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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Democratic Forces Coalition is created

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Democratic Forces Coalition is official.

The national deputies of the Yulia Tymoshenko and Our Ukraine — People's Self-Defense blocs on November 29 provided 227 signatures to an agreement to form a coalition government committed to European integration, economic reform and promotion of Ukrainian history and culture.

Although the much-anticipated agreement is in place nearly two months after the parliamentary elections, difficult obstacles lie ahead for the Democratic Forces Coalition.

"I am far from any euphoria regarding the ease of the democratic coalition's work, because we know the extent to which political forces will work toward ruination," said Ms. Tymoshenko, who was greeted with applause and flowers two days after she celebrated her 47th birthday.

"But we believe the strengthening of the democratic team has begun with this day."

From its very inception, the coalition endured a setback when veteran politician

(Continued on page 7)

Kyivans light candles in memory of Holodomor

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — During the last few years of his life, famed Holodomor researcher Dr. James Mace began a tradition of lighting a candle in a glass jar and placing it at the Holodomor Victims Memorial in St. Michael's Square of the Ukrainian capital.

"It was his idea to light a candle," said Wawa Baczynskij, who knew the historian while working at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute in Boston.

In a matter of a few years, Dr. Mace's ritual has evolved into Ukraine's national tradition to commemorate the 7 million to 10 million victims of the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide, among the worst genocides in human history, executed by the government of the Soviet Union under dictator Joseph Stalin.

More than 20,000 Ukrainians gathered at St. Michael's Square on the evening of November 24 to launch the yearlong commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor.

In the nearly three years since Viktor Yushchenko assumed the Ukrainian presidency and made Holodomor remembrance among his cultural priorities, the annual commemoration on the last Saturday of November has evolved from an informal wreath-laying (as practiced by former



Volodymyr Borodin

A young girl places a candle to form a cross at the November 24 commemoration of the Holodomor at St. Michael's Square in Kyiv.

President Leonid Kuchma) into a national ceremony broadcast on live television.

The Kyiv commemoration was widely advertised as "Light a Candle," and the president encouraged local governments to hold similar events and individual citizens to place lit candles in memory of the victims.

The hourlong commemoration in Kyiv

began with a march from St. Sophia's Square to St. Michael's Square along the Volodymyrskyi Passage led by the president, his family and entourage, which included Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Dmytro Tabachnyk, Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi and

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Embassy of Ukraine in U.S. recalls Famine-Genocide

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — Ukrainian and American diplomats and other officials, representatives of Ukrainian American organizations and members of the community, some with their children, all huddled in the chill of the interior courtyard of the Ukrainian Embassy as the sun was setting on the U.S. capital on Saturday, November 24.

Each holding a lit candle, they had come to mark the 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide — the Holodomor, as it has come to be known — in which up to 10 million Ukrainians perished in 1932-1933 on the orders of Stalin's regime in Moscow.

In a brief program, which began with a moment of silence in the victims' memory, Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Shamshur read a message for the occasion from Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, who called on all Ukrainians "to unite in word and prayer for Ukraine and to place in every window the candle of faith and hope."

"Only the truth about this genocide and memory of those we have lost shall release us from the darkness of our past," President Yushchenko said.

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America President Michael Sawkiw Jr., underscored the need to focus on the



Yaro Bihun

Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Shamshur (center) standing among other participants of the Holodomor commemoration at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington. Head bowed, on his right, is UCCA President Michael Sawkiw Jr.

truth of this historical injustice and called on Ukrainians not only to honor its victims, but to "make sure that their genocide is recognized and learned throughout the world."

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs David J. Kramer, speaking "on behalf of my col-

leagues in the U.S. government and in the U.S. Department of State," conveyed their heartfelt sorrow in commemorating the Holodomor and called on all never to forget what happened and its victims.

"Let us also pledge to never allow it to happen again," he added.

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Ukrainians in the U.K. demand recognition of Genocide of '32-'33

by Christina Maria Paschyn

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

LONDON — Margaret Siroli Colley was only 8 years old when she first heard about the Holodomor, the Soviet-engineered Famine that killed 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians from 1932 to 1933. It was August 1933, and her uncle Gareth Jones had just returned from Ukraine with a story to tell — one that Dr. Colley said at the time she could barely comprehend.

"He came in and showed me some photos of starving children. And they had very fat children. I couldn't understand at the age of 8 why these children had such fat tummies, but they were starving. Most fat children were healthy," Dr. Coley said.

Jones went on to publicize the Famine of 1932-1933 in numerous Western newspapers, including the New York Evening Post. But his articles were denounced by journalists beholden to Stalin, like the infamous New York Times foreign correspondent Walter

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ANALYSIS

Two colored revolutions: high hopes, broken promises

by Salome Asatiani

RFE/RL

November 21

The Rose and Orange revolutions ushered in a wave of optimism that similar "colored revolutions" would soon spread Western-style democracy throughout the Soviet Union.

But, as anniversaries of the events in Georgia and Ukraine approached, high hopes and great expectations have been replaced with apprehension.

Georgia became a regional trendsetter in November 2003, when the popular resistance that followed rigged parliamentary elections transformed into the Rose Revolution that spelled the downfall of the ruling regime.

The movement promised a break with past practices of corruption and "kleptocracy," to be replaced with democratic governance and improved social conditions. And the charismatic face of the opposition, Mikheil Saakashvili, led the charge.

"We need new blood to come into politics in Georgia to replace the scumbags and corrupt deputies, ministers and members of various parties who don't care about the people," the soon-to-be president said.

The revolution reached its peak with the opposition's seizure of the Parliament building, and on November 23, 2003, President Eduard Shevardnadze resigned, prompting a massive celebration in Tbilisi.

One year later, it was Ukraine's turn, and once again flawed elections served as the stimulus.

Tens of thousands of Orange-clad Yushchenko supporters took to the streets on November 22, 2004, when it became apparent that presidential elections held the day before had been skewed in favor of the "Blue" camp's candidate, Viktor Yanukovich.

As a result of the outcry, a new vote was ordered for late December, and Mr. Yushchenko emerged as the winner.

Mr. Yushchenko touted the Orange victory as the "people's choice" and promised to lead Ukraine in a new and democratic direction.

"The falsification by the Central Election Commission only postponed the time of recognition of the real choice of the people," he said during his January 23, 2005, inauguration ceremony. "This choice was proclaimed today in Parliament and I took an oath on the Bible."

With their revolutions, two countries that shared a similar Soviet past and proximity to Russia appeared to start a new chapter. Presidents Saakashvili and Yushchenko vowed to spur development and democratization of their respective countries, and promoted integration with trans-Atlantic structures.

The two leaders enjoyed enthusiastic moral support from the United States, which touted the developments in Georgia and Ukraine as the advancement of democracy.

In early 2005, Mr. Saakashvili and Mr. Yushchenko were even nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by influential U.S. Sens. John McCain and Hillary Clinton. "In leading freedom movements in their respective countries," the senators' letter to the Nobel Institute read, the two presidents "have won popular support for the universal values of democracy, individual liberty and civil rights."

Messrs. Saakashvili and Yushchenko established a strong personal bond as

well, the beginnings of which could be seen during the Georgian president's address to the Ukrainian people on November 23, 2004, during the peak of the Orange Revolution. "Dear Ukrainians, dear brothers and sisters," Mr. Saakashvili said in Ukrainian. "I speak to you on this holy St. George's Day. I wish you success, peace and calm, justice and victory."

"Who has done better?"

But today, most analysts agree that Georgia and Ukraine have taken quite different post-revolutionary paths.

While Ukraine is widely seen as having more success in establishing democratic procedures of governance, Georgia is considered to be better off in terms of carrying out structural and economic reforms. The citizens of both countries, meanwhile, are waiting for promises of prosperity to come true.

"Who has done better, who has done worse? The Ukrainian achievements never looked as good as Georgian ones, but I wonder if the Ukrainian achievements are actually rather more sustainable," said Nicholas Redman, an Eastern Europe analyst with the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Meanwhile, both countries have experienced political crises at home.

In Ukraine, disagreements emerged between the main voices of the Orange Revolution – Mr. Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko – and ended with Mr. Yushchenko dismissing Ms. Tymoshenko as prime minister. That, combined with the continued rivalry with Mr. Yanukovich, resulted in political stalemate.

Mr. Yanukovich, enjoying the support of Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine, emerged as prime minister. And only recently, following September's parliamentary elections, has the Orange camp regrouped enough to consider the possibility of a new Orange coalition.

In Georgia, Mr. Saakashvili's government has been accused by the opposition of consolidating power, tightening control over the media and failing to push through much-needed judicial reforms.

Such criticisms resulted in the recent staging of massive opposition rallies throughout the country – and came to a head in Tbilisi when the Saakashvili administration chose to forcefully disperse opposition protesters just as their numbers seemed to be on the wane.

The use of tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons to suppress the movement led to a state of emergency that lasted nine days. The country has not recovered from the acute crisis, and is now awaiting a presidential election that Mr. Saakashvili moved up from the fall of 2008 to January 5 in an attempt to appease the opposition.

Weak, divided as a strength

For many analysts, such as Ukrainian political commentator Ivan Lozowy, the problems Georgia and Ukraine have encountered following their revolutions are largely due to Mr. Saakashvili's and Mr. Yushchenko's dissimilar personal characteristics and divergent ways of governing.

"In the case of Mr. Yushchenko – passivity and weakness," Mr. Lozowy said. "In the case of Mr. Saakashvili – strong-headedness and, I would say, an overtly

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NEWSBRIEFS

Rada holds first session

KYIV – Ukraine's newly elected Verkhovna Rada finally held its opening session on November 23, Ukrainian media reported. The session was opened by former Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz and later headed by Raisa Bohatyriova, the head of the committee preparing for the first session of a newly elected Parliament. All political forces represented in the Verkhovna Rada formed their parliamentary factions, but the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) and the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc (OU-PSD) did not manage to create their planned parliamentary coalition. The YTB and the OU-PSD have a slim majority in the Rada, but some representatives of the latter disagree with provisions of the coalition deal on changing to a fully professional army in 2009. During the session, outgoing Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich relinquished the powers of his Cabinet of Ministers, so a new government must now be formed within 60 days. Ms. Bohatyriova, who closed the session, scheduled the next meeting for November 29. YTB representatives said that Ms. Bohatyriova alone does not have the right to determine the date, and they promised to convene on November 27. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yekhanurov urges revision of coalition deal

KYIV – Yuriy Yekhanurov, a former prime minister and currently a lawmaker for the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc (OU-PSD) in the new Verkhovna Rada, on November 26 posted on his website a letter urging the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) and OU-PSD to revise some provisions of their coalition deal and sign the document in public, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. In particular, Mr. Yekhanurov wants some election pledges of the YTB to be postponed, including the abolition of the value-added tax, the compensation within two years for depreciated deposits at the savings bank of the former Soviet Union, the switch to a fully professional army from January 1, 2009, and the abolition of the military draft from January 1,

2008. Leaders of the YTB and OU-PSD in mid-October initialed the coalition accord, but six OU-PSD lawmakers have so far refused to sign it. The YTB and OU-PSD control 228 seats in the new Verkhovna Rada – just two more than the number required to pass most legislation. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Unification of president's bloc suspended

KYIV – Presidential Secretariat head Viktor Baloha said on November 26 that the Christian Democratic Union and the Forward Ukraine parties, which are part of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD) bloc, have suspended their participation in the transformation of OU-PSD into a single party, Interfax and RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. Mr. Baloha also said that the commitment to unify the bloc into a strong single party was one of the conditions for President Viktor Yushchenko's support for OU-PSD during the early parliamentary elections. Mr. Baloha said he believes that such a commitment increased OU-PSD's chances among Ukrainian voters. "Politicians who gained seats in the Parliament should bear in mind their promises to the head of state," Mr. Baloha said. The OU-PSD bloc comprises nine political parties and movements. (RFE/RL Newsline)

OU leader demands coalition agreement

KYIV – Viacheslav Kyrylenko, the leader of the Our Ukraine People's Union, the largest party within the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD) bloc, said on November 27 that he will demand that the OU-PSD and YTB reach an agreement by November 29, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. "We will do our utmost to see the coalition formed by Thursday [November 29]. Frankly speaking, right now I do not even admit" that the coalition with the YTB might fail, Mr. Kyrylenko said, following an unsuccessful meeting of the OU-PSD Political Council, which did not manage to gather a quorum. Mr. Kyrylenko also did not rule out the possibility that the Our Ukraine People's

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NEWS ANALYSIS: Differences in Our Ukraine hinder coalition

by Pavel Korduban

Eurasia Daily Monitor
November 28

Ukraine's new Parliament opened on November 23 only to adjourn until November 29, as the absence of a more or less stable majority left it incapacitated, making it impossible to elect parliamentary leaders and form standing committees. This deadlock is due to serious differences within President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD) bloc over electing the chairman of Parliament and the coalition accord with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB).

After the September 30 snap parliamentary election, OU-PSD and YTB agreed that the post of prime minister in their coalition would go to YTB and the less important position of Rada chair would be filled by a representative of OU-PSD, because it scored fewer votes in the election. It was agreed that the leader of Our Ukraine – the larger component of OU-PSD – Viacheslav Kyrylenko, would become Rada chair.

It emerged later that many people in Our Ukraine have serious reservations about Mr. Kyrylenko. He is seen by one group of Yushchenko supporters, which apparently includes the head of the Presidential Secretariat, Viktor Baloha, as an individual prone to make more concessions to Ms. Tymoshenko than necessary. Mr. Kyrylenko's strengthening, they fear, may weaken Mr. Yushchenko vis-à-vis Ms. Tymoshenko if she decides to challenge him in the 2009 presidential election campaign.

On the other hand, there are several

members of OU-PSD who support a coalition with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Party of the Regions (PRU), rather than with YTB. Some of them, such as National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) Secretary Ivan Pliusch, who served as Rada chair twice in the past, and Yuriy Yekhanurov, who was prime minister in 2005-2006, reportedly would not mind being elected chairman themselves.

The situation is complicated by President Yushchenko's failure to clearly articulate his position. Initially he seemed to back Mr. Kyrylenko's bid, but at a meeting with OU-PSD leaders on November 22 Mr. Yushchenko reportedly proposed reserving for Mr. Kyrylenko the position of vice prime minister in the future Cabinet. He suggested that OU-PSD should consider four candidates for Rada chair, including Messrs. Pliusch and Yekhanurov, but not Mr. Kyrylenko. Mr. Yushchenko's advice, however, was rejected by the majority of those present, who voted to back Mr. Kyrylenko's bid.

