col. Yurii Yatsiuk, were also convicted of failing to fulfill their responsibilities.

In September a Kyiv district court freed Lt. Col. Yatsiuk, who received a five-year sentence in 2005, commuting the remainder of his sentence to two

years of correctional work, with 10 percent of his monthly salary deducted, reported Ukrayina Moloda, a daily newspaper in Ukraine.

The jet's lead pilot, Volodymyr Toponar, won't have his 14-year sentence commuted, Mr. Moiseyenko said.

The Sknyliv Tragedy organization is outraged at the president's order and will appeal it in the European Court for Human Rights, said Stefan Kozak, who lost his son in the catastrophe.

Among those who died at the Sknyliv airfield in Lviv were 28 children.

## Ukraine and Russia...

(Continued from page 2)

The incident has caused additional friction between Russia and Ukraine, as the Kerch strait passage remains poorly delineated 16 years after the collapse of the USSR. Ukraine insists on dividing the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait along the conventional Soviet Union border that passed through two midpoints of the coast of the Kerch Strait and the Taganrog Bay, while Russia insists on an equal delimitation of the sea area.

The ultimate diplomatic wrangle may occur further to the south, however, as Turkey has insisted for years that unrestricted tanker traffic through the Turkish Straits is an environmental hazard. In 2006 more than 36,000 vessels transited the Turkish Straits, with tankers carrying

over 140 million tons of oil under treaty rights guaranteed by the 1936 Montreux Convention, despite constant Turkish warnings that such constant passages, working out to a tanker every 15 minutes, were a prelude to disaster.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych said that the government is now studying the possibility of limiting tanker passages through the Kerch Strait and is consulting with maritime specialists. They are particularly interested in Turkey's experience with the Bosphorus and Dardanelles channels. If there is any good news for Moscow, its prime oil export facility at Novorossiysk is south of the straits and Kyiv currently does not plan to claim compensation from Russia for ecological damage (Rosbalt, November 12). The damage from the recent storm, however, seems destined shortly to move from the environmental to the diplomatic sphere.



## BOHDAN KOCHANSKYJ

63, of New York, NY  
passed away November 10, 2007.

Bohdan was born on September 26, 1944, in Germany. He worked for over 40 years in the Food Service industry from which he retired.

He is survived by his mother, Melania Kochanskyj of Brooklyn, NY; His brother Lubomir Kochanskyj with wife Bonnie of Kissimmee, FL; His sister Darka Kochanskyj Reilly of Brooklyn, NY; 4 nephews – Lubomir, David, Joseph and Stephen Kochanskyj 1 niece – Lindsay A. Reilly; and also 3 great nephews and 1 great niece.

A memorial service was held November 13, 2007 at Peter Jarema Funeral Home in New York City. Burial took place at Rose Hill Cemetery in Linden, NJ.

Bohdan will always be remembered in our hearts and minds for his fun-loving and bubbly personality and also his quick wit.



## NEWSBRIEFS ...

(Continued from page 2)

vail [without compromise], and we should finally learn to come to an agreement for the sake of the country and the people," Mr. Yanukovich said. He admitted that the first days of the committee preparing for the first session of the Verkhovna Rada suggest that reaching a compromise would be difficult. Mr. Yanukovich said that an agreement between Ukrainian political forces is possible if the blocs care about the country's future, but "if they are only interested in posts and offices, then problems will emerge." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### PSD cites instability within bloc

KYIV – The People's Self-Defense group, which was formed by the party Forward, Ukraine and the Christian-Democratic Union, has decided to suspend its participation in the formation of a single party on the basis of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc (OU-PSD). The group explained its decision by pointing to uncertainty about some members of the bloc, who disrupt agreements on creating a democratic coalition. The news was broken by the leader of the People's Self-Defense, Yuri Lutsenko. Mr. Lutsenko, who is one of the leaders of the OU-PSD, said, "Ukraine needs a single democratic party, but it must be solid and stable in its stance. We don't want to deal with people, who after the election, after many months of political struggle toward creating a democratic coalition, refuse to enter it. .... We don't want to depend on two-three too independent and ambitious persons, who discredit the OU-PSD as a bloc." (Ukrinform)

### New Rada will have 26 committees

KYIV – The working group gearing up for the first sitting of the Verkhovna Rada of the sixth convocation has approved an existing system of parliamentary committees, said Roman Zvarych, a representative of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc, on November 16. Twenty-six committees and a special commission on privatization will operate in the new Rada. Party of the Regions representative Mykola Azarov said that the working group will work to delineate the committees' tasks on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, November 24-26. He also noted that the next sitting of the working group is slated for November 26. (Ukrinform)

### At least 69 miners killed in blast

KYIV – A gas blast at the Zasiadko coalmine in the Donetsk region on November 18 killed at least 69 miners and injured many others, 28 of whom were hospitalized, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. Rescue workers are searching for another 30 miners. Around 450 miners were working in the vicinity when the explosion occurred at a depth of 1,000 meters. Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said that an experts' committee is currently investigating the cause of the blast. The Ukrainian government has offered the families of the slain miners \$20,000 (U.S.) each in compensation. Donetsk authorities have designated November 19-21 as days of mourning in the region. Nearly 140 miners have died in disasters at the Zasiadko coalmine since 1999. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Death toll from disaster rises to 88

KYIV – The death toll has risen to 88 after the November 18 gas blast at the Zasiadko coalmine in Ukraine's Donetsk region, while rescuers continue to search for another 12 people, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on November 20. President Viktor Yushchenko declared November 20 a day of national mourning in Ukraine. The disaster is the worst tragedy in the Ukrainian coal-mining industry in the post-Soviet era. In a similar disaster in 2000, 80 miners were killed at the Barakov coalmine in the Luhansk region. Relatives of the Zasiadko victims on November 19 broke through a security cordon and burst into the building where a government committee was investigating the cause of the gas blast. The relatives accused the authorities of concealing information from the public. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Crimean Tatars call for inquiry