Mr. Pliusch later told journalists that President Yushchenko wanted him to be chosen for Rada chair. Mr. Pliusch sounded patronizing when asked to comment on Mr. Kyrylenko: "I think he does not understand that the speaker [Rada chair] should organize the work of Parliament, rather than defend the interests of his coalition." Mr. Pliusch could either take his seat in Parliament or remain in his current position, but Mr. Yushchenko left him no choice, dismissing him from NSDC. This means that Mr. Pliusch goes to Parliament, quite probably to challenge Mr. Kyrylenko.

OU-PSD member Ihor Kril, who is

close to Mr. Baloha, publicly called on Mr. Kyrylenko to drop his bid. Mr. Kril claimed that there was no transparent competition for the position of Rada chair and he called the OU-PSD/YTB coalition accord "a conspiracy for the sake of posts." He also accused Mr. Kyrylenko of transforming OU-PSD into "a branch of YTB." Mr. Kril was one of the first three OU-PSD parliamentarians who refused to sign the accord with YTB.

The number of dissenters grew to at least seven. By November 26, Messrs. Kril, Pliusch and Vasyl Petiovka were joined by another four, including Mr. Yekhanurov, despite Ms. Tymoshenko's concessions, such as omitting from the accord the promise to cancel military conscription from 2008. The dissenters argue that several provisions included in the coalition accord by Ms. Tymoshenko are unrealistic.

Mr. Yekhanurov has demanded deleting seven points from the accord and amending at least 25. These include Ms. Tymoshenko's promises to reimburse Ukrainians within two years for the deposits lost in the Soviet Union's Savings Bank, to cancel the value-added tax and to change the parliamentary election system to make it more transparent. The promises to cancel conscription and return the Soviet-era savings were among the key points of Ms. Tymoshenko's election program. Now a coalition and

her premiership are impossible without consent from the seven opponents of the original version of the OU-PSD/YTB accord, as without their votes Ms. Tymoshenko's bid will be backed by fewer national deputies than the required 226.

Mr. Kyrylenko scheduled a meeting of Our Ukraine's top body, the Political Council, for November 27 to try to persuade the dissenters to change their mind. More than half of the council, however, ignored the meeting, so dissent within the party is apparently growing.

The YTB will not vote for a candidate for Rada chair offered by OU-PSD as long as there is no formal coalition, Mykola Tomenko, one of the YTB's leaders, told Channel 5. Earlier, the other three caucuses in Parliament – the PRU, the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc and the Communists – had made it clear that they will not help the OU-PSD/YTB coalition elect the Rada chair because they were not invited to join the coalition. If OU-PSD and YTB fail to settle their differences quickly, the process of electing the Rada chair may take weeks. In that case, Ukraine will hardly have a new prime minister by the end of 2007.

Sources: *Interfax-Ukraine*, November 22; *Ukrayinska Pravda*, November 23, 26; *Channel 5*, November 25; *UNIAN*, November 26; *Inter TV*, November 27.

Russia accuses Ukrainian president of using Holodomor for political gain

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The Russian Federation government has accused President Viktor Yushchenko of speculating on the 1932-1933 Famine for political gain. The accusation was made in a statement released on November 19 by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"We'd like to state that the theme of the 1930s famine in the Soviet Union, the victims of which were people from many nationalities, including Ukrainians, Russians, Kazakhs and other peoples of the USSR, is becoming yet a bigger subject for speculation on behalf of certain political circles in Ukraine," the ministry said.

The statement arrived five days before Ukrainians annually commemorate the 1932-1933 Holodomor, and other devastating famines in Ukraine an annual observance held on the last Saturday in November.

Thousands of Ukrainians gathered at St. Michael's Square in Kyiv, in front of the Holodomor Famine-Genocide Victims Memorial, to pray and remember the tens of millions of victims by placing candles in glass jars throughout the square.

"Declaring the tragic events of these years as an 'act of genocide' against the Ukrainian people is a one-sided twisting of history in agreement with contemporary conjectural political-ideological arrangements," the Russian government's statement said.

"Moreover, this offends the memory of victims of other nationalities who died in the 1932-1933 Famine throughout the former Soviet Union."

In response, the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of Ukraine said determining whether the Holodomor was a genocide against the Ukrainian people is no longer an issue.

The Russian Federation government was untactful in making such a statement through its Foreign Affairs Ministry, said Andrii Deschytsia, spokesman for Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry.

President Viktor Yushchenko responded on November 20, saying the the search for truth about the Holodomor is not directed against any other nation. "This is a matter related exclusively to our depths and values," he said.

The Russian government's long hostility towards recognizing the Holodomor as a genocide against Ukrainians may be fueling violence and chauvinism among its citizens, which became apparent this weekend.

Activists with the Union of Eurasian Youth, a radical Russian organization, attacked a Holodomor exhibition in Moscow's Ukrainian Cultural Center on November 17.

The seven activists arrived at the Cultural Center to voice their protest against the exhibit, said Valeriy Korovin, a leader of the group. When guards approached to remove the protesters, a brawl erupted, resulting in the successful destruction of the exhibit's photo stands and displays, he said in an interview with Echo of Moscow, a radio station.

"The fight at the exhibit occurred because the activists weren't given the opportunity to voice their position regarding attempts by the regime of President Viktor Yushchenko to use the Holodomor theme to drive a wedge between the

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ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT YUSHCHENKO: Remembering the Holodomor

Following is the text of President Viktor Yushchenko's speech at St. Michael's Square in Kyiv during ceremonies on November 24 commemorating the Holodomor of 1932-1933.

They are already here.

They have come a long way.

Millions. Millions of our grandfathers, fathers, brothers, sisters.

Their wagons set out from heaven. Mothers must be worried not to overlook even the smallest, the most precious who found his peace and silently fell asleep in God's hands.

For 75 years that caravan of souls has been traveling, trying to reach these heavens – three, five, seven, eight, 10 million guiltless people, hundreds of thousands of families, extinct villages, souls who did not receive their burial services, tormented, massacred unburied destinies.

They want to go home. They see these small lights.

They trust in us.

Because we are their un-lived lives.

Dear Ukrainian Nation, Brothers and Sisters:

We are united. Today Ukraine and Ukrainians of the world begin to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the terrible catastrophe that was the Holodomor of 1932-1933.

We honor every soul, every victim and every martyr.

Even now we don't know the full scale of the tragedy.

Slowly its deathly face emerges from witnesses' memories, from secret archives, from devilish "detached folders."

"I remember all this... I was swollen from hunger; my brother was in even worse condition... He was dying; his swollen body was leaking fluid. I was sitting beside him, he was gritting his teeth and kept asking for a cucumber... Then he died... His dead body has been wrapped in a blanket, the color of this blanket is still in my memory." These are the recollections of Hanna Nelasa, born in the Luhansk region. This woman overcame her terror and made her testimony.

"Confiscators would stop before nothing – neither before the sufferings of children, nor before their quantity in a family... They kept coming back again and again, taking everything they could find. They were worse than fascists." This is Nonna Cherveva from Horlivka.

From the letter of Mykola Antonowych Reva from Hylivka, Poltava region, to Joseph Stalin: "hundreds of thousands of people died of hunger, all before the eyes of Communists, who were riding over our dead bodies boldly praising life." Mykola Reva was sentenced to six years of prison.

From Kaganovich's letter to Stalin: "I fully agree with your evaluation of the state of affairs in Ukraine... The theory that Ukrainians are guiltless victims leads to solidarity and corrupt cover-up... I think that... the time has come... to urge the organization to definite breakthrough..."

They wanted to break everyone.

Evil rose against us. The name of this evil is "genocide." The deliberate, accurately planned attempt to suppress the nation.

Its arranger and executor is the totalitarian Communist regime. It is the mastermind murderer. A pack of bastards had no mercy for any people, every enslaved nation was filled with rivers of blood.

In our land Stalin, in accordance with a deliberate plan, chose to victimize the Ukrainian peasantry – the core, the basis, the prop of the nation.

"There is no powerful national movement without a peasant army. The national question in its essence is a question of the peasantry." In that phrase of Stalin lies the answer to the question: Why did millions of Ukrainians die?

Terror was launched deliberately and systematically. During 1932-1933, 69 sittings of the Political Bureau [Politburo] of the Central Committee took place, at which 270 subjects concerning Ukraine were directly discussed.

They worked tirelessly. During the Holodomor's worst stage 25,000 people died each day.

We must learn every fact, every command, every name of both the victims and the murderers. The search for the truth cannot be stopped, and it shall not stop.

First they confiscated provisions. Then they surrounded the territories of Ukraine and Kuban. One-third of our villages were put on "black lists," they became starvation ghettos – and this happened long before Hitler.

All harvest was for export, all the grain that could save millions of lives was processed into vodka.

There was no chance. The people started to consume bodies of the dead.

The Holodomor is not just a pain and a wound. It is a black hole in our history, which could have devoured not only Ukraine itself but any hope for life as well.

It is a peak of tragedy, however, it is not the only one.

I ask that today we recall everyone.

With your word and prayer, I ask you to honor our state's government which 90 years ago proclaimed and strengthened independence. They became the first victims. Almost all 800 members of the Central Rada were liquidated. My Nation: I recall your tormented, maimed and humiliated poets. Here, on these squares they heard the golden echo of freedom. Their hearts were ripped out.

I recall your national creative, scholarly, medical and technical intelligentsia which was subjected to mass arrests and systematic terror. They were generously presented their share of death sentences.

I recall our destroyed churches and clergy. They were ruined without mercy in order to ruin our souls and faith.

I recall the tremendous and unthinkable numbers of the victims of wars. This vortex was capable of bringing us to our end.

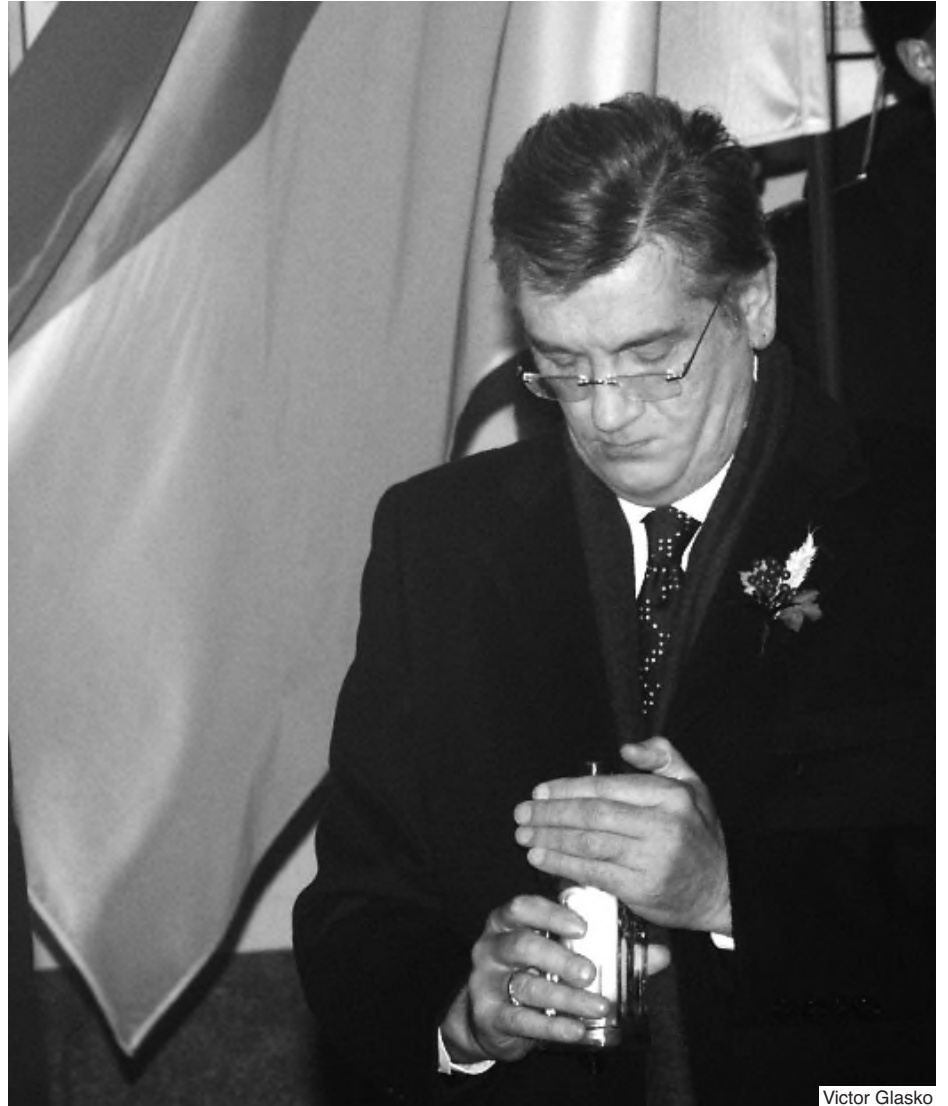
Totalitarianism and Bolshevism broke the historical continuity of Ukrainian generations, spirit, memory, our mentality, culture and language.

Fear was spread among the fractured and displaced nation. The fruits of this fear we reap until today.

Our current political and social disorder rise out of this endless fear. We fear to return to our national roots because back then it was equivalent to death. The harshness and complication of our path, the path towards each other, towards consent and unity, rises out of this fear.

The crimes of Bolshevism and Stalinism are identical to those of Nazism and Hitlerism. They share a common nature: inhumanity.

The time has come to proclaim the request and the appeal for universal condemnation of Communist terror, which killed us and other nations on this territory – Russians, Crimean



Victor Glasko

President Viktor Yushchenko at the November 24 commemoration of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 on St. Michael's Square in Kyiv.

Tatars, Belarusians, Jews, Poles, Bulgarians and hundreds of nationalities.

To all of today's apologists of the Stalin regime, I say forthrightly and firmly: your attempts at justification are in vain because no justification can be found, repent your sins. This is your moral responsibility before the country and the nation.

We are not alone in our pain and ire. From here, from St. Michael's Square in Kyiv, Ukraine appeals to the entire world to unite efforts against totalitarianism and intolerance of life.

Our tragedy is a warning for everyone.

Let us speak a word of empathy and grief to every nation, and above all to those with whom we passed through the Communist hell. Our hearts are sincere, loving and not indifferent to you. Stand by our side today.

We appeal to the world to recognize the Holodomor of 1932-1933 as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation, and we believe that such recognition is inevitable.

I thank all the parliamentarians and governments that have already shown us their support. This is an expression of solidarity that Ukraine will never forget.

Historical justice shall prevail.

My words today are not a requiem.

My words are a hymn to the Ukrainian nation, whose power is indestructible. It defeated death.

We remained standing after the threat of total extermination. The Ukrainian nation has prevailed because its statehood prevailed, its state appeared.

We remained standing thanks to millions of honest people, who not only fought for Ukraine but built it with their everyday work.