SYMFEROPOL – Nearly 5,000 Crimean Tatars demonstrated on November 18 in Symferopol, demanding that Ukrainian authorities investigate the clashes that broke out two weeks ago between police officers and market vendors, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. While attempting to clear illegal market stalls in Symferopol on November 6, Ukrainian police clashed with ethnic Tatars, four of whom were injured. Mustafa Dzhemilev, the leader of the Mejlis – the body representing the Crimean Tatars – addressed the demon-

stration, and cited "a new spiral of discrimination against Crimean Tatars" and "Crimean authorities' undermining the process of reinstating rights for Crimean Tatars." The Mejlis recently called for protests to be held throughout the peninsula. Crimean Tatars have also erected a tent city in downtown Symferopol as part of their protest. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Oil slick heading for Azov Sea

MOSCOW – The Emergency Situations Ministry of Russia announced on November 15 that the oil slick in the Kerch Strait is expected to reach the Azov Sea by November 16, RIA-Novosti reported. The slick accounts for about 15 percent of the 2,000 tons of fuel oil spilled on November 11 when an unusually severe storm wrecked at least 12 ships, including a tanker not designed for use on stormy seas, in what several Russian officials called an "environmental catastrophe." Most of the rest of the oil is believed to have either washed ashore or sunk to the seabed in the Kerch Strait, which connects the Black and Azov seas and forms part of the border between Russia and Ukraine. Oil continues to pour from the sunken tanker. Oleg Mitvol, deputy head of the Natural Resources Ministry's Federal Service for the Oversight of Natural Resources Use (Rosprirodnadzor), told a news conference on November 15 that "not only fish are affected, but sea mammals as well – we have documented cases of deaths of dolphins," Reuters reported from Moscow. He added that "the fact that dolphins and birds listed in Russia's Red Book [of endangered species] are dying is very sad indeed." Mr. Mitvol noted that environmental experts from Belgium, Brazil and the United States are expected to arrive soon, and that "volunteers from all across Russia are heading [to the affected area], as well as groups from Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund [WWF]." Interfax reported on November 15 that experts at the State Fisheries Committee put the cost of the damage at \$12.5 billion. The experts added that it will take 10 years to "deal with the aftermath" of the tragedy. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Yushchenko visits Israel

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko last week was on a three-day visit to Israel, where according to his press office he said he would try to persuade Israel's leaders and society to recognize the Great Famine of 1932-1933 as genocide. The UNIAN news service reported that he

addressed the Knesset on November 14, asking Israeli MPs to show "the moral support and solidarity of the state of Israel in honoring the victims of the totalitarian terror against the people of Ukraine, especially during the Great Famine of 1932-1933." He also noted that both Ukraine and Israel had survived many hardships and that both are "committed to democratic values." Mr. Yushchenko told the Knesset: "In our heart there is pain for the millions of innocent victims of your nation. We resolutely and unambiguously condemn all the crimes committed against Jews by totalitarian regimes." The Ukrainian president also said his country would not tolerate anti-Semitism, xenophobia or intolerance for human life. (Press Office of the President of Ukraine, UNIAN)

### Ukraine denies hosting CIA flights

KYIV – Ukrainian Defense Ministry spokesman Andrii Lysenko on November 14 denied allegations that Ukraine hosted secret CIA flights, Interfax and RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. Mr. Lysenko was responding to claims by Giovanni Claudio Fava, the European Union lawmaker investigating the CIA's secret operations in Europe, that aircraft carrying terrorism suspects secretly landed at an air base in Ukraine. "Air bases of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry have never received CIA planes," Mr. Lysenko said. "Statements on the matter are absolutely ungrounded and incompetent, and simply look absurd," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan sign WTO protocol

KYIV – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Arsenii Yatsenyuk said on November 14 that Ukraine has signed a bilateral protocol with Kyrgyzstan on access to each another's markets, Interfax reported. "The last protocol, which was extremely important for completing the process of Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization, has been signed," Mr. Yatsenyuk said, adding that there are no remaining obstacles preventing Ukraine from joining the WTO by the end of 2007. Mr. Yatsenyuk admitted that the negotiations with Kyrgyzstan were complicated. Kyrgyz officials had initially demanded as a condition for signing the protocol that Ukraine recognize a \$27 million debt to Kyrgyzstan, incurred in 1992-1993, as the debt of the state, but finally agreed to Kyiv's argument that the debt was incurred by Ukrainian companies. (RFE/RL Newsline)

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 24)

**NEW YORK:** The "Music at the Institute" series will hold a special event, "Music of Valentyn Silvestrov: 70th Birthday Celebration Concert." The composer's works "Der Bote," "Epitaph," "Post Scriptum" and "Drama" will be performed by Jenny Lin, piano; Cornelius Dufallo, violin; and Yves Dharamraj, cello. The event takes place at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 8 p.m. Admission: \$30; \$25 for UIA members and senior citizens; \$20 for students. For additional information and reservations call 212-288-8660.

### Sunday, December 9

**HILLSIDE, N.J.:** You, your family and friends are invited to visit with St. Nicholas at 12:45 p.m. in the church hall of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, located at the intersection of Liberty Avenue and Bloy Street. The parish children will present an informal bilingual entertainment program. Odarka Polanskyj-Stockert will also perform several holiday pieces on the harp. Complimentary refreshments will be served. For those attending the Sunday divine liturgy at 10:45 a.m., a light lunch will be provided after the liturgy.

If you would like to attend the luncheon contact Mike Szyphulsky, 908-289-0127, Maria Shatynski, 973-599-9381, or e-mail the parish at ICUkranianCatholic@yahoo.com by December 2. Additional information and directions to the parish may be found on the parish website, www.byzantines.net/immaculateconception.