We remained standing because freedom, truth and life were fought for by all Ukrainians – from Donetsk and Lviv, from Luhansk and Uzhhorod, from Sevastopol and Odesa, from Kharkiv and Ternopil, from Poltava and Lutsk, from Dnipropetrovsk and Ivano-Frankivsk, from Symferopol and Chernihiv, from Kyiv and all over Ukraine.

We won our victory in the final battle against evil.

Today we must win another battle. We must return Ukraine to itself.

Our mission is to resurrect a united, sound and life-asserting nation that shall embrace the whole Ukrainian people regardless of views, regional origin or religion.

The next year is proclaimed the Year of Commemoration of Holodomor Victims.

But this is not a commemorative procession.

Rather, it is a resurrection of memory, a purification from lies and filth. This is to be pure and honest work. Only such work may help bring just national order and life to Ukraine.

We must dress Ukraine in clean clothes and remove the symbols of totalitarianism from its body – even if it takes more than one year.

We must find and preserve information on every victim of the Holodomor and open national memorials to them.

We have to establish a grand social dialogue of memory and a dialogue of perspective at the same time because we must move on, we must live the full-fledged life of a large contemporary state, we must act and seek genuine mutual understanding.

This way we shall strengthen our future, our new democratic Constitution, our freedom, our justice, our love toward each other, toward mother tongue, toward our native land and common destiny.

I pray that God grants us strength to return to ourselves.

They are already here.

They have come a long way.

Millions. Millions of us.

These are not tears.

This is the smile of a little boy in the hands of God.

FOR THE RECORD: Statements on the Famine-Genocide

Askold S. Lozynskij

Remarks by Askold S. Lozynskij, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, delivered at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on November 17.

Let me share with you some very graphic numbers. In 1926 a census was taken in the USSR. The total population was 147 million and Ukrainians made up 31 million. The next census taken in the USSR was in 1939. The total population increased by 24 million, yet the number of Ukrainians decreased by 3 million. These numbers become more striking when comparing the Russians and Ukrainians, arguably living under the same conditions. During that 13-year span the Russian population grew by 28 percent while Ukrainians declined by 10 percent. No other major national group within the USSR declined during that period of time. Had a comparable growth rate been allowed, the Ukrainian population should have grown by 9 million. Thus, Ukrainians lost more than 12 million lives during that time.

In 1932-1933 a widespread famine took place within the USSR. Statistics and recently revealed Soviet documents bear out that the Famine was aimed at the Ukrainian nationality. Some have argued that the Famine occurred in Russia, as well. This is partially true. It ravaged the Kuban region of Russia which was ethnographically Ukrainian territory and heavily concentrated by Ukrainians and, was visible in other areas of Russia, mostly where those fleeing from Ukraine and Kuban had fled. In fact, on January 22, 1933, at the height of the Famine, Joseph Stalin, secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party, and Viacheslav Molotov, chairman of the Council of Commissars of the USSR, 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."

Let me share with you what this Famine was like. The Italian consul in Kharkiv, the then capital of the Ukrainian SSR, painted the following picture:

"A week ago, a special service was set up to protect children who have been abandoned. Along with the peasants who flock to the towns because there is no hope of survival in the countryside, there are also children who are simply brought here and abandoned by their parents, who then return to their village to die. Their hope is someone in their town will be able to look after their children. ... So for a week now the town has been patrolled by ... attendants in white uniforms who collect the children and take them to the nearest police station ... around midnight they are all transported in trucks to the freight station ... That's where all the children who are found in stations and on trains, the peasant families, the old people and all the peasants who have been picked up during the day are gathered together ... A medical team does a sort of selection process ... anyone who is not yet swollen up and still has a chance of survival is directed to ... buildings, where a constant population of about 8,000 lies dying on straw beds ... Most of them are children. People who are already starting to swell up are moved out in good trains and abandoned about 40 miles out of town so that they can die out of sight. When they arrive at their destination, huge ditches are dug and the dead are carried out of the wagons."

We urge you to remember and pay respects to the victims. We appeal to other nations, governments and international organizations to feel our pain and offer solace by recognizing the Famine of 1932-1933 as genocide of our Ukrainian people.

Today, we kneel in prayer and ask God to protect us all from evil and grant us peace. For our departed brethren, including those innocent children, we ask God to give them rest.

Michael Sawkiw Jr.

Remarks by Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, at St. Patrick's Cathedral on November 17.

The preamble of the United Nations Convention on Genocide describes the term genocide as "the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political or cultural group." The definition in Webster's dictionary describes genocide as "an odious scourge." Although the crime is ancient, the term is fairly new. It is shocking that, in the 20th century alone, genocide has been so calculatingly and effectively used as a political-ideological weapon.

Today we gather within the sacred walls of St. Patrick's Cathedral to commemorate the politically motivated, man-made genocide in Ukraine of 1932-1933. As to the number of victims in this planned genocide, one can only estimate.

Unfortunately, few Western media outlets reported on the onslaught of death and starvation in Ukraine 75 years ago. Some, including New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty, even went so far as to claim that mass starvation in Ukraine never existed.

But we are here to say otherwise. Knowledge of the Ukrainian Genocide must be an integral segment of world history and the unfortunate act of genocide perpetrated among the Ukrainian nation must be recognized worldwide so that history never repeats itself again.

Our theme in the next year is clear: "Україна пам'ятає, світ визнає!" – "Ukraine remembers – the world recognizes!" And rightfully so, steps toward this direction have already been accomplished as witnessed by a "March of Remembrance" along New York City streets, through curriculum within our high schools, recognition by national legislatures worldwide of the Ukrainian Genocide in commemorative resolutions. No more than 20 years ago, the findings of the Commission of the Ukraine Famine in the U.S. Congress concluded that "Stalin perpetrated genocide upon the Ukrainian people."

Thus, on this "Ukrainian Genocide Remembrance Day," let us recall the victims of this horrific genocide and their incredible and ultimate sacrifice for freedom and liberty – one's own life. I know of no better way to describe the horrors and unfathomable realities of the Ukrainian Genocide than through the words of someone who has experienced its veracity.

Kharkiv, 1933 – an account [by Viktor Kravchenko]:

"On a battlefield men die quickly, they fight back, they are sustained by fellowship and a sense of duty. Here I saw people dying in solitude by slow degrees, dying hideously, without the excuse of sacrifice for a cause. They had been trapped and left to starve, each in his home, by a political decision made in a far-off capital around conference and banquet tables. There was not even the consolation of inevitability to relieve the horror.

"The most terrifying sights were the little children with skeleton limbs dangling from bal-

loon-like abdomens. Starvation had wiped every trace of youth from their faces, turning them into tortured gargoyles; only in their eyes still lingered the reminder of childhood. Everywhere we found men and women lying prone, their faces and bellies bloated, their eyes utterly expressionless."

Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.)

Prepared remarks of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.) at St. Patrick's Cathedral on November 17.

I would like to thank the National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 for inviting me to speak to you at today's solemn occasion.

We are here today in recognition of the fact that, 75 years ago, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet government willfully brought a Famine upon the Ukrainian people to try to bend them to the will of the state. As many as 10 million innocents were killed by this genocide, and I stand here as a Ukrainian American in grief over those who were lost and in tribute who fought so valiantly to survive.

I also stand here with a deep and profound respect for those Ukrainians and members of the Ukrainian diaspora who have fought mightily for decades to make the world aware of the terrible crime against humanity that the Soviet Union committed when it carried out this genocide.

These brave men and women told the stories of their lost loved ones despite government efforts at repression, despite the apathy of their peers, despite the passage of time. They made sure that the story of the Ukrainian Genocide, the Holodomor, would outlast the Soviet Union and be recognized by Ukraine's own, democratically elected, government.

I am glad that the governments of other nations, including the United States, also recognize this genocide, and hope for a day when this terrible era is acknowledged by the United Nations.

I have to acknowledge my dear friend, Michael Sawkiw, for the key role he has played as chairman of the national committee for the proper recognition of this genocide, as well as for his leadership of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian National Information Service.

It's thanks to Michael's persistent work that we are here today, and it's also thanks to Michael that the story of Ukraine's economic and political renaissance has been heard so widely among my colleagues on Capitol Hill.

You have fought to tell the story of your past, and I know that you are fighting for your present and your future as well. Ukraine must remain a strong and independent nation on the world stage, and the continued leadership of President Viktor Yushchenko will be key here.

I hope that the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America will continue to remind us in Congress of the value of the importance of a strong connection between the United States and an independent, healthy Ukraine. The Ukrainian people clearly cherish independence, and I believe they are eager to become an independent, contributing partner of the West.

As a nation that holds the ideals of freedom and liberty very dear, the United States should do whatever it can to support the commendable efforts of the Ukrainian American community. We must join that work to help inform the world of both the atrocities of the Ukrainian genocide and the successes of the modern Ukrainian state.

I cannot think of a better way in which we can prevent the recurrence of such a terrible tragedy and honor the memories of the millions of innocent Ukrainian victims.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak to you today.

Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.)

Text of remarks delivered by Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.) on November 15 in the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, there are few more disturbing examples of human cruelty toward its own kind in the history of the world than the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. It is inconceivable that a government could have so little value for human life to kill up to 10 million people, including 3 million children, in order to break national resistance to Communism. For 500 days, 25,000 people died daily from hunger, when nature's harvest provided them with everything needed to lead a normal life and when food was in their plain view. The brutality of such a policy and the callous way it was enforced are beyond comprehension. The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide was caused by the imposition of extraordinarily high grain quotas in the agricultural areas of Ukraine, and inhumane efforts by the Soviet government in taking every foodstuff available to fulfill the quotas. Taking a handful of grain or a potato was considered "stealing from the state" and capital punishment could be – and was – applied as a consequence.

The eyewitness accounts are horrifying in their candor. One survivor wrote the following in her diary: "Upon entering [the village] we caught up with a boy of about 7; my fellow traveler shouted [for him to step out of the way], but the boy did not seem to hear and continued to walk, swaying; our carriage caught up with him; I shouted; the boy stepped out of the way as though unwillingly; I wanted to look him in the face. That face left a chilling impression on me, one that I will never forget. I think that this was the expression of people who know that they will soon die, but who do not want to die. But this was a child. [. . .] I cried silently, so that my companion would not hear. The thought that I could not do anything, that millions of children are dying from hunger [. . .] dismayed me. . . . Near the village soviet office we ran into an old man with the same expression on his face."

When the news of the Famine-Genocide reached the free world, the Soviet government denied its existence and refused humanitarian aid that could have saved the lives of millions. For the next 60 years, the government aggressively continued to deny the existence of the Famine-Genocide and even banned the use of the word "famine."

On the event of the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide, I am confident that I speak on behalf of my constituents and our entire nation when I join the Ukrainian nation in mourning the millions of innocent victims. Their memory will always be with us.

(Continued on page 21)

Kyivans light...

(Continued from page 1)

Kyiv Oblast State Administration Chair Vira Ulianchenko.

Other leaders participating in the commemoration were Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, Yulia Tymoshenko, Minister of Foreign Affairs Arseniy Yatsenyuk, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor, Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Albina Dann and American businessman and Holodomor activist Morgan Williams.

Noticeably absent were Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Though not present at the memorial ceremony, Metropolitan Volodymyr Sabodan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate attended the evening commemorative concert at the National Opera House.

Throughout the evening, speakers on St. Michael's Square broadcast an audio history of the Holodomor, informing the public it was most severe in the eastern, central and southern parts of Ukraine, "where the truth about the Holodomor is still finding its way."

Military cadets holding bright, large Ukrainian flags lined the path along which the president's entourage approached the Holodomor memorial at the ceremony's commencement. For the second consecutive year, the entourage lined up facing the memorial along a rolled-out carpet.

The event announcer called a representative from each Ukrainian oblast to approach the monument and place at its base a ceramic pot of grains into which a single lit candle was placed, decorated by a guelder-rose (kalyna) wreath.

As the sun descended around 4 p.m., the air quickly grew chilly, with Mr. Yushchenko bending over to button the jacket of his youngest son, Taras.

In his remarks, Mr. Yushchenko said Ukraine's current ills are traceable to the Holodomor.

"Fear was spread among the fractured and displaced nation," the president said. "The fruits of this fear we reap until today. Our current political and social disorder rise out of this endless fear."

He called upon Stalin's apologists to repent of their deeds.

"Your attempts at justification are in vain because no justification can be found," Mr. Yushchenko said. "Repent your sins. This is your moral responsibility before the country and the nation."

Following the president's remarks, a national minute of silence was held, which was interrupted by a ranting elderly man who somehow got past security close enough to shout at the president. After 30 seconds of shouting, he was hauled off by security.

Once the presidential entourage departed, his podium removed and soldiers relieved, scores of Ukrainians thrust forward, holding candles in red glass jars freely provided by the government at the event.

By the night's end, more than 30,000 candles covered St. Michael's Square, arranged in squares and crosses.

As mourners placed their candles, hundreds huddled around large plasma screens to watch the documentary film, "Twentieth Century – Holodomor of Ukraine."

The film featured dozens of eyewitness accounts from Holodomor survivors describing the suffering and systematic killing wrought upon the Ukrainian populace by the Communist government.

Among those watching the film was Mykhailo Tereschenko, 34, who brought his wife and young daughter to the evening commemoration despite the chilly weather. "This is our history," he said. "To ensure this doesn't happen again, we have to know and remember. These are our grandfathers and grandmothers. I don't understand those who don't want to know and remember."

Mr. Tereschenko grew up in Kharkiv, a city where most residents are indifferent to the Holodomor at best, and at worst are hostile or in denial, he said. Kharkiv residents are heavily influenced by the propaganda of Russian television, the Party of the Regions and even the Communist Party, he added.

"They tell them it wasn't so bad, and that it wasn't artificially created," Mr. Tereschenko said. "Some people might not want to know the truth. But, one way or another, if a person wants to know the truth, he will find it. It hasn't penetrated into people's minds that this is their history, and it needs to be learned so it isn't repeated."

Describing himself as "three-quarters Ukrainian," Mr. Tereschenko said ethnicity plays no role in a person's decision to accept the Holodomor as genocide or denying it. "It's not an issue of ethnicity," he said. "It's a matter of feeling that you belong to this country – that I was born in Ukraine, I grew up here and my children will be born here."

He began learning of the Holodomor only in the mid-1990s, and he began buying books, particularly those written by Dr. Mace.

It was only after Mr. Yushchenko became president that the Holodomor became widely recognized and acknowledged in Ukraine, he said. If anything, the president is acting too slowly in uncovering the tragedy's depths, in his view.

In his remarks, Mr. Yushchenko proclaimed 2008 Holodomor Victims Memorialization Year.

The biggest, most important project planned for next year is the Holodomor Historical Memorial Complex. Cultural leaders hoped that construction of the planned complex would have begun by this time.