**WASHINGTON:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society, District of Columbia Branch, and the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences group present a lecture (in Ukrainian) by Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev, research fellow, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, and lecturer, University of Toronto department of Slavic languages and literatures, on "The Newest Archaeological Discoveries at Baturyn." The lecture begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road NE, Washington DC 20017. Admission is free; contributions are accepted. For further information call Andrew Sorokowski, 301-230-2149.

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Chorus

Dumka will give a Christmas concert at St. Patrick's Cathedral (Fifth Avenue and 51st Street) at 2 p.m. The performance will include traditional Ukrainian Christmas carols, an instrumental arrangement, as well as well-known favorites "O Holy Night" and Handel's "Hallelujah" with organ accompaniment. The concert will be conducted by Vasyl Hrechynsky. Admission is free. For more information, call 718-896-7624.

### Saturday, December 15

**BETHESDA, Md.:** The Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies will host a "Sviaty Mykolai" show and holiday bazaar. Students will present a play, "Sviato Mykolaya," at noon. Sviaty Mykolai (St. Nicholas) himself will meet with each grade/age group. The heavenly office will be open at 9:15-11:45 a.m.; one gift only per child. Gifts should be clearly labeled (child's full name and grade/age); \$2 fee. The bazaar will take place at 9:30 a.m.-noon. Available for purchase: varenyky (25 for \$14), home-baked goods (torte slices, makivnyky, medivnyky, fancy cookies, children's sweets), plus items sold by various vendors. Location: Westland Middle School, 5511 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda, MD 20816. For further information log on to www.uki-school.org, or contact Lada Onyshkevych, lada2@verizon.net or 410-730-8108.

### Sunday, December 16

**MONTREAL:** The St. Lawrence Choir, directed by Marika Kuzma, presents "Chantons Noel," a concert of holiday music, including selections by Bach, Pinkham, Poulenc and Rachmaninoff, as well as traditional carols in English, French and Ukrainian. The choir will be joined by the brass quintet Buzz. The performance is at 3 p.m. at the Centre Culturel de Montreal Nord. For ticket information log on to slchoir.qu.ca or call 514-483-6922.

**MELROSE PARK, PA:** The Ukrainian American Youth Association cordially invites everyone to attend its traditional annual fun-filled "Christmas Bazaar and Welcoming of St. Nicholas" in the church hall of Annunciation Ukrainian Catholic Church at Old York Road and Cheltenham Avenue in Melrose Park. Starting time is 9:30 a.m. Throughout the day, there will be plenty of delicious food for breakfast and lunch, hot and cold drinks, games and entertainment for children, a "Wheel of Fortune" and "Basket of Cheer" for adults, many interesting items for sale, including Christmas cards, traditional Christmas "kutia," poppyseeds, books and much more. St. Nicholas will pay a visit at 1:30 p.m. The heavenly office (for gifts) will be open from noon. For information call 215-379-2676.



# North American Volleyball Championships held in New Jersey

DENVILLE, N.J. – The North American Volleyball Championships of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (known by its Ukrainian-based acronym as USCAK), took place here at Powerzone Volleyball Center on November 10. The tournament marked the rebirth of competitive Ukrainian volleyball in North America as this was the first USCAK championship since 1994.

The tournament was played in three divisions: youth, men's open and seniors, with the most challenging games seen in the men's open.

The results in the youth division were: first place, Lys Sports Academy, based in Whippany, N.J.; second place, Toronto SA Ukraina; third place, Chornomorska Sitch, also based in Whippany.

The Chicago Slava Sports Club took the championship in the seniors division, with Lys SA taking second and Toronto Ukraina coming in third.

In the men's open, it was down to the final points as Lys SA defeated Chornomorska Sitch to win the North American title. Hartford's Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) took third, with Yonkers UAYA Krylati and Toronto Ukraina coming in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Named to the USCAK All-Star Team were: Peter Kolinsky (Hartford UAYA) and Taras Borysyuk (Lys SA), setters; Anton Yarkovlev (Toronto Ukraina) and Serhiy Hayouvy (Lys SA), defense; Roman Marushka (Chicago Slava) and Michael Zawadiwsky (Chornomorska Sitch), servers; Oleh Bykorez (Lys SA) and Ihor Akinchyn (Chornomorska Sitch), spikers; and Roman Bulawski (Lys SA) and Volodymyr Oleksyn (Lys SA), offense.

Most valuable player awards went to: Mykola Kucyna (Lys SA), youth division; Mr. Marushka (Chicago Slava), seniors division; and Mr. Bulawski (Lys SA), men's open division.

USCAK Volleyball Director Myron Bytz played the leading role in organizing the tournament, and the hosts for the day's events were the Whippany-based UAYA and Lys SA.

USCAK officers, including Myron Stebelsky, president, Omelan Twardowsky and Alexander Napora, board members, as



Christina Bytz

Participating teams, organizers and officers of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada at the North American Volleyball Championships.

well as Ihor Chyzowych, head of the organizing committee for the 2008 Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad and Youth Rally, were present for the tournament's opening ceremonies and throughout the day.

Program book sponsors were: SUMA Yonkers Federal Credit Union and Selfreliance NY Federal Credit Union, while trophy sponsors included The Ukrainian Weekly (men's open division traveling trophy) and Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union (traveling trophies in the senior men's and youth divisions), as well as the Bytz family.

At the awards ceremony and dinner held afterwards at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in nearby Whippany, team and individual trophies were presented to the winners. USCAK officials reminded all the athletes to prepare for the 2008 Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad and Youth Rally to be held over the Fourth of July weekend at the Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub in Horsham, Pa. (For information log on to <http://tryzub.org/olympiad08.htm>.)