Volodymyr Borodin

Mourners pray and place candles at the Holodomor Victims Memorial in Kyiv.



Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, Yulia Tymoshenko and Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense leader Viacheslav Kyrylenko attend the Holodomor commemoration on St. Michael's Square.

So far, only drilling to determine soil content and water drainage has been accomplished, said Morgan Williams, one of the complex's biggest advocates. No construction has started, he said. "There's still some confusion about what's going to be necessary to make that happen," he said. "It's not clear. It's been difficult to figure out where the funding will come from."

Although the memorial complex appears several years away, the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory organized the largest ever Holodomor exhibition at the Ukrainian House, which President Yushchenko and First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko opened on November 20.

It consisted of numerous sections, among them an exhibit prepared by the Institute of National Memory that documented and outlined the chronological history of the Soviet persecution of Ukrainians, which ultimately culminated with the Holodomor.

Hundreds of Kyiv schoolchildren took guided tours of this exhibit, many of whom learned of this horrid chapter of Ukrainian history for the first time.

"The Ukrainian intelligentsia was destroyed because its members advocated the independence of a Ukrainian state to defend the interests of its people," one tour guide said as he led the schoolchildren.

Another exhibit, "Revealed Memory" (Rozsekrecheni Pamiat), displayed declassified documents from the archives of the Security Service of Ukraine proving the intentional and genocidal nature of the Holodomor.

Creative portions of the exhibition included works from the Ukraine 3000 Foundation's second annual "Candle in the Window" All-Ukrainian Poster Contest.

The prolific art and poster collection of Mr. Williams was also on display, featuring more than 75 works illustrating the Holodomor because so few photographs were taken at the time of the Famine.

Recently, Mr. Williams enhanced his collection to include eight reprints of

Holodomor artwork created by Ukrainian Americans, which he obtained from the museum of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. in South Bound Brook, N.J.

Upon entering the chamber displaying Mr. Williams' collection, visitors were greeted by a 15-foot-tall reproduction of Victor Cymbal's "Year 1933" painting, which was created by the accomplished Ukrainian American in 1953.

Ukraine's first lady told Mr. Williams she remembered seeing the painting in her youth while living in the U.S.

Bohdan Pevny's powerful painting, "The Earth," was also on display, portraying a starving Ukrainian woman collapsed upon a barren, black field, clutching its soil between her bony fingers. (The work was reproduced on The Ukrainian Weekly's front page on November 11.)

Also displayed were three recent abstract colorist paintings by Anatole Kolomayets of Chicago, an 80-year-old who survived the Famine that terrorized his Poltava Oblast. Numerous family, particularly cousins, died of starvation, a tragedy documented by his daughter Marta Kolomayets in the book "Memories of One Family," which she published in Ukraine in 2002.

Previously, The Weekly reported that Mr. Williams said no photographs from the Holodomor had survived to this day. On November 29, he confirmed with The Weekly that a single collection of 20 to 25 photographs has survived to this day, taken by a European engineer who was in Kharkiv in 1933. He observed homeless children wandering about and villagers who arrived from the countryside looking for food.

Earlier this month, Kharkiv Oblast State Administration Chair Arsenii Avakov released several photographs and documents uncovered from the State Archives in Kharkiv, making them available on the Internet at <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/avakov/472c76c9dfd11/>.



Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko addresses the November 24 commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the 1932-1933 Holodomor at St. Michael's Square in Kyiv.

Conference at U.N. focuses on new information about Holodomor

by **Khristina Lew**

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

UNITED NATIONS — Ukraine will pursue international recognition of the Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian people in 2008, First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko told a conference marking the 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 here on November 27.

Ukraine will move to have the Holodomor recognized as a crime under international law in the General Assembly next year. "A Joint Statement on the Great Famine was circulated in the General Assembly in 2003," said Mr. Ohryzko. "This was a start, and we should conclude our efforts at recognition at the United Nations as well. Seven to 10 million were killed — this equals the population of Austria, Portugal or Hungary. The Holodomor ruined the cultural and spiritual life of Ukraine."

In 2003 a Joint Statement on the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine (Holodomor) of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, which circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, called the Holodomor a "national tragedy for the Ukrainian people" caused by "the cruel actions and policies of the totalitarian regime" [of the Soviet Union]. The statement stopped short of calling the Famine a genocide.

Mr. Ohryzko said Ukraine will continue to pursue recognition of the

Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian people among the countries of the world. To date Parliaments of 13 countries have recognized the Holodomor as such; France, Brazil and Uruguay have recently introduced Ukraine genocide resolutions in their respective Parliaments.

Ukraine will be assisted in its efforts for recognition by the International Holodomor Committee of the Ukrainian World Congress, chaired by Stepan Romaniw of Australia. Mr. Romaniw told the conference that "2008 will be the year to remember victims of the Holodomor" and that "Ukrainians around the world will work toward U.N. recognition of Holodomor as an act of genocide."

He said work in Ukraine and in the diaspora toward recognition will be coordinated and that the International Holodomor Committee is planning several activities to raise awareness, including a Holodomor torch relay that will run from the United Nations to Kyiv, a tree-planting project which will symbolically recall victims of the Holodomor, the completion of the memorial museum complex in Kyiv and the construction of a monument in Washington.

The conference also heard from three historians who focused on new information from archives of Ukraine's Security Service declassified in 2006 and Russian archives on social and political history. Taras Hunczak, professor emeritus of history at Rutgers University, moderated the

presentations.

Yuri Shapoval of the Institute of Political and Ethno-National Research at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine noted that scholars can now go to the declassified archives and eyewitness accounts and reconstruct how the Holodomor happened. These documents show that "the Famine was not only an instrument of terror, but an instrument of nationality policy."

"It was a struggle against Ukrainian nationalism whose goal was that Ukrainian-centric potential was not being revived," he said.

Roman Serbyn, professor emeritus of history at the University of Quebec in Montreal, a renowned scholar of famines in Ukraine, argued that the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 was a willful act of the Communist regime and that Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin intended to deliberately starve Ukrainians because they were Ukrainian.

He said Ukrainian and Russian archives declassified in 2006 reveal Stalin's deliberate attempt to crush the Ukrainian nation, which flourished during the period of Ukrainianization, by collectivizing farms in Ukraine, increasing grain exports, executing or detaining farmers looking for food, and exiling thousands to the north and replacing them with ethnic Russians. Prof. Serbyn also noted that Stalin targeted Ukraine's political elite, "although Ukrainian elites

died not by hunger but by a bullet to the head."

Henry R. Huttenbach, professor emeritus of history at City College of New York — City University of New York and founder and editor of the *Journal of Genocide Research*, noted that the 20th century is scarred by "mega-killings" and that the Holodomor was an example of extreme state violence.

"Since 1928 Stalin was engaged in a dual strategy of dictatorial power and industrial power," he said. "This required the application of massive state violence on Ukrainian nationalist secessionism, on pro-Ukrainian aspirations within the agricultural segment of the economy in order to transform the rural proletariat program of accelerated industrialization."

The conference also heard from Daria Kira, a survivor of the Holodomor, whose searing eyewitness account was read by her daughter, Nadia Zakotiychuk.

In addition, the film "Holodomor in Ukraine in the 20th Century: Technology of Genocide," which was produced by the National Television Company of Ukraine, was screened.

Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, read President George W. Bush's greeting to the Ukrainian people on the anniversary of the Holodomor; Yuriy Sergeyev, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, served as the conference's moderator.

Democratic Forces...

(Continued from page 1)

and centrist Ivan Pliusch of Our Ukraine — People's Self Defense (OU-PSD) bloc refused to sign the agreement on the grounds that Ukraine needs a broad coalition to include the Party of the Regions of Ukraine (PRU).

"With half (of Parliament) it's very hard and very often without results, so for Parliament to be capable we need a majority of 300 votes," Mr. Pliusch told reporters afterwards. Mr. Pliusch's abstention chipped away a crucial vote from what could have been a two-vote majority.

People's Self — Defense leader Yurii Lutsenko told the press that Mr. Pliusch stands to be excluded from his parliamentary faction and lose his deputy's mandate.

Another challenge facing the coalition will be electing the parliamentary chair.

Since voting will occur by secret ballot, opening the opportunity for coalition deputies to barter or sell their votes, it's unlikely the Democratic Forces Coalition will elect a candidate without approval from the Party of the Regions observers said.

Throughout the last two weeks of coalition-forming, Tymoshenko Bloc deputies such as Oleh Liashko alleged they were offered \$10 million and \$20 million bribes to abstain from signing the coalition agreement — though the accusers never named who made such offers.

They said similar bribes were sure to be offered in the coming weeks.

Following the coalition agreement's announcement, which drew loud, standing applause from the Orange deputies in the Verkhovna Rada session hall but total silence from their counterparts, its leaders began offering compromises.

Ms. Tymoshenko offered Minister of Foreign Affairs Arseniy Yatsenyuk of Our Ukraine — People's Self Defense as a compromise candidate for the parliamentary chair.

Mr. Yatsenyuk is among only a handful of Ukrainian politicians who is able to draw support from both the Orange forces and the PRU, having close ties with politicians on

both sides of the fence.

In a relatively surprising concession, Ms. Tymoshenko said she was willing to include a Party of the Regions representative in her Cabinet of Ministers as a vice-minister.

Commenting on Mr. Yatsenyuk, PRU leader Raisa Bohatyriova said her political faction will consider his candidacy once the coalition formally nominates him.

She neither rejected his candidacy, nor endorsed it. "He has a lot that's positive, but in a close circle, it's possible we will have some issues and pretensions," Ms. Bohatyriova said.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of Ukraine stated it opposed Mr. Yatsenyuk.

Indeed, the biggest challenge in forming the coalition government will involve electing Ms. Tymoshenko as prime minister.

All it will take is two votes to undermine her candidacy, and several OU-PRU politicians have already voiced their opposition, including former prime minister and close presidential ally Yurii Yekhanurov.

Ms. Tymoshenko's candidacy is also fiercely opposed by Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha, who has created a significant faction for himself within the Our Ukraine — People's Self-Defense bloc.

The days prior to the November 29 signing of the coalition agreement revealed that OU-PSD is divided between two distinct camps that will threaten the stability of both the bloc and the coalition.

The Baloha faction is against working with a Tymoshenko government, while the group led by Viacheslav Kyrylenko and Mr. Lutsenko supports her.

Securing the coalition agreement is a victory for the Kyrylenko-Lutsenko wing, but Mr. Baloha demonstrated his willingness to fight for his political interests — even if it meant causing rifts within the bloc.

In his battle for control of the bloc, Mr. Baloha apparently convinced President Yushchenko two weeks ago to suggest candidates other than Mr. Kyrylenko for parliamentary chair.

However, Mr. Baloha was rebuffed when the Political Council of the bloc voted on November 22 in favor of Mr. Kyrylenko.

In revenge, Mr. Baloha and deputies loyal to him boycotted a November 27

Political Council session intended to resolve any differences and reaffirm Mr. Kyrylenko's candidacy. The boycott resulted in the failure to achieve quorum, and Our Ukraine — People's Self-Defense appeared close to tearing at its seams.

"It's acceptable to lose the elections and go into opposition," Mr. Kyrylenko said. "But our voters won't forgive us for winning the elections and giving Ukraine away to the clans."


After exacerbating the conflict within his bloc by switching endorsements of a Rada chair, Mr. Yushchenko was criticized by the Ukrainian media for taking a break on the eve of the Political Council meeting to go skiing at the Bukovel resort in the Carpathian Mountains.

Following the council fiasco, President Yushchenko assured the public a coalition

(Continued on page 16)

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Lessons of coalition formation

The Orange coalition's revival is cause for rejoicing, but let's not pop the champagne corks until Yulia Tymoshenko is elected prime minister by the Verkhovna Rada. Her revealing comment that she is not euphoric indicates that the next 30 days, during which the Rada will choose its chair and the prime minister, promise more cutthroat maneuvering, marathon negotiations and backroom dealing. As it stands, the Democratic Forces Coalition has only a one-vote majority after a competitor for the Rada chairmanship, Ivan Pliusch, refused to sign the agreement. In a secret ballot vote for the chair, more votes are sure to stray.

Unfortunately, there aren't enough nationally oriented deputies, even within the Tymoshenko and Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense blocs, to elect a relatively decent, straight-shooting politician like Viacheslav Kyrlyenko (who later withdrew his candidacy for Rada chair) to a position of power. Proof came when Ms. Tymoshenko, attempting to appease the Party of the Regions (PRU), suggested current Foreign Affairs Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk as a candidate for Rada chair. Intelligent, progressive and tactically brilliant, Mr. Yatsenyuk is among the few Ukrainian politicians who command support from both the PRU and the Orange forces. As foreign affairs minister, he's kept Ukraine steering towards the West without infuriating the PRU.

While the eventual parliamentary chair will be a compromise, the next prime minister can't be. For the Democratic Forces Coalition, controlled by the Tymoshenko Bloc, it's Yulia or no one. If she doesn't muster the necessary votes from her own coalition, then we face the prospect of Viktor Yanukovich remaining in government. That implies ongoing corruption, more suffocation of Ukrainian culture and more primitive administrative economic policies.

President Viktor Yushchenko's conduct during the coalition formation deserves particular attention. After his bloc agreed to support Mr. Kyrlyenko for Rada chair, Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha convinced Mr. Yushchenko to take a different tack. When the bloc's Political Council rejected other candidates, the president flip-flopped back to Mr. Kyrlyenko, thereby exacerbating the conflict within his bloc.

Instead of taking steps to ensure he would have an Orange coalition government in place, Mr. Yushchenko took to the ski slopes of the Carpathians on the eve of the November 27 fiasco. He avoided the political council the next day on the grounds it interfered with the president's work schedule (And skiing didn't?)

Borys Tarasyuk was correct in calling for Mr. Baloha's resignation as Presidential Secretariat chair. Mr. Baloha demonstrated he was willing to sacrifice the unity and cohesion of Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense, and a pro-Western coalition government, to pursue his drive for power. The influence that Mr. Baloha wields over President Yushchenko and his policies also is cause for concern. The situation is reminiscent of an earlier scandal when Petro Poroshenko insisted on becoming Rada chair, only to cause the collapse of the Orange coalition.

Mr. Yushchenko needs to take a better tally of who are his true friends, and who are the people using him. The future of Ukrainian democracy depends on it.

Dec
7
1997

Turning the pages back...

Ten years ago, The Ukrainian Weekly reported on the development of private land ownership in response to the Soviet-era legacy of collective farms. The initiative began in 1992 after the Verkhovna Rada legalized private land ownership and fledgling agro-enterprises and private farms started to emerge.

It wasn't until President Leonid Kuchma signed edicts in 1994 and 1995 that spelled out the procedure for the distribution of shares of state collective farms to individuals and organizations that the actual transfer of ownership began.