The men's open division champions, Lys Sports Academy of Whippany, N.J., receive the traveling trophy.



The youth division winner, Lys Sports Academy, receives trophies from meet officials and sponsors.



Chicago Slava, winner in the senior division, and with their team trophy.

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## NOTES ON PEOPLE

### Syracuse deacon marks anniversary

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The celebration of the 25th anniversary of the diaconate ordination of the Rev. Deacon Myron Kotch took place on October 27-28 at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Syracuse, N.Y.

Deacon Kotch was ordained to the sub-diaconate on July 25, 1982, at the Martyr's Shrine in Auriesville, N.Y., and was ordained to the Diaconate on October 23, 1982, at St. John The Baptist Church in Syracuse.

He was born in Nastasiv, Ukraine, on August 12, 1937. The son of Wasyl and Anastasis Tkacz (Kotch), Deacon Kotch lived in Ukraine until 1944. In 1944-1949, he and his parents lived in displaced persons camps in Landeck, Austria, and Fischbach, Germany. It was there that he finished his primary education.

Deacon Kotch's family moved to the United States on November 30, 1949, settling in Troy, N.Y., where he completed his high school education in 1954. In 1956, the family moved to Cohoes, N.Y.

Deacon Kotch attended St. Basil's College Seminary in Stamford, Conn., where he graduated in 1958 with his B.A. in philosophy and psychology. He also minored in English and history, as well as the Ukrainian, Latin and Greek languages. Additionally, he served as editor of St. Basil's school newspaper, Zoria.

Deacon Kotch completed his M.A. in American history, minoring in economics, at Sienna College in 1962, and his Ph.D. in history at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, Germany, in 1975.

Deacon Kotch and Joyce Mazurek were married in 1962 at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Cohoes. They have three married daughters: Deborah Halligan, Andrea LaGrow and Melanie VanSchaick, and 10 grandchildren: Kimberly and Sean Halligan, Mathew and Kristen Essig, Mathew, Jessica and Mitchell LaGrow, and Aidan, Siara and Nicholas VanSchaick.

The Kotches celebrated 45 years of marriage in June 2007.

Deacon Kotch served at St. John the

Baptist as a trustee prior to becoming a deacon; he is the youngest trustee ever elected. He taught at Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) for 24 years and also was chairman of the CBA social studies department before entering the Syracuse public school system. He is a past principal of the Lesia Ukrainka School of Ukrainian Studies, past member of the board of directors of the Ukrainian National Home, past president of the Syracuse branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, director of the Holy Name Society and president of Ukrainian National Association Branch 39 (Ukrainian Sich Assembly).

For the past 20 years, Deacon Kotch has been teaching potential deacons in the Latin Rite studies program in the Syracuse diocese. In 1980 he was honored with the Salute to New Citizen's Award presented for exemplary conduct in embracing the Free Enterprise System by The Citizens Foundation Inc. In 1984 he was presented with the Stamford Diocese Youth Award for working with young people in the diocese and in 2003 with the UCCA award for teaching and administration as principal.

The Rev. Michael Taylor, OFM, was the homilist for Deacon Kotch's celebration on Saturday, October 27. The Rev. Robert Batcho was the main celebrant, assisted by the Rev. Michael Bundz, pastor of St. Volodymyr Church in Utica, and the Rev. Roman Malyarchuk, St. John the Baptist assistant pastor. Also participating were Deacons John Hobczuk from St. Nicholas parish in Elmira Heights, N.Y., Deacon Mike Evans from Ss. Peter and Paul in Auburn, N.Y., and Deacon Ed Galvin from St. John the Baptist.

Also in attendance were the Rev. Stepan Bilyk and family from New York, Deacon Tom Gutch and family from St. Nicholas parish in Watervliet, N.Y., as well as Brother Tom Zappo, principal, and Brother Gabriel Fiumano, FSC, both from CBA.

Deacon Kotch's relatives who came from out of town were Myron and Roslynn Nazar from West Virginia, Dr. Michael Nazar from Rochester, N.Y., John Bachinsky from the Albany area and Canadian cousins Ray and Colleen Shwetz and Bill Shwetz. Friends who traveled a distance were Mr. and Mrs.



The Rev. Deacon Myron Kotch with his wife, Joyce.

Roman Fedoryk from Philadelphia, and Paul Shashkin and Jeff Howard from Lynchburg, Va.

Deacons Hobczuk and Galvin served as masters of ceremonies for the event. Speakers for Saturday's reception included the Rev. Batcho, Mrs. Kotch, John M. Lischak, Ms. Halligan, Nicholas Duplak, Louis Pizzutti, Paul Shashkin, Mr. Fedoryk and Donna Bush.

The deacon was presented on both days of his anniversary celebration with the following: an apostolic blessing from Pope Benedict XVI; a patriarchal blessing from Patriarch Lubomyr Husar; a blessing from Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio; and episcopal blessings from Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka of Philadelphia, Bishop Paul P. Chomnycky, OSBM, of Stamford, Conn., and Bishop Basil H. Losten, eparch emeritus of Stamford (the bishop who ordained Deacon Kotch in 1982).

Episcopal greetings also were received from former classmate Bishop Richard Stephen Seminack of St. Nicholas Eparchy in Chicago. The deacon also was presented with an achievement award for his 25 years of dedication and faithful service as a deacon in the Ukrainian Catholic Church from St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church's Holy Name Society.

On Sunday, October 28, the Rev. Vasyl

Kadylo (head of the Stamford Diocese Diaconate Program) was the homilist for Deacon Kotch's celebration. The Rev. Batcho was the main celebrant, assisted by the Rev. Malyarchuk, St. John the Baptist's assistant pastor. Also participating were Deacons Hobczuk and Galvin along with Deacon Paul Coleman from Ss. Peter and Paul parish in Auburn. Also in attendance were the Deacon's Canadian relatives and Bob and Pat Hussar from Rochester.

Speakers for Sunday's reception included the Rev. Batcho, Mrs. Kotch, Dr. John Hvozda, Mr. Duplak, Deborah, Bill and Sean Halligan, Bill Lischak, John Gensler, the Rev. Malyarchuk and Mr. Pizzutti.

In his closing address for the 25th anniversary celebration Deacon Kotch thanked to all who were and are a part of his life. He spoke in fond memory of Mitred Archpriest Msgr. Basil Seredowych, to whom he referred as his "spiritual father," as he was instrumental in his becoming a deacon and continuing his vocation. Thanksgiving was offered for all of the blessings, congratulatory greetings and gifts. Deacon Kotch thanked all of the clergy, family, volunteer workers, parishioners, and friends who came and made this event one of the most memorable in his life.

### Washington, D.C., activists honored

*U.S.-Ukraine Business Council*

WASHINGTON – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko recently presented state awards to the president of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC), Morgan Williams, and to the founder and president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation (USUF), Nadia Komarnyckyj McConnell. USUF is a member of the USUBC.

Mr. Williams is director of government affairs, Washington office, for the SigmaBleyzer Emerging Markets Private Equity Group.

President Yushchenko announced a series of state awards on Ukrainian Independence Day (August 24) to those who made a contribution to Ukraine's development. Mr. Yushchenko said the awards were to those "who have served the Ukrainian state most loyally," adding, "I thank them for their professional and creative efforts."

In accordance with presidential decree No. 739/2007, the Distinguished Service

Order (3rd degree) was presented to Mr. Williams, and the Princess Olha Order (3rd degree) to Mrs. McConnell.

The order "For Distinguished Service" is awarded for distinguished services in the economic, science, social, cultural, military, state, civil and other sectors. The 3rd degree is reserved specially for decorating foreigners.

Mrs. McConnell is the founder and the president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. Through her vision and leadership the foundation established a presence in Ukraine even before Ukrainian independence. Today she directs the development and implementation of projects, and represents the foundation in all related U.S.-Ukrainian affairs.

Prior to establishing the foundation, she was the president of NKM Associates, a government relations and public affairs firm. While in the private sector Mrs. McConnell was involved in numerous activities related to Ukraine.

She established and chaired Ukraine 2000, a Washington-based organization that played an active role in educating the American administration and Congress regarding Ukraine and urged stronger relations between the United States and

Ukraine.

While serving in the Reagan administration, she served in a voluntary leadership capacity in community efforts to secure passage of legislation to establish the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine and to gain congressional recognition of the Chernobyl disaster; she was national chair of the Government Relations Committee of the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine effort in the United States.

In 2005 Mrs. McConnell was named by President George W. Bush as part of the U.S. delegation to attend the inauguration of Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko. This is the second award she has received from a president of Ukraine.

Mr. Williams has worked in the field of international economic and business development for the past 26 years and became involved with Ukraine in 1992 when he began working on food system development projects in Russia and Ukraine as CNFA Senior Advisor in Washington.

For the past several years Mr. Williams has been working for the SigmaBleyzer Emerging Markets Private

Equity Group, which was founded in 1991 by Michael Bleyzer and has over \$1 billion under management in several private equity investment funds and special purpose vehicles (SPV's).

Mr. Williams is founder, publisher and editor of the Action Ukraine Report (AUR), an electronic news and information service that has been distributed worldwide for the past five years.

He is founder and trustee of the Holodomor Exhibition and Education Collection composed of original artworks by Ukrainian artists about the Soviet-induced starvation of 1932-1933 which murdered millions of Ukrainians. He serves as a member of President Yushchenko's Committee for the 75th Commemoration of the Holodomor 2007-2008 and as chairman of the Exhibition Committee of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) International Holodomor Committee. Mr. Williams is trustee of the Dr. James Mace Holodomor Memorial Fund administered by the Ukrainian Federation of America (UFA) and is an advisor to the board of directors of USUF. In 2000 he founded the website [www.ArtUkraine.com](http://www.ArtUkraine.com).



# Ukrainian Canadian Congress Montreal branch holds annual meeting

by Zorianna Hrycenko-Luhova

MONTREAL – The annual general meeting of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) Montreal branch took place on September 22 at St. Sophia church hall.

Prof. Yarema Kelebay was unanimously re-elected to a third term as president, with an executive board of 36 members responsible for specific aspects of the annual UCC program. Dr. Kelebay, a professor at McGill University, also serves on the Ukrainian Canadian Congress national board of directors and is board member of the Taras Shevchenko Foundation.

UCC Montreal is composed of 36 member-organizations and has recently developed close contacts with the Ukrainian community living in northern Quebec. Quarterly delegates' meetings are held at different community-owned cultural centers and parish halls in Montreal.

In his annual president's report Prof. Kelebay reported on such cultural and educational projects organized by UCC Montreal throughout the year as the annu-

al Independence Day banquet, with guest speaker Dr. Yuriy Darewych of Toronto. As a gesture of appreciation for his guest-lecture, an art piece by award-winning artist Volodymyr Zabejda was presented to Prof. Darewych.

Other events included the annual Shevchenko concert in March, with guest speaker Andrew Hladyshevsky, president of the Shevchenko Foundation, followed by a meeting with the UCC national executive members from across Canada; support for the Montreal-Kyiv student-teacher exchange between Royal West Academy and the Kyiv Mohyla Collegium, the first such major exchange in the province of Quebec; work with James Slobodian and the Spirit Lake Internment Corp. in Amos, Quebec, and their efforts to establish the Spirit Lake internment site as a provincial historic and educational site; the annual commemoration of the 1933 Famine-Genocide with guest lecturer Nigel Colley of Great Britain speaking about the Welsh journalist Gareth Jones held at the McGill Faculty Club and the Ukrainian Youth Center; and, finally, the



Prof. Yarema Kelebay (front center), president, with members of the UCC Montreal executive.

highly successful Montreal premiere of the documentary film "Bereza Kartuzka."