Within that time-span, 8 million hectares of land had been privatized through the issuance of certificates, varying from eight-tenths of a hectare to plots as large as 20 hectares, to farmers in state collective farms.

"We can say today that the land reform that began with the giving of certificates to individuals and legal entities is practically complete," said Volodymyr Kulynych, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee on Land Resources on December 4, 1997, at a roundtable on land privatization sponsored by the World Bank. "Today it is important that we develop the markets and infrastructures that will allow this effort to proceed to a true free market system," he added.

The political left was most resistant to the privatization process, especially Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz, who said that he would never allow foreigners to own Ukrainian land.

The situation led to a lack of knowledge about rights and responsibilities among these new landowners, according to Mr. Kulynych. "I admit that there still are serious problems with the ownership of land. Even at the village level this has resulted in disagreements and arguments," he added.

There were instances where farmers had difficulties receiving their parcels or were intimidated by members of crime syndicates to relinquish their land for a pittance.

"Because of the serious economic situation in Ukraine, those who have money are buying from those who need the money at very low prices," explained Viktor Sinchenko, head of the district administration of Kaharlyk, Chernihiv Oblast. "Unfortunately, there are no mechanisms for the buying and selling of land."

Adrian Neal of the World Bank-supported British Know-How Fund, which invested over \$10 million in land reform in Ukraine, said: "People are frightened - they are not sure of their rights. Politicians are scared of losing control of the situation. Landowners are not sure of where to put their land shares; which choice will give them the best economic opportunity."

Mr. Neal's organization urged a partnership in the land reform process between similar agencies and the government, or else these agencies would leave.

Source: "With state-owned collective farms now gone, Ukraine seeks to complete privatization of land," by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 7, 1997.

IN THE PRESS

Yushchenko's leadership, UPA, the Orange Revolution's legacy

"Take lead, Yushchenko," editorial, *Kyiv Post*, November 14:

"...When it comes to the 'political porno' of Ukrainian politics (as political analyst Vadym Karasyov recently described it), the nation's leaders have demonstrated they are far removed from Western pragmatism and European sensibility.

"In the latest bickering among the pro-Western Orange forces, most blame belongs with the elected deputies of the Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense bloc.

"Despite his alleged commitment to the Democratic Forces Coalition, President Viktor Yushchenko either wants to keep his options open, or he is utterly indecisive.

"Of course, it wouldn't be classic Ukrainian political porn without the Party of Regions playing the lead role. Despite their claims of wanting to unite the country and put politics aside, its elected deputies have stalled the first session of Parliament for at least two weeks. ...

"The president needs to firmly decide whether he truly wants a coalition with [Yulia] Tymoshenko, and move decisively in that direction, keeping tight discipline over his party operatives. Stop the political porn once and for all, because most Ukrainians have already tuned out."

"Recognize the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA)," editorial, *Kyiv Post*, October 17:

"...Years of Soviet education deprived Ukrainians of objective, scholarly information of the men and women who sacrificed their lives so that their descendants could live in an independent, democratic Ukraine.

"Communists and pro-Russian radicals continue spreading misinformation about the UPA because they benefit from the ignorance. Their most well-known accusation is that the UPA collaborated with the Nazi German occupiers of Ukraine and contributed to the genocide.

"The opposite is true. ... The call for government recognition of UPA veterans and their supporters is long overdue. Ukraine's Parliament should recognize the UPA as a military force that fought for Ukrainian independence, and grant veterans benefits enjoyed by their Red Army counterparts.

"More importantly, the Ukrainian government should step up its efforts to educate the younger generations regarding the truth about the UPA - that its vision for Ukraine was far ahead of its time. ..."

"Democracy, Soviet-Style," lead editorial, *The Economist*, October 4:

"... Unlike Russia, Ukraine now has independent media, a real opposition and the prospect of a genuine presidential contest in 2009. It also has a fast-growing economy that is likely to get into the World Trade Organization before Russia does.

"What can the West do to promote the democratic cause in the post-Soviet space? The answer in Russia is: not much. Mr. [Vladimir] Putin is sensitive to outside criticism, but not enough to make him more democratic. Western economic leverage over Russia is limited. ...

"But the West could do more to foster and encourage fledgling democracies in places such as Ukraine and Georgia, through better trade access, more favorable visa arrangements and stronger support in the face of Russian bullying.

"The European Union would also do

these countries a huge favor if it were willing to hold out the prospect, however distant, of their becoming members.

"This has worked wonders in Central and Eastern Europe, and in the Baltics - there is no reason why it should not do so in other bits of the former Soviet Union. ..."

"Oranges and lemons," *The Economist*, October 4:

"...The voters' strong support for Ms. [Yulia] Tymoshenko suggests that, for all their disillusionment in the past few years, they want reform just as much as they did when they poured into Kiev's [sic] Independence Square in the snows of late 2004. ...

"The latest election has restored the divide between the Party of the Regions and the Orange coalition. This same line separates a post-Soviet thuggish political culture from a proto-European one. If Mr. [Viktor] Yushchenko tries to blur the line by working with Mr. [Viktor] Yanukovich, as he did in 2006, he is likely to land the country in a new political crisis.

"For all the faults that became evident when she was briefly prime minister in 2005, Ms. Tymoshenko has remained consistent. Unlike Mr. Yushchenko, she has always rejected the idea of forming a coalition with her opponents. Unlike Mr. Yanukovich, she has not tried to change her image with the help of American spin-doctors. In the eyes of millions of Ukrainians, she is still the blonde heroine of the Orange Revolution and a victim of, not a participant in, the infighting among the president's men.

"She promises a break with the past that appeals to those who feel let down by successive governments. And she has broad support. ... in this election she has made inroads in both east and west. The risk of Ukraine splitting down the River Dnieper [sic] was always overdone. After this election it looks smaller still. ..."

"Orange Ukraine," *Review & Outlook*, *The Wall Street Journal*, October 2:

"... the dramatic events of 2004 were about a lot more than particular personalities or policies. The Orange Revolution changed the rules of the political game.

"As we wrote then, Ukrainian rulers will think twice before daring to cheat their people out of a free press, debate and ballot.

"Nothing in the subsequent years and three elections makes us question this judgment. Messy politics - also known as democracy - hasn't made Ukraine harder to govern or hurt its economy, which grows at 7 percent a year. ... No matter what Mr. [Vladimir] Putin might like to claim, stability and freedom aren't mutually exclusive in this region.

"...Though its politics isn't always pretty, Ukraine continues to mock its obituaries. Divided between Russian- and Ukrainian-speakers in east and west, the country was supposed to have split long ago, possibly violently, as the CIA predicted in the early 1990s.

"Its free-wheeling politics is, in fact, a source of strength. The U.S. and particularly Europe can continue to lend a guiding hand for this new state, with Brussels hopefully showing a bit more enthusiasm for Kiev's [sic] aspirations to join the bloc one day.

"The hard work of building a functioning democracy is near complete in Ukraine. Sadly, that's yet to begin in Russia."

NEWS AND VIEWS

Ukraine's battle against HIV/AIDS and rights of HIV-positive people

by Inna Boiko and Victoria Bondar

No cure exists for HIV/AIDS, but its sufferers have gained the chance to live longer and healthier lives with the emergence of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in Ukraine in 2004.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria provides three-quarters of the financing to make ART available to an estimated 5,000 Ukrainians, and HIV-positive people obtain the therapy for free through the All-Ukrainian Network of HIV/AIDS Centers.

ART is administered throughout one's lifetime and requires strict adherence to the doctor-prescribed medication regime, which is the only way to gain the drug's positive effect.

The therapy, consisting of daily doses of pills, inhibits the HIV/AIDS virus in the body, causing it to lose its ability to reproduce. Skipping ART doses more than twice causes the virus to lose its susceptibility, which may only be resolved by changing the dosage. That causes side effects in the weakened organism such as nausea, vomiting, rashes and nervous disorders.

At least 325,000 intravenous drug addicts live in Ukraine, of which more than 144,000, or 44 percent, are HIV-positive, as estimated in 2006 by the World Health Organization and UNAIDS.

Drug users often interact with the police as a result of their addiction. When detaining an HIV-positive person possessing ART pills, police officers often confiscate them, suspecting they are narcotics. As a result, the HIV-positive person skips his or her required dosage, which negatively affects his or her health and is life-threatening. Such disruptions can last from hours to days, depending on the duration of police detention.

Staff for the "Advocacy for the Rights of HIV-Positive People on ART" project have documented six cases of Kyiv HIV-positive drug addicts being denied access to ART because of police ignorance or brutality since January of this year.

The project is part of the Vertical International Charity Foundation, an organization of projects financed by the International Charitable Fund International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine and the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living With HIV/AIDS.

Olexii P. described standing at a bus stop when men without uniforms drove up in a private car, identified themselves as policemen, searched him, forced him in the car and drove him to the Sviatoshyn district police station. "When they found the ART drugs, they just took them away and that's it," Olexii P. told project staff. "I had to skip seven days of doses. I've got fourth-stage cancer."

During the seven days he was jailed, Olexii P. said he was brutally hazed and pressured to confess himself as a drug dealer. Ultimately, he signed the confession. As a result, he developed a lung inflammation, with his temperature rising to 40 degrees Celsius.

Volodymyr D. said he was beaten and searched by Berkut special forces police for an hour and a half on the street one morning. After being arrested, he didn't have his ART pills with him and asked that his mother bring them. "They only called my

mom late at night," he said. "They did not allow me to take the drugs she'd brought right away. I had to skip three doses."

After Yevhen D. and his friend were arrested, they said police simply ignored their claims that they were HIV-positive and needed their ART pills. "When they allowed us to contact a social worker who brought us the ART pills, the police refused to take the drugs from him," he wrote in his account. After missing two days of doses, Yevhen D. said his friend was hospitalized with tuberculosis.

These are real-life examples of not only cruel and immoral behavior of police toward HIV-positive people, but their direct activity in obstructing ART.

"These examples demonstrate the situation only in the nation's capital," said Pavlo Skala, program director of policy and advocacy at the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine. "In other regions of Ukraine, police officers can't even imagine what is ART and its vital value," he said. "But everybody knows from films what happens with diabetes sufferers when they are deprived of insulin."

Such violations occur because the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which directs the nation's police, doesn't have the political will to inform police officers and set procedural standards, said Oleksander Striltsiv, chair of the scientific laboratory at the Kyiv National University of Internal Affairs. In this situation he said, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should become a new force to change a situation and initiate the protection of rights of HIV-positive people.

The key problems are police officers' low awareness of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention technologies, as well as the poor national legislation that provides no mechanism of medical assistance for those arrested.

"It is a constitutionally guaranteed right of the individual to obtain this vital, necessary treatment, which is denied only because police are not aware and don't have the appropriate instruction," Mr. Skala said.

In response, the ART Rights Advocacy project, with the support of the Vertical International Charity Foundation, drafted a manual on police procedures on treating HIV-positive people on ART.

A working group created by Minister of Health Defense Yurii Haidayev developed the manual. The group included representatives from the Ministry of Health Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs and HIV-related NGOs.

The instruction manual is now being reviewed as part of a months-long procedure requiring approval from the ministries of Health, Internal Affairs and Justice.

The hope is that the manual will be approved and become part of mandatory police training throughout Ukraine, which would become an important landmark in HIV/AIDS prevention. Not only will the health of HIV-positive drug addicts be enhanced, but the chances they will infect others will be reduced because ART reduces the contagiousness of HIV/AIDS.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria is financed by governments and private foundations throughout the world. The International Charitable Fund International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, a representative office of the U.K. based International HIV/AIDS Alliance, is primarily financed by The Global Fund and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Inna Boiko was coordinator of the Advocacy for the Rights of HIV-Positive People on ART project, and Victoria Bondar served as project director. The nine-month project concluded in September.

View from the

Trembita Lounge

by Taras Szmagala Jr.

Aspirations for Ostroh

Mike grabbed the barstool next to mine, taking off his tie and jacket in one fluid, uninterrupted motion. "Great Lakes Dortmund," he asked of the bartender, joining many at the bar who were enjoying Cleveland's favorite microbrew. We were at a Tremont neighborhood watering hole oddly named the "Prosperity Social Club"; its inhabitants, while social, hardly seemed prosperous.

This bar's primary attraction for us was less its name than its location: directly across Lincoln Park opposite Cleveland's Ukrainian Museum-Archives. As a result, it is a popular "post-event" destination following museum meetings, speakers and events. Tonight was no exception, as we gathered following an outstanding presentation by Prof. Ihor Pasichnyk, rector of the National University of Ostroh Academy in Ukraine.

"What did you think?" asked Mike. "Inspiring," I responded, "and energizing. Dr. Pasichnyk clearly has a vision for the institution and for its graduates. He was articulate in setting forth exactly why Ostroh Academy is important, and what he hopes its graduates will contribute to the life of Ukraine."

"I agree with that, Taras," Mike continued, "but what about his 'dream'? The one he shared with us at the end of his presentation?" Mike was leading me toward his point in a roundabout way.

"You mean Dr. Pasichnyk's dream that an Ostroh Academy graduate would eventually become president of Ukraine? What a great goal," I exclaimed, "and it was especially poignant that Marcy Kaptur mentioned the exact same desire in her later remarks to the rector." U.S. Rep. Kaptur, a longtime friend of the Ukrainian community, arrived at our event a bit later in the evening, and, without knowing the content of Dr. Pasichnyk's remarks, also expressed the hope that an Ostroh graduate would eventually ascend to Ukraine's highest office.

My friend was shaking his head. "Yes, Taras, it's a great goal." Mike was finally getting to his point. "But it's just another example of how Ukrainian thinking is too focused on politics. It's as if Ukrainians believe that all their problems would be solved if they just put the right man (or woman) into power. I find this emphasis on 'top down' reform very unfortunate."

"What would you propose, then?" I asked.

"Focus on business and economics rather than politics," Mike immediately replied. "Business creates jobs, which in turn creates a middle class. And a middle class creates stability. A middle class helps develop an engaged citizenry and social cohesion. It's all about economics, Taras, not politics."

"Yet a healthy and transparent legal

and political system is critical for a healthy economy," I pointed out. "You can't have a vibrant economy without the rule of law."

"True enough, Taras," Mike admitted, "but the focus still has to be on the economy first. Law and politics exist to support economic growth and opportunity, not the other way around."

Reflecting on Mike's comments, I think he was on to something. While capitalism has nominally taken root in Ukraine, the term "businessman" remains almost pejorative. Many Ukrainians still retain a mindset rooted in the old Soviet "labor theory of value," whereby those who manage, trade or finance don't really add value – they simply make a living off of the efforts of others. In Ukraine, management is often seen as more of a privilege than a skill.