The most recent event sponsored by UCC was the historic visit to Montreal on September 18 of Metropolitan Archbishop Adrian of Dnipropetrovsk, speaking on the present state of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. Over 100 attended the presentation, with an informative question and answer period following. A welcome

reception was organized by the Ukrainian women's organization "Donky Ukrainy" (Daughters of Ukraine) of St. Sophia Cathedral that evening. Also present was Irena Washchuk of Toronto, the coordinator of Metropolitan Adrian's visit across Canada to various centers.

Upcoming events for the newly elected UCC Montreal executive for 2007-2008 include participation on September 29 in the unveiling of an internment plaque at the YMCA Montreal branch, in recognition for the assistance given by the YMCA to the Ukrainian internees during Canada's first internment operations; and the organization of a one-day seminar and roundtable discussion later in the fall dedicated "to rethinking the Ukrainian community in Montreal." This roundtable discussion will be coordinated by UCC executive member Prof. Roman Serbyn, with the participation of members of Montreal Ukrainian organizations.

On October 19-21 Montreal UCC delegates participated in the triennial national Ukrainian Canadian Congress held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, with delegates from across Canada.

For further information regarding the UCC Montreal branch and its upcoming events, readers may contact Prof. Kelebay, 514-488-3989; Marika Putko, first vice-president, 514-725-0812; or Bohdanna Hawlyliuk, cultural program chairperson, 514-259-7162.



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## Canada's UNO...

(Continued from page 7)

Most of the UNO pioneers are no longer with us, but today UNO is making a dramatic comeback under younger leadership committed to continuing and building on the traditions of the past.

So what's the secret? Why is it that UNO and its affiliates have survived while many other Ukrainian Canadian organizations have withered and died? I believe it boils down to two words: vision and perseverance. UNO's founders were loyal Canadians who saw no conflict between their love of Canada and their love of Ukraine. They were willing to do everything in their power, fight every adversary, overcome every obstacle to bring their vision to fruition. And they succeeded. They triumphed!

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For more information, contact Sophia Caryk at 301-854-2062 or [MALANKA2008@gmail.com](mailto:MALANKA2008@gmail.com)



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Ukrainians' skepticism...

(Continued from page 6)

servative theoreticians. A farm worker's life is better in Europe; for instance, in Germany with its strong family farm tradition.

Worldwide, large assets tend to be accumulated in very few hands. Here are some statistics. One-half of all the assets on this planet is owned by 2 percent of the world's population. The lower one-half of the world's population owns only 1 percent of the world's assets (per the Financial Times, December 6, 2006). It's nice to be in the top 2 percent, unless you are overly concerned about all those slackers. Guess where most Ukrainian peasants would fit after a perky land grab.

Recently, Ukraine's land issues were described for me by a 27-year-old graduate of Kyiv's Agricultural University, with a degree in international business. For several years now she has worked as manager of a large food-producing farm owned by a French consortium on leased land in the Dnipropetrovsk area. The main reason Ukrainian peasants don't start their own farms (aside from small vegetable gardens) is the lack of initial capital. Banks in Ukraine don't readily lend money to "small fry." Land cannot be offered as collateral. Hence, land reform without a "banking revolution" and a host of other issues to be resolved – including massive tax dodging by big and small business – is a dead duck.

The existing system is actually not all bad. People can get income by leasing their land to entrepreneurs, and also can work there for pay. This becomes similar to profit-sharing. In contrast, the bulk of Ukraine's big-time industrial enterprises have slipped away from ethnic Ukrainian hands. This is not surprising. Unfettered capitalism is usually at loggerheads with the national interest in any country.

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

### Inaccurate information in Shukhevych article

Dear Editor:

Here, in the Kuwait-Iraq Theater, I received the August 26 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly and want to express some views on the article about Gen. Roman Shukhevych written by Zenon Zawada.

It is very good that my attorney friend, Askold Lozynskyj, is suing Ukraine's Communist Party over its defamation of Gen. Shukhevych of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). And clearly, Mr. Zawada's story reveals Soviet-era influences. But most importantly, he made some serious mistakes which must be corrected.

The unit known as the Nachtigall Battalion in which Shukhevych briefly served was never a "Ukrainian auxiliary police" battalion. Raised in late 1939, the Nachtigall unit was strictly a combat infantry battalion. Initially Gen. Shukhevych served as a company commander in Nachtigall, but just before Operation Barbarossa (Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union in June 1941) he was appointed as its commander. Protesting Nazi Germany's harsh policies toward Ukraine, the unit's personnel began to revolt and desert. Amongst them was Gen. Shukhevych. Relieved of command by German authorities and arrested, Gen. Shukhevych fled and entered the Ukrainian underground. In October 1942, the various Ukrainian guerrilla bands were merged into one army – the UPA. Shortly after, Shukhevych was appointed the commander of this anti-Nazi and anti-Soviet guerrilla army.

As for Hitler, he rarely issued an iron cross to a military man, as Soviet sources allege. By and large, iron crosses were personally issued from the battalion to divisional level by its commanders or, these commanders designated their platoon and company commanders to issue

the award. The medal which Hitler issued in person was the Knight's Cross with Diamonds. Very few of these were issued and the book which I have on the military men who won this medal does not include Gen. Shukhevych. Yurii Lopatynskyi never "led an SS division in Vinnytsia." In World War II, no Ukrainian ever commanded any kind of SS Police unit, or any kind of division whether it be a Waffen SS, Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe or Army Field Security. As for Lopatynskyi, I believe he served in the UPA. As for the Iron Cross and the Knight's Cross, foreign soldiers could receive these awards as well. A number of Ukrainian soldiers serving in the 14th Waffen SS Galicia Division, for example, did receive Iron Crosses. And on September 26, 1944, 33 Ukrainian Galicia Division soldiers received the Distinguished War Service Cross, 2nd Class. In itself, this award was a higher cross of valor.