The success of the American economic model rests, in large measure, on our belief that the Soviet "labor theory of value" is simply wrong. We understand that good management can grow an organization, to the benefit of both its shareholders and employees. We recognize that stockbrokers, bankers and real estate agents may not make something tangible with their hands, but they are nonetheless indispensable to our economy. For us, the terms "entrepreneur" and "businessman" generate respect, not disdain.

"You can't just change a culture overnight, Mike," I responded after much thought. "You may be right that Ukrainian economic growth will come from the bottom-up rather than the top-down, but how are Ukrainian entrepreneurs to succeed in an environment of corruption, uneven enforcement of laws and uncertain contract rights? Businesses can't develop in those conditions. And it's government that needs to provide that framework."

"Government won't provide what people don't value, Taras," Mike replied, "and I am still not convinced that the Ukrainian people understand that true national prosperity and stability will come not from one great political personality, but from the collective efforts of thousands of small business owners."

"Okay, then," I said, giving up the point, "what would your dream be for Ostroh Academy?"

"To graduate the first CEO of a multinational corporation based in Ukraine, for starters," Mike quickly answered, "or to develop Eastern Europe's premier MBA program. Above all, I hope that Ostroh Academy teaches the next potential Bill Gates or Warren Buffet within its walls that private sector pursuits are as honorable and socially beneficial as service to the state."

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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.

San Francisco parish celebrates 50 years of church life



Children sing "The Lord's Prayer" during the liturgy.

Roman Iskiw

by Father John Lucas
and Maria Iskiw

SAN FRANCISCO – The Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception in San Francisco celebrated its 50th anniversary on September 9. Father Petro Dyachok, current administrator, invited Bishop Richard Stephen Seminack of Chicago and other clergy to participate in a solemn liturgy honoring this special event.

Before the liturgy, Bishop Seminack was greeted at the church entrance by Father Dyachok with a crucifix, by Mykola Kis with the traditional gifts of bread and salt, by Maria Iskiw with a bouquet of white roses and by Olha Kalish, Solomiya Kryshtafovych, Nazar Tochyskyi and Sviatoslav Tochyskyi with verses composed by Father Dyachok.

Joining Bishop Seminack and Father Dyachok for the liturgy were: Fathers John Lucas, Michael Pintacura, Dennis Smolarski and Theodore Wroblicky.

Father Lucas, now of St. Michael's in Chicago, was pastor and administrator not only of the parish in San Francisco, but also its missions in Santa Clara and Sacramento from 1986 to 1993. Father Wroblicky of the Holy Wisdom Parish in Carmichael, Calif., served as administrator while still a deacon in 1993-1994. Father Smolarski, SJ, of the faculty of Santa Clara University and Father Pintacura of St. Basil's Byzantine Catholic Church in Los Gatos, Calif., serve as substitute priests when needed.

Also in attendance was the Very Rev. Alexis Limonczenko of St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in San Francisco.

Assisting the priests during the liturgy were Dennis Conrad, Nazariy Kremповych and Stepan Kryshtafovych.

Responses for the congregational singing were led by Luba Kostiw Kladko and a number of other parishioners – except when a hush came over the congregation to allow the group of children to sing "The Lord's Prayer."

In his homily, Bishop Seminack spoke of various ways fidelity to the Gospel may

be expressed in the life of a parish and its individuals.

Following the divine liturgy in the church, the celebration continued in the adjoining parish hall. The walls of the hall are permanently adorned with scores of photographs of major events, visitors and accomplishments in the parish's history in its attempt to bring salvation to those participating in the parish life.

The over-capacity crowd was treated to an array of hors d'oeuvres and a welcoming program before the luncheon was served. The announcers were Anne Zarsky Brichacek and Andriy Kryshtafovych. Two members of the Parish Council, Ms. Iskiw and Mr. Kis, welcomed everyone to the celebration. Members of the pioneer families who were present were each greeted with a yellow rose.

The program was dedicated to the early pioneers who deserve a great deal of credit for their dedication and hard work in starting a church from almost nothing (1957), paying it off in four years (1961), then buying the present, larger property seven years later (1968). Most of the work of remodeling both buildings was done by pioneer families.

Among invited guests was Mykola Tochyskyi, consul general of Ukraine in San Francisco, who honored the parish with a framed declaration of congratulations for serving the San Francisco Bay Area community for 50 years.

The luncheon was organized by Svitlana Kryshtafovych, with assistance from many parishioners and friends who prepared and served a very sumptuous feast.

Before dessert, a program exhibiting a wide array of vocal and dance talents of individuals and groups was presented. Among eminent performers were Ivanna Taratula Filipenko and Olena Bolshakova. The performance by the young children's dance group – Zhuravlyky, directed by Vera Vizir, thrilled the audience.

A highlight was a slide show and historical review presented by Ms. Iskiw that was an overview of the parish's inception,

(Continued on page 20)



Andrei Lessiv

Area clergy and lay assistants of the parish: (back row) Father Theodore Wroblicky, Bishop Richard Seminack, Father Petro Dyachok, (front row) Nazariy Kremповych, Dennis Conrad, Father Dennis Smolarski, Father Michael Pintacura, Father Alexis Limonczenko, Father John Lucas and Stepan Kryshtafovych.

Ukrainians of Houston mark 50th anniversary of parish's founding

HOUSTON – The Ukrainian community in Houston on Sunday, October 7, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of the first Ukrainian Catholic Church in Texas. The church was originally named after St. Pius X; in 1988 the name was changed to Protection of the Mother of God (Pokrova) Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Fifty years ago, in 1957, Father Michael Fedorowich was sent to Houston to serve as the first pastor for the small group of founding families who had come to Houston after World War II. He was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the building of the church.

In 1959-1973 Father Dmytro Blazejowskyj served as pastor and spiritual leader, and spearheaded the expansion efforts of the parish. He organized the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Slavic Heritage Festival, which is celebrated annually to this day.

The parish was later served by Father Walter Wierbicki (1973-1982), Father Augustyn Porodko (1982-1988), Father Richard Kirouac (1990-1994), Father Yaroslav Dowbush (1994-1996) and Father Andriy Dwulit (1996-2002). In 2002 Father Mykola Dovzhuk was assigned to Pokrova and is the current pastor.

The 50th anniversary celebration began with the traditional procession of clergy to the entrance of the church, where Bishop



Parishioners wait to greet Bishop Richard Seminack to begin the celebration of Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church's 50th anniversary.

Richard Seminack was greeted with flowers by young parishioner Kalyna Horodecky. One of the original founders, Justyna Uschak, greeted Bishop Seminack with the traditional bread and salt and welcomed him to the parish. After a short greeting, Father Dovzhuk gave the bishop

the cross and the keys to the church.

The congregation followed the procession of clergy into the church, where the pontifical liturgy was co-celebrated by Pokrova's current pastor, with visiting clergy Father Vasyl Savchyn, Deacon Father Ivan Novocilsky and Father Chovanec of

the Roman Catholic Church, Houston-Galveston Diocese.

Following the liturgy, the celebration continued in the parish hall, where banquet chairman Martha Uschak Noukas greeted everyone to the elaborate luncheon prepared by Demeris Catering.

Master of ceremonies Eugene Kuchta invited all the clergy to the head table and asked Bishop Seminack to lead the prayer and blessing of food. Mr. Kuchta read the greetings received by the parish from Patriarch Lubomyr Husar, Texas Gov. Richard Perry and Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson.

Fathers Chovanec and Savchyn were both invited to the podium and each extended congratulations and commendations to the parishioners for their hard work and service to the church over the years.

Bishop Seminack, with the assistance of Father Dovzhuk, awarded certificates of appreciation to Oksana Danylyk, Michael Danylyk, Ms. Uschak, Halya Kichtan, Stefan Kichtan, Sonia Tymniak and Olha Balaban, who are some of the original pioneers in the parish.

Bishop Seminack shared personal experiences on how he was moved to become a priest and on his calling to serve the Church. He mentioned the shortage of

(Continued on page 22)

Ukrainian Technological Society honors Ukrainian of the Year

by Roksana Korchynsky

PITTSBURGH – The Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS) of Pittsburgh presented its 2007 Ukrainian of the Year Award to Dr. Michael Kutsenkow at its 38th annual award ceremony and dinner dance, held on Saturday, November 10, at the Chartiers Country Club in Pittsburgh. Dr. Kutsenkow was honored for his professional achievements, as well as his many cultural and community contributions.

Dr. Roksana Korchynsky, president of the UTS executive board, welcomed guests and provided a brief history of the society's Ukrainian of the Year Award, which recognizes people of local, national and international stature who have contributed to the Ukrainian community or Ukrainian scholarship, or who have demonstrated significant achievement which brings recognition and prestige to the Ukrainian community.

Past recipients include Metropolitan Mstyslav; Patriarch Josyf Slipyj; dissident, poet and activist Nadia Svitlychna; historians Dr. Wasyl Jaszczun and Andrew Gregorovich; Judge Bohdan Futey; the first elected president of a re-born Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk; and the current president of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko.

Dr. Roger Sembrat, UTS member,



Dr. Michael Kutsenkow, the Ukrainian Technological Society's 2007 Ukrainian of the Year (left) with Nickolas C. Kotow, UTS Secretary.

provided the nomination address, and Nickolas C. Kotow, UTS secretary, made the award presentation. The award was designed by Pittsburgh graphic artist Kathy Boykowycz.

Dr. Kutsenkow was honored for his more than 50 years as a practicing family

physician to the Ukrainian and American communities in the Carnegie, Pa., area. He also served on many advisory committees at St. Clair Hospital in Pittsburgh and held leadership positions with various medical societies and organizations. Dr. Kutsenkow was actively involved in

community development and served as director and president of the Chartiers Valley Savings and Loan Association.

He is a longtime supporter of education and the arts in Pittsburgh and currently serves on the steering committee to renovate the Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall in Carnegie and is deeply involved with the Pittsburgh Opera. Finally, Dr. Kutsenkow has a strong commitment to the education of Ukrainian students through his generous annual funding of the Akim and Tatiana Kutsenkow Memorial Scholarship through the UTS.

Dr. Kutsenkow accepted the award and thanked the UTS for this honor. He spoke warmly of his work as a family physician and praised members of the Pittsburgh Ukrainian community for their continued and enduring support.

Msgr. George Appleyard, dean of the Central Deanery, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio, gave the invocation and benediction. Following the dinner hour, musical entertainment was provided by the Continental Dukes Orchestra.

To learn more about the UTS, the Ukrainian of the Year Award, past recipients of the award and other UTS activities, visit the website at www.utsphgh.org or e-mail the UTS at uts@utsphgh.org.

Cleveland walkathon benefits Children of Chernobyl Fund

by Alexander Kuzma

CLEVELAND – On a brilliantly sunlit fall morning, hundreds of Ukrainian Americans from the greater Cleveland area walked through the historic Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland in a five-kilometer walkathon to benefit the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF). Despite chilly temperatures and a crowded community schedule, the September 29 "Tremont Walk for Chernobyl" drew over 300 participants, including local high school and college students, and veterans of humanitarian missions to various hospitals and orphanages in Ukraine. Thanks to corporate sponsors and an intensive pledge campaign, the walkathon raised over \$15,000 for CCRDF's hospital partnership program.

The walkathon began with a brief ecumenical prayer service at the Ukrainian Museum-Archives overlooking Tremont Park. Members of the clergy of the Ukrainian Orthodox, Catholic, Baptist and Evangelical Churches asked for God's blessings for the event's organizers and volunteers, and prayed for the health of Ukrainians who continue to live on lands

that are contaminated by radioactive fallout from the 1986 nuclear disaster.

The Rev. John Nakonachny, pastor of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Parma, stressed the importance of remembering the thousands of adults and children who have been stricken with illnesses and birth defects as a result of exposure to radiation.

As marchers gathered on the lawn of the museum and adjoining park, walkathon chair Matt Zappernick officially welcomed all the volunteers and sponsors who made the event possible. Then a long column of walkers made its way along the five-kilometer route marked by bright yellow posters. Many wore white T-shirts specially designed for the occasion showing an uplifted child's face and listing the walkathon sponsors on the reverse.

The parade route passed many of the historic domed churches that anchored the Ukrainian and other Slavic communities in downtown Cleveland throughout the 20th century. Many of the marchers who have moved to the Cleveland suburbs reminisced about their childhood growing up in the Tremont neighborhood, which has experienced a revival in recent years.



Tremont Walk for Chernobyl participants in their official T-shirts.

Among the landmarks along the route were the famous Lemko Hall and St. Theodosius Orthodox Church featured in Robert Cimino's Oscar-winning movie "The Deerhunter."

After returning to the Ukrainian Museum-Archives the walkers were treated to an outdoor buffet luncheon. Others took advantage of the occasion to visit the newly opened wing of the museum and a special exhibit on Chernobyl prepared by Dr. George Jaskiw and his daughter Anya.

Proceeds from the walkathon have been designated for the maternity hospital and prenatal center in the town of Volodymyrets, in the heavily forested region of the central Rivne Oblast that was particularly hard-hit by Chernobyl's fallout. The town is located 11 miles downwind from the Rivne atomic energy station, which has experienced its share of radioactive leaks.

CCRDF has invested heavily in providing medical technology and training for hospitals that specialize in the treatment of birth defects and babies with low birth weight or other life-threatening complications.

The fund has now established 11 pioneering neonatal intensive care units and national medical training conferences that have dramatically improved infant survival rates.

The fund also published a Ukrainian-language translation of a 700-page neonatal manual that has been widely used to improve procedures in Ukrainian neonatal wards.

More recently, the fund installed a state-of-the-art Fresenius blood cell separator at the Rivne Regional Children's Hospital to help improve the treatment and survival rates of children stricken with leukemia. A similar system installed at CCRDF's partner hospital in Kharkiv helped to improve leukemia recovery rates from 5 percent to 68 percent.

On Sunday, September 30, St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church hosted an informational brunch for supporters of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund and the Orphanage Program sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Father Deacon Ihor Mahlay introduced

(Continued on page 22)



A group of walkathon participants in the Tremont section of Cleveland.

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GENERATION UKE

Edited and compiled by Matthew Dubas and Yarema Belej

Canadian and U.S. fund-raiser dances attract Ukrainian youth for local causes

by Yarema Belej

Poutine and polkas followed by turkey and tangos. Each was on the menu on two subsequent weekends as young Ukrainians danced and reveled at the Trembita Zabava and at the Chornomorskyi Ball.

These two annual dances kick off a season that envelops the Ukrainian community as the weather gets colder and people head indoors. Although the dances have very similar goals, these two celebrations have several initial differences.

The Trembita Zabava takes place out in the suburbs of Montreal, Quebec, in the Ukrainian Youth Hall that has served the local community since the 1950s. The dance was held on November 17 and is the main fund-raising vehicle for the Trembita Marching Band, affiliated with the Ukrainian Youth Association of Canada.

Featuring the band Vorony for the last few years, the Trembita Zabava tends to have a very youthful feel. Furthermore, the Trembita Band holds a performance in the middle of the evening to underline what exactly the zabava benefits. The performance this year was a young and energetic collection of popular music from the 1960s to the 1990s that had everyone smiling and tapping their feet. It was so exceptional that the crowd rewarded the ensemble with a standing ovation.

Vorony had a unique wrinkle that many other bands do not employ, and they should be applauded for their creativity. As the band took its breaks from playing all kinds of polkas, waltzes and rock songs, speakers were not filled with the familiar filler songs, but rather they employed a DJ that had the dance floor packed as if it were a club on the hip Montreal street of St. Laurent. Many young people didn't leave the dance floor all night, minus the bar and bathroom visits.

On the other hand, the Chornomorskyi Ball was held for the first time at the new Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, which is fast becoming the hub of the local Ukrainian community. The ball, hosted by the Chornomorski fraternity of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, has traditionally fallen on the Friday of Thanksgiving weekend.

In contrast to the Trembita Zabava, the Chornomorskyi Ball for nearly all of its 32-year existence, has called upon the band Tempo to serve as their entertainment. This black-tie-optional zabava is held as a fund-raiser for the sailing fraternity's camps. Having the use of the very nice and modern cultural center allowed

guests to enjoy all the dancing they could handle at the zabava or have a moment with friends at the social club.

Each zabava has its own feel and familiarity that is uniquely its own. An aura of beginning and youth permeates throughout the Youth Hall during Trembita. Perhaps it is because winter is at hand and this is one of the biggest zabavas of the year in Montreal. There were several instances where people embraced and greeted each other for the first time since the previous Trembita Zabava. The girls caught up on the latest news, while the guys clamored to the bar to celebrate their reunions with a shot and a "Lvivske" beer.

On the other hand, "Morskyi Ball" as it is familiarly known, occurs during the much celebrated American Thanksgiving weekend, a time when everyone has a few days off to enjoy themselves. This lends itself to a sort of homecoming for many college students and those beyond the books and exams. During the night old friends reunite after stretches of time being apart due to living away at a new school, a new job or even marriage that has taken them to new locations for new lives. The familiar hugs and laughter set a great mood for the entire night.

Perhaps one of the biggest similarities between the two zabavas is that they take place at a neutral hall without being attached to a hotel. Many dances are held in the halls of big hotels that tend to lure people to their rooms for drinks and company. Here you have examples of a couple of zabavas where everyone attends the whole night through. This ensures a full dance floor and funds raised for their appropriate causes.

Despite their having different roots and reasons for occurring, both zabavas are attended by youth of all stripes, organizations and locations. There were Plastyny from Chicago at Trembita and there were Sumivtsi from New York at Morskyi Ball. The lines of division have become fuzzy and nearly non-existent, especially when the benefits are good zabavas and great dancing.

Both of these zabavas have long histories and worthy causes that should and will be honored for many years to come, while also providing great venues for people to make new friends or even meet a special someone that they otherwise would not have met. Having attended each Trembita and Chornomorska for the last three years, I can attest that both are well worth the trips and are highlights on the calendar for any Ukrainian who enjoys a nice dance and a drink with old friends or with a new romance.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Lesya Hentisz and Adrian Dlaboha, the pumpkin carving duo known as "Jackson-Heights Harboozers," in the spirit of Halloween and togetherness show off their respective Ukrainian youth organizations' emblems – Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's "lilyeka" (left) and the great crest of the Ukrainian Youth Association (SUM).

The "Generation Uke" page accepts photo submissions for the photo of the month space, which features Ukrainians being Ukrainian.

Send photos to: design@ukrweekly.com or The Ukrainian Weekly, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Event calendars fill quickly with New Year's Eve and Malanka dances

As the hubbub of Christmas shopping swings into full gear, Ukrainian youths start asking each other, "So what are your New Year's Eve plans?" The typical response of most Ukrainians is either, a) I'm going to a zabava, b) I'm going to a Malanka or c) I don't know.

New Year's Eve plans are sometimes difficult to make and usually are put together literally at the last minute. Some of the spots already reserved for New Year's Eve dances include Rochester with Vechirka, Syracuse with Vorony, and Stamford with Hrim.

But Malankas are a different breed of event, usually planned months in advance due to distance traveled and the need for hotel reservations. Some Malankas on the agenda include: Toronto with Vorony and Zahrava, Montreal with

Rhythm Club, and New York with Fata Morgana. Before you know it, it's already debutante ball season, and then you know that spring is right around the corner.

Are you or someone you know in a Ukrainian band or are part of an organization sponsoring an event? With the weeks beginning to narrow toward these dates, The Ukrainian Weekly requests that your organization sends information regarding dates and locations.

Keep an eye on the "Out and About" section for the latest information on New Year's Eve zabavas and Malankas in your area. If you're in a band or part of an organization sponsoring an event, let the public know where you are performing by sending updates to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.

New York engineers' 'Yalynka' draws students and young professionals

What do you get when you cross an engineer with a Christmas tree? The annual "Yalynka" Christmas party, hosted by the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA), to be held on December 15 at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York. This time of year the New York chapter of UESA, which is an organization of professionals – not solely engineers, ensures that everyone is in the holiday spirit at their annual get-together. As an added treat, this year's

Yalynka will feature the Promin Vocal Ensemble.

UESA's Yalynka provides a relaxed environment for young professionals and future professionals to catch up with those in a similar field, socialize, network with others and learn more about opportunities that are afforded to them within the Ukrainian community. If you or someone you know might be interested in attending this event, or for more information, please call 212-729-9824 or visit www.uesa.org.

Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Union bloc could meet at an extraordinary convention to decide what to do about the lawmakers who failed to sign the coalition agreement. However, Mr. Kyrylenko admitted that even if the bloc obliges its lawmakers to sign the agreement, it might not be legally able to enforce that ruling. (RFE/RL Newline)

President intends to step in

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said on November 27 that he intends to talk with the seven lawmakers of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD) bloc who have refused to sign a coalition agreement with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. Mr. Yushchenko pledged that every OU-PSD member will sign the agreement. "I will meet with each person, with each national deputy who has yet to sign the agreement on the coalition. I will listen to their complaints... I am sure that we will [resolve this] within two days," Interfax quoted Mr. Yushchenko as saying. The president denied rumors that there is a crisis within the OU-PSD bloc, claiming that there are simply different opinions among OU-PSD lawmakers on how to form a coalition with the YTB. The OU-PSD lawmakers who failed to sign the coalition agreement with the YTB are Ihor Kril, Vasyl Petiovka, Stanislav Dovhyi, Viktor Topolov, Yurii Yekhanurov, Mykola Onischuk and Ivan Plusch. (RFE/RL Newline)

Ukraine remembers Holodomor victims

KYIV – Events devoted to the commemoration of 75th anniversary of the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide were held on November 24 across Ukraine, Ukrainian media reported. In a speech in Kyiv, President Viktor Yushchenko compared Bolshevik crimes to the crimes of Nazism, claiming that the two ideologies are united by a hatred for humanity. Mr. Yushchenko once again called for the recognition of the man-made Famine in Ukraine as genocide and thanked all the Parliaments around the world that have already done so. The Famine, orchestrated by the regime of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, killed as many as 10 million people in Ukraine. President Yushchenko has said he intends to submit to the Verkhovna Rada a bill introducing criminal penalties for the public denial of the Famine-Genocide. (RFE/RL Newline)

President seeks recognition of Famine

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said on November 20 that the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine should be considered a national and worldwide tragedy, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service and Interfax reported. "I am certain we must also speak about this Famine as a worldwide tragedy, a tragedy that people not only in Ukraine should know about," Mr. Yushchenko said. "This is why we are knocking on doors around the world, asking people to support the memory," he added. Ukraine commemorates the victims of the Famine-Genocide on November 24. Mr. Yushchenko has also declared 2008 a year of remembrance for the victims. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kyiv: Russia's statements 'tactless'

KYIV – A spokesman for the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry, Andrii Deshchytisia, has described as "tactless" the exchange of statements between the Ukrainian and Russian foreign ministries over vandals' attack on an

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

exhibition in Moscow dedicated to the Great Famine in Ukraine, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on November 20. Three activists of the Eurasian Union of Youth on November 17 tried to destroy the exhibit at a Ukrainian cultural center. The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry called the incident a "profanity" against the memory of the Famine victims, while the Russian Foreign Ministry said that Ukraine "unilaterally distorts history" by referring to the Famine as genocide. (RFE/RL Newsline)

72 percent: Holodomor due to Soviet policy

KYIV – More than 72 percent of Ukrainians believe the 1932-1933 Holodomor was caused by a policy of the Soviet Union's authorities, reported the Kyiv International Sociology Institute on November 20. Those who support this idea have increased in number from 65 percent to 72 percent over the recent years (from 46 percent to 57 percent in eastern Ukraine, from 73 percent to 82 percent in central Ukraine, from 59 percent to 65 percent in southern Ukraine and from 80 percent to 85 percent in western Ukraine). As many as 12 percent of Ukrainians have a contrary view and believe the Holodomor stemmed from natural circumstances. Almost two-thirds of the respondents support passage of a Verkhovna Rada resolution to declare the Holodomor a genocide against the Ukrainian nation; 11.9 percent hesitate to support the move; and 2.9 percent say they have heard nothing about the Holodomor. The poll was conducted on November 2-7. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine mourns coal miners

DONETSK – Ukraine's Donetsk region on November 20 held funerals for 28 of the 100 miners killed in the November 18 gas blast at Zasiadko coal mine, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. More funerals were held over the next several days for the victims of the worst-ever tragedy in the Ukrainian coal-mining industry. The Ukrainian government has offered the families of the dead miners \$20,000 (U.S.) each in compensation, and children of the victims will receive their fathers' monthly wages until they reach adulthood. President Viktor Yushchenko, who ordered an investigation into the causes of the blast and vowed to punish those responsible, has also stated that coal mining remains a key industry for Ukraine. Ukrainian coal resources are estimated at 175 billion tons, and offer "energy security for many generations of Ukrainians," Mr. Yushchenko said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

More Ukrainian schools for Crimea

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on November 20 signed an order to commission the government and Crimean leaders to increase Ukrainian schools in Crimea. The governments should apply efforts to finance and construct Ukrainian schools in Yalta, Alushta and Sevastopol, as well as build a university in Sevastopol. Ukraine should also reconstruct the Crimean National Music Theater. Earlier, Mr. Yushchenko urged the public not to speculate on the language issue and said that to live in Ukraine and speak no Ukrainian is a shame. According to data of the Education and Science Ministry, there are five Ukrainian schools in Crimea as compared to 600 Russian schools. (Ukrinform)

Last year of draft: 2009

KYIV – The year 2009 will be the last

of general conscription to the armed forces of Ukraine, and the army will be shifted to contract service, President Viktor Yushchenko said at a swearing-in ceremony for forces of the detached regiment of the head of state, the presidential press service reported on November 11. According to the president, the transition to a professional army is expected to cost about \$47 billion (U.S.). In 2008, the president said, funding for the armed forces will be increased, in particular, military pensions will be raised by 70 percent and wages to soldiers and sailors will be doubled. "We must spare no effort to transform the army into a high-tech and modern armed force. This is a challenge for everyone," he commented. (Ukrinform)

Seven Ukrainians among Europe's richest

KYIV – The U.S.-based Forbes magazine named seven Ukrainians among its top 15 richest persons of Eastern Europe. System Capital Management owner Rinat Akhmetov is ranked second with a fortune of \$4 billion (U.S.), followed by Interpipe President Victor Pinchuk with \$2.8 billion. Vitalii Haiduk and Serhii Taruta, whose fortunes are evaluated at \$2 billion each, are sixth and seventh, respectively. Hennadii Boholiubov and Ihor Kolomoiskyi, co-owners of the Pryvat group, are 10th and 11th, with each being worth \$1.2 billion. Kostiantyn Zhevago of Finance and Credit group concludes the list at No 15. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine's most influential women

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous bloc, Raisa Bohatyriova, leader of the parliamentary majority of the Verkhovna Rada of the fifth convocation, and First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko are named as the most influential women of Ukraine in accordance with a survey carried out by the Fokus magazine. The names of the 100 most influential women of Ukraine for 2007 were disclosed by Editor-In-Chief Mykhailo Hladkyi. Other top women include: Deputy Editor-In-Chief of the Zerkalo Nedeli newspaper Yulia Mostova, Party of the Regions representative Anna Herman, State Property Fund Chairman Valentyna Semeniuk, Kyiv Regional Administration Chair Vira Ulianchenko, National Deputy Inna Bohoslovska, Deputy Head of the Presidential Secretariat Maryna Stavnichuk and Ukrainian celebrity/singer Sofia Rotaru. According to Mr. Hladkyi, the top-100 ranking comprises a large number of new people, especially from the show business sector. The first such ranking was published by Fokus in October 2006. (Ukrinform)

Proposed U.N. resolution on Chernobyl

WASHINGTON – Ukraine is a co-author of the General Assembly resolution on strengthening coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance provided by the United Nations, strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The document was proposed by Ukraine, Russia and Belarus and other countries to the 62nd session of the General Assembly, reported Ukrinform's Washington-based correspondent on November 16. The draft resolution proposes to proclaim the third decade after the Chernobyl disaster (2006-2016) as the "Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions," which is to be focused on achieving the goal of a return to normal life for the affected communities as far as is possible within this time-frame. (Ukrinform)

Chernobyl to get new sarcophagus

KYIV – After 15 years of negotiations at different levels, Ukraine is finally ready to embark on construction of a new sarcophagus over the fourth reactor of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. French consortium Novarka, divided equally between Vinci and Bouygues, has won the relevant tender, defeating its rival US-based CH2M Hill, it was reported on November 20. The construction of the sarcophagus is estimated to cost 432 million euros. The funds will be provided by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in the form of investments from G-7 countries and the European Union. Also participating in the construction are German and Ukrainian enterprises. The length of the new metal sarcophagus is 150 meters, its width is around 260 meters and height is 105 meters; its aggregate weight is 18,000 tons. (Ukrinform)

No visas for Romanians, Bulgarians?