One of the most intriguing recipients of the Iron Cross was Sven Hassel. A Danish communist arrested and imprisoned in Germany, Hassel was placed into the 27th Mechanized Penal Battalion. The entire unit was composed of Communists, criminals, murderers, drug dealers, homosexuals, sex offenders, gangsters – as Hassel wrote, "the scum of the earth." Each and every one hated Hitler. Yet, they fought for him like lions on the Russian front. Hassel survived the war. His book "Wheels of Terror!" is a monumental work and the book has gone through numerous publications. But at least Hassel, unlike Petro Symonenko and all of those other Ukrainian Communists who never helped anyone and always lived high lifestyles on the suffering of their fellow countrymen, donated all of his money to charitable organizations and the environment.

**Lt. Col. Michael O. Logusz**  
U.S. Army  
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

## Is big brother...

(Continued from page 2)

Cabinet to withdraw resolution No. 1169 as soon as possible. The association's chairwoman, Tetiana Popova, said the resolution violated the Constitution and the principle of supremacy of law. The association has sent letters to the Justice Ministry, the Procurator General's Office, the Supreme Court and President Viktor Yushchenko, urging them to intervene.

Ekonomichna Pravda quoted Sviatoslav Oliynyk, who chaired the outgoing Parliament's subcommittee for monitoring law-enforcement bodies, as saying that Resolution No. 1169 is legally nonsensical, as it grants the secret services greater access to private information than the Constitution permits. He also noted that the resolution does not clearly specify which state bodies are entitled to obtain such information, so in theory any official could try to get it.

Volodymyr Yavorskyi, executive director of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, noted that citizens may not appeal against Resolution No. 1169 in court. This is because only the Constitutional Court is entitled to rule on Cabinet resolutions and laymen cannot appeal to that court. He said the Helsinki Union would ask President Yushchenko to suspend the resolution and to file an appeal with the Constitutional Court.

Mr. Yavorskyi noted, however, that resolution No. 1169 is nothing new as far as the Internet is concerned. The resolution apparently only restored powers to special services that they had had until 2006, when the Justice Ministry cancelled the Communications Committee's special order under which communication operators had been obliged to give confidential information about clients to special services.

Human rights expert Viktor Chevhuza told Segodnya that the real novelty is that the special services are now allowed to secretly enter private premises. "In the past, the law on search and data collection did not allow operatives to secretly enter living premises or offices. Now they [have] obtained this right," said Mr. Chevhuza.

The Helsinki Union told Ukrayinska Pravda that about 40,000 writs to access private information was issued in Ukraine in 2004 alone, compared with some 3,000 such writs issued in the United States that year. Ukrayinska Pravda suggested that such a disproportionate number of permissions were issued in Ukraine not to catch potential terrorists or watch opposition politicians, but rather to spy on business rivals.

"The state here needs the special services not to execute control over citizens, but first of all to help the feudal-industrial clans fight each other," Ukrayinska Pravda summed up.

Acting Internal Affairs Minister Mykhailo Kornienko, however, thinks that Resolution No. 1169 is nothing special. He told Segodnya that the resolution only systematized the procedures that existed before. "We [the police], the SBU, the Border Service and other agencies involved in investigation each had our own internal instructions on this. The Cabinet resolution established a common procedure," he said. "It is not aimed at eavesdropping on everybody or total spying. It is stupid and provocative to claim that!" he declared.

Sources: Korrespondent.net, October 26; Ekonomichna Pravda, October 31; Ukrayinska Pravda, Segodnya, November 2; Zerkalo Nedeli, November 3.



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# OUT AND ABOUT

- |                             |  |                              |   |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| November 28<br>Philadelphia | Wheelchair Foundation fund-raiser, United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, with Kyrylo Fesenko, Wachovia Center, 215-728-1630  | December 4<br>Washington     | University, creesinfo@stanford.edu<br>Presentation on "Energy Options for Ukraine," U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, 202-223-2228                   |
| December 1<br>Baltimore, MD | Pub night, Ukrainian American Sports Club Dnipro, 410-967-0501 or ukisteve@aol.com   | December 6<br>Toronto        | Lecture by Keith Darden, "Mass Schooling and the Formation of Enduring Loyalties: The Case of Ukraine," University of Toronto, 416-946-8900 |
| December 1<br>New York      | "Juliana Osinchuk and Friends" perform classical works, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660   | December 7<br>Washington     | Monthly social, The Washington Group, Leopold's Café, 240-381-0993 or president@thewashingtongroup.org                                      |
| December 1<br>New York      | Conference, "Goddesses, Matriarchs and All Others: Profiles of Ukrainian Women," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130   | December 8<br>Jenkintown, PA | Christmas bazaar, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166   |
| December 2<br>Warren, MI    | Fund-raiser for Ukrainian Catholic University, Ukrainian Cultural Center, nell@ucef.org  | December 8<br>New York       | Memorial program dedicated to Dr. Swiatoslaw Trofimenko, Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130  |
| December 2<br>Whippany, NJ  | Lecture by Borys R. Mychalczak, "The Death of Alexander Litvinenko: Understanding the Health Effects of Polonium 210 Exposure," Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-585-7175 | December 9<br>Hillside, NJ   | St. Nicholas Christmas program, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, 908-289-0127 or 973-599-9381                               |
| December 4<br>Stanford, CA  | Lecture by David Lane, "The Social Bases of Reform and Anti-Reform: A Comparative Study of Ukraine and Russia," Stanford   |                              |   |

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

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	<u>Christmas Issue</u>	<u>Advertising</u>
	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
The Weekly	December 16	December 3
Svoboda	December 14	December 3
The Weekly	December 30	December 10
Svoboda	December 28	December 10

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To register debutantes for the Ball, please contact  
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For room reservations, please call the Park Hyatt Hotel  
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Please refer to the Ukrainian Engineers' Ball for special room rates.

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, November 30 -  
Saturday, December 1

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a symposium, "Breaking the Great Silence on Ukraine's Terror-Famine: On the 75th Commemoration of the Famine and the 25th Anniversary of the HURI Famine Project." Session 1, "Putting Ukraine's Terror-Famine in Its Proper Place: The Historiographic Significance of the HURI Project," will take place on Friday, November 30, at 4-6 p.m. in the Thompson Room of Barker Center, 12 Quincy St. Session 2, "Sources Find Their Voice: Uncovering Documentation on Ukraine's Terror-Famine," will take place on Saturday, December 1, at 9:30 a.m.-noon in Room 113 of Sever Hall. The symposium will conclude in the same location with Session 3, "A Roundtable Discussion," at 2-4 p.m. on Saturday. Sever Hall is located on the main Harvard University campus, directly across Quincy Street from the Fogg Art Museum. All sessions are free and open to the public. For more information contact HURI at 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Saturday, December 1

**MONTREAL:** The St. Lawrence Choir, directed by Marika Kuzma, presents "Chantons Noel," a concert of holiday music, including selections by Bach, Pinkham, Poulenc and Rachmaninoff, as well as traditional carols in English, French and Ukrainian. The choir will be joined by the brass quintet Buzz. The performance is at 7:30 p.m. at Oscar Peterson Hall, Concordia College. For ticket information log on to slchoir.qu.ca or call 514-483-6922.

**NEW YORK:** A Conference titled "Goddesses, Matriarchs and All Others: Profiles of Ukrainian Women" will be held at the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Participants will include: Mariana Rubchak (Ph.D. in history, senior research professor, Valparaiso University), "Ukraine's Ancient Matriarch as Topos"; Maria Meyerchuk (research associate, Institute of Ethnology, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Lviv), "Gender, Sakrum in the Prism of Archaic Culture"; Oksana Kis (senior research associate, Institute of Ethnology, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Lviv), "The Role of Berehynia Benefits Yulia Tymoshenko"; Dr. Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, discussant. The event takes place at 5 p.m. at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Ave., between Ninth and 10th streets; telephone, 212-254-5130; fax, 212-254-5239.

Sunday, December 2

**WARREN, Mich.:** An open house and informative reception for the Ukrainian Catholic University will take place at St. Josephat's Banquet Center, 26440 Ryan Road. For more information contact the

Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation,  
773-235-8462.

**WHIPPANY, N.J.:** The Arts, Culture and Education Committee of the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey presents "The Death of Alexander Litvinenko: Understanding the Health Effects of Polonium 210 Exposure," a lecture by guest speaker Borys R. Mychalczak, M.D. Dr. Mychalczak is associate professor of radiation oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and chief of radiation oncology at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Regional Network, Sleepy Hollow, Westchester, N.Y. The event is co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, New York/New Jersey Metro branch. The event takes place at 2 p.m. at the UACCNJ, 60 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981. Donation: \$5.

**NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J.:** Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 65 invites the public to the "Festival of Trees" event, featuring Christmas trees from around the world. The show opens at the Museum of the American Hungarian Foundation at 2 p.m. The Ukrainian Christmas tree, or "yalynka," will be among the trees in the festival exhibit, which will be on view through January 27. The museum is located at 300 Somerset St.; visiting hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, 1-4 p.m. For additional information call 732-846-5777.

Friday, December 7

**CHICAGO:** The Ukrainian National Museum invites you to an exhibit and sale of woodcuts, linocuts and etchings by Jacques Hnizdovsky. Exhibit opening: Friday, December 7, at 7 p.m. at Ukrainian National Museum, 2249 W. Superior St., Chicago, IL 60612. Exhibit runs through December 23. Admission: \$5. For more information contact 312-421-8020 or unmm\_youth@yahoo.com.

Saturday, December 8

**WHIPPANY, N.J.:** The Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund and the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey invite you to join us for a Christmas celebration at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 60 N. Jefferson Road. Entertainment will be by Papa Duke, featuring violinist virtuoso Vasyl Popadiuk, hailed as the next Paganini of the violin and master of diverse musical genres: classical, jazz and rock. Admission/contribution: \$100 per person. RSVP to Alexa Milanytch by December 3 at 973-376-1748 or info@childrenofchernobyl.org.

(Continued on page 16)

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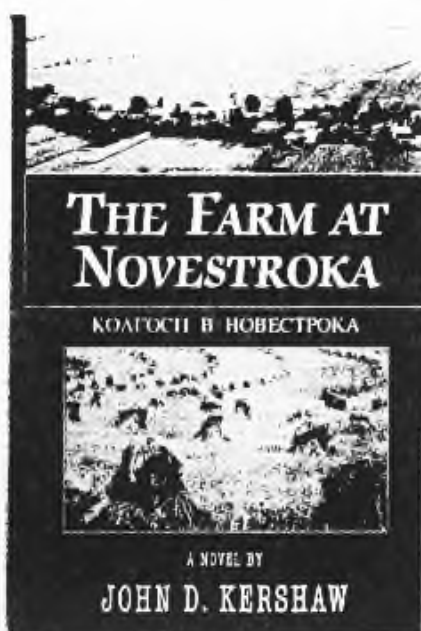


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To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved,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

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

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