KYIV – European Commission spokeswoman Christiane Homann said on November 19 that Ukraine should cancel its visa requirements for the European Union's two newcomers, Romania and Bulgaria, before the EU ratifies an agreement on a simplified visa regime for Ukrainians entering the Schengen zone, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. The European Parliament recently adopted simplified rules for Ukrainians to obtain visas to Schengen countries, but the final approval will be made by the European Parliament. Romania and Bulgaria, whose citizens need visas to enter Ukraine, threatened to block the ratification of the agreement. Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said on November 18 that Ukraine will cancel visa requirements for Romanians and Bulgarians only when the EU ratifies and implements its simplified visa agreement with Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Former KGB chief Kryuchkov dies

MOSCOW – Vladimir Kryuchkov, a veteran KGB foreign intelligence chief who headed the KGB in 1988-1991, died at age 83 in Moscow on November 23 after a long illness, Russian and international media reported. He is best-known abroad for his role in the ill-fated August 1991 coup attempt against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, which cost the hawkish Mr. Kryuchkov his job. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Putin blames U.S. for ODIHR decision

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia – President Vladimir Putin said in St. Petersburg on November 26 that the U.S. State Department is behind the recent decision by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) not to send an election observer team to Russia, Russian and international media reported. Mr. Putin argued that "according to information we have, [the decision was made] at the recommendation of the U.S. State Department, and we will take this into account in our interstate relations with that country. Their goal is to deny legitimacy to the elections. But they will not achieve it." He stressed that Russia will maintain a strong military so that nobody can "poke their snotty nose into our affairs." Urdur Gunnarsdottir, a spokeswoman for the Warsaw-based ODIHR, called the Russian president's remarks "nonsense," adding that he was misinformed about the reasons for the group's withdrawal. She argued that "this was a decision that was simply based on the fact that we were not receiving any visas, and time had run out. The only consultation that took place was within our office." In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack noted that "there was no interference" by U.S. officials in their talks with the OSCE on monitoring. Mr. McCormack stressed that the decision was the OSCE's alone. The International Herald Tribune reported from Vienna on November 27 that Russia raised few obstacles to monitors from the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly in a move that "annoyed diplomats in Vienna. They said Russia was trying to play off one part of the organization against the other so as to weaken particularly the strong election-monitoring program of the [ODIHR]." The Moscow Times reported on November 27 that several Russian political analysts said on November 26 that "Putin's remarks demonstrated that a more aggressive policy toward the West was a central part of Unified Russia's campaign policy." The paper quoted Fyodor Lukyanov, chief editor of the quarterly journal Russia in Global Affairs, as saying that "talking about foreign powers scheming against Russia is still a fruitful campaign strategy, but it harms Russian foreign policy" by making Moscow appear belligerent in Western eyes. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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Democratic Forces...

(Continued from page 7)

agreement would be signed within two days, a promise that he fulfilled.

After the embarrassing episode, OUPSD National Deputy Borys Tarasyuk called for Mr. Baloha to resign his post as Secretariat chair.

"Someone should answer for the election campaign's failure, as well as the scandals surrounding coalition formation," the former foreign affairs minister told journalists. "Baloha did everything to complicate the coalition-forming

process."

"The shame and scandal surrounding the formation of the democratic coalition, as well as difficulty within the bloc, is completely on the conscience of Baloha and his team," Mr. Tarasyuk said.

In an effort to add support for the coalition, Ms. Tymoshenko extended a public invitation for the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc to join the newly formed coalition.

In response, Lytvyn Bloc National Deputy Oleh Zarubynskyi said the coalition is fragile as it is, "consisting of 12 political parties that range from nationalists to socialists."



People's Self-Defense leader Yuriy Lutsenko presents Yulia Tymoshenko with flowers after their parliamentary factions agreed to form the Democratic Forces Coalition. Seated is Viacheslav Kyrylenko of the Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense bloc.

Pianist Rudnytsky to perform in Ukraine

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio – Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky will be in Ukraine on December 11-15 to perform as soloist with the S. Prokofiev Philharmonic Orchestra of Donetsk on December 14. He will perform the Chopin Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21, in what will be Mr. Rudnytsky's second appearance as soloist with this orchestra. He last performed with the Donetsk Philharmonic in March 2006, being soloist in the Saint-Saens Concerto No.2 in G minor, op. 22.

Mr. Rudnytsky has performed as soloist with several orchestras in Ukraine over the years, including the Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra of the National Opera in Kyiv, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Zaporizhia and the Chamber Orchestra of Rivne.

Mr. Rudnytsky, a Juilliard graduate who has now performed in over 85 countries of the world, has had a busy schedule during 2007. In February and March he performed recitals and conducted master classes in Tunisia, Libya and Azerbaijan under the auspices of the U.S. Embassies there. He has played in over 30 countries through U.S. Embassies since 1984.

In April he played six recitals on a Canary Islands-Madeira cruise from Southampton of the P&O ship Oriana. He has done over 30 cruises for P&O as the classical pianist on board.

He toured for three months this past summer to play a total of 28 concerts. These took place in the Islamic Sultanate of Brunei on the island of Borneo (Mr. Rudnytsky's sixth visit there) New Zealand (10th tour there) and Australia (15th tour there).

In late September Mr. Rudnytsky

played a recital and conducted a master class at Limestone College in Gaffney, South Carolina, and, in early October, he fulfilled his third tour of Alaska with recitals in the towns of Haines, Petersburg and Wrangell.

On October 24 he played a lunchtime recital in at the University of Waterloo in Ontario. In early November, he played four recitals in Britain – in Sussex, the Midlands and Scotland (Glasgow and Inverness). On November 22 he played a lunchtime recital at the University of Guelph in Ontario.

From December 27 to January 8, 2008, Mr. Rudnytsky will play five recitals aboard P&O's Aurora on a cruise from Southampton to La Coruna (Spain), the Portuguese island of Madeira, Tenerife in the Canary Islands and Lisbon. The highlight will be a spectacular fireworks show for New Year's Eve at Funchal, Madeira.

Mr. Rudnytsky's concert schedule for 2008 is already filling up fast. At the time of this writing, there are already invitations for concerts in western Canada (Saskatchewan), Alaska, Britain, Colombia, Thailand, Mali in West Africa, Libya and Venezuela (these last three through the U.S. Embassies there).

Mr. Rudnytsky continues as a member of the music faculty of the Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, where he has been since 1972. He previously served as a member of the piano faculties of the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory. He was awarded a Distinguished Professor Award from Youngstown State University in 1990.

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UACCNJ's third annual volleyball tournament attracts 16 teams

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The third annual Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) Volleyball Tournament was held on October 13 at the Powerzone Volleyball Center in Denville, N.J., with 16 teams from New Jersey, New York and Connecticut competing in three divisions: men's open, women's and youth.

The tournament was hosted by Lys Sports Academy (formerly known as the Morris County Volleyball Club, or MCVV) and the Whippany branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA).

Four teams competed in the youth division, with the final results being: first place, Yonkers UAYA Team A; second place, Chornomorska Sitch; third place, Passaic UAYA; and fourth place, Yonkers UAYA Team B.

The winning team's members were: Roman J. Kozicky, Michael Kozicky, Roman Kukil, Melania Tkach, Olesh Tkach and Adrian Winiarsky, who was named most valuable player (MVP).

In the women's division, first place went to Lys SA Orange; second to Lys SA Brown, third to Yonkers UAYA, and fourth to Chornomorska Sitch. Joanne Iwashkiw of Sitch was named MVP.

The most hotly contested division was the men's open, in which Lys SA Team A emerged as champion thanks to the efforts of team members Roman Bulawski, Taras Borysyuk, Oleh Bykorez, Vlodko Bykorez, Roman Kosz and Volodymyr Oleksyn.

Second and third places, respectively, went to Chornomorska Sitch and Hartford UAYA Team C. Next in the standing were: fourth, Yonkers UAYA Krylati; fifth, Lys SA Team B; sixth, Hartford UAYA Team A; and seventh, Hartford UAYA Team B.

The Most Valuable Player award for the first time in the history of Ukrainian diaspora volleyball went to co-MVPs

–father and son Vlodko and Oleh Bykorez of Lys Team A.

The overall team trophy was won for the third consecutive year by Lys Sports Academy.

Trophies were sponsored by The Ukrainian Weekly, Svoboda and the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union.

A sports awards dinner was hosted at the UACCNJ in Whippany, N.J., where the trophies were presented by Roma Hadzewycz, editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda, and Walter Kovbasniuk of Selfreliance.

Sponsors of this event were: SUMA Federal Credit Union – Yonkers, N.Y., Selfreliance NJ Federal Credit Union – Clifton, N.J., Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, Duda Provisions, Lazirko Specialty Foods, Eyecare MD of New Jersey, Cardiovascular Consultants of New Jersey and Whippany UAYA.

The organizing committee for the event consisted of: Andrew Hadzewycz, Roman Bulawski, Bohdan Porytko, Walter Syzonenko, Orest Kucyna and Myron Bytz. Scorekeeping and records were under the direction of Christina Bytz and Katya Kucyna.

The hospitality committee under the direction of Linda Kleban included Christine Syzonenko, Stephan Woch, Mark Hamulak, Markian Hadzewycz, Mr. and Mrs. Bytz, and Ms. Hadzewycz, along with UAYA Whippany mothers. Scorekeeping and records were under the direction of Ms. Bytz and Katya Kucyna.

Additional information and photos from the volleyball tournament and awards ceremonies can be viewed on the Lys Sports Academy website, www.socceragency.net/lys.

Preparations are already under way for the fourth annual UACCNJ Volleyball Tournament to be held in October 2008.



Bohdan Porytko

A view of the men's division action in Lys Sports Academy vs Chornomorska Sitch.



Walter Kovbasniuk of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union presents the men's champions trophy to Lys Sports Academy.



Champions in the youth division: Yonkers Krylati.



Second-place winners in the youth division: Chornomorska Sitch.

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KYIV MOHYLA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

On behalf of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation I extend a sincere appreciation to all donors who support the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and higher education in Ukraine. Below is a list of some of the most recent programs made possible with your help. We look forward to your continued support in the future.

Marta Farion

President - Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America

It is an honor to serve as the new president of the historic National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. Together we will continue the work of Dr. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky and sustain his initiatives. Our strategic plan includes the expansion of NAUKMA to attain international recognition for excellence in education, expansion of our programs, and to begin the process of building student housing. With the help of our supporters and the dedication of our students, faculty and administration these goals will become a reality.

Serhij Kvit

President - National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy



SOME OF THE PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE FOUNDATION

Kyiv Mohyla Business School

The fifth annual program between KMBS and Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management took place in September, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii and the Richard Ivey School of Business of the University of Western Ontario. The program included the participation of prominent professors, business executives and managers from the United States, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Britain, Ukraine and Japan. The highlight of the conference was the lecture by Dr. Philip Kotler, distinguished professor of international marketing, known internationally as "the world's foremost expert on the strategic practice of marketing", considered one of the pioneers of social marketing. These programs were the result of cooperation and sponsorship among the Foundation, KMBS and Northwestern. This is the third year that KMBS was recognized as Ukraine's best business school.

Kyiv Mohyla School of Journalism

Professor Evhen Fedchenko, dean of the Kyiv Mohyla School of Journalism, participated in a three month program at Ohio University on a grant from the Open Society Institute. Professor Fedchenko also met with the dean and facul-

ty at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and with the chief editor and the editorial board of the Chicago Tribune related to programs of collaboration.

School of Public Health

The Kyiv Mohyla School of Public Health, the first school of management in public health in Ukraine, under the leadership of its dean Irena Gryga, continued its collaboration with major international schools of public health. With the assistance and advice of Dr. Daniel Hryhorchuk, director of the Great Lakes Center for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health, the Kyiv Mohyla School of Public Health expanded its activities and became a member of the European Association of Schools of Public Health. The KMSPH established Ukraine's first Center for Health and Social Policy.

Kyiv Mohyla School of Law Receives International Moot Court Competition Award

A team of students from the Kyiv Mohyla school of Law (Olha Burluk, Andriy Kirmacha, Kyrylo Meleshvy, and Volodymyr Solohuba) competed in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Washington,



Dr. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky - chairman of the Renaissance Fund of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy and NaUKMA honorary president, Victor Yushchenko - president of Ukraine and Dr. Serhij Kvit - new president of NaUKMA at Teleconference at NaUKMA

D.C. The team from Ukraine was awarded 9th place among 98 schools from 70 countries. This is an exceptional achievement, particularly in light of the fact that this is an oral argument competition which is conducted in the English language. The project was made possible by the generous underwriting support of Yuri Deychakivsky family and the law firm of Chadbourne and Park (Jaroslava Zelinsky-Johnson, managing partner) and the Foundation.

Kyiv Mohyla School of Social Studies

Professor Serhij Kvit was awarded a grant to participate in a research program at the Ohio University School of Social Studies. Prof. Kvit reached an agreement of collaboration between Ohio University and Kyiv Mohyla Academy in the areas of social studies and journalism and established a long range strategy of cooperation.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM KYIV MOHYLA ACADEMY

New Academic Year

NaUKMA welcomed 1210 new first year students on September 1st at the traditional ceremony marking the beginning of the academic year. The number of students entering the university has grown each year and the university's needs for expansion increase to accommodate the larger student body.

New President at NAUKMA

Dr. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky, who became the university's first president in 1991 and dedicated himself then to the reestablishment of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy as Ukraine's most respected and progressive university, resigned

from the position of president in June in order to devote his energies to secure the university's future as chairman of the Renaissance Fund of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy. The university's Academic Board elected Professor Serhij Kvit as president of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. Dr. Briukhovetsky became the university's honorary chairman. On September 1st Dr. Briukhovetsky administered the oath of office and Dr. Kvit officially assumed his new position.

NAUKMA Leads Seminars in Ethics and Religious Studies

The university held its second annual series of seminars in Religious Studies throughout

September. The series of meetings, conferences and seminars included lectures and discussions by leaders of various religious congregations and churches, including Archbishop and Cardinal Lubomyr Huzar of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Archbishop Ihor Isichenko of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Lead Pastor Sofia Zhukotanska of God's Embassy Church, Chief Rabbi of Ukraine Yaakov Bleich, Mufti of Ukraine's Tatar Cultural Center and Leader of the Krishna Society Achutouy Das, Papal Nuncio in Ukraine Ivan Yurkovich, and many other leading scholars of religious affiliations.

NaUKMA Graduates in Leading Positions

Viacheslav Bihun of the Kyiv Mohyla School of Law was elected president of the Coordinating Council of Young Jurists at the Ministry of Justice. The Council also includes Oksana Syrojid, a 1997 graduate of the Kyiv Mohyla School of Social Studies, and Yulia Matvejeva Birchenko, director of the Kyiv Mohyla "Law Clinic". A long list of NaUKMA graduates hold leadership positions in the Ukrainian Parliament, the presidential administration, various ministries, as well as in academic and corporate posts.

President Yushchenko Conducts Teleconference at NaUKMA

President Victor Yushchenko chose the Kyiv Mohyla Academy's Tetiana and Omelian Antonovych Library to conduct a teleconference titled "Educating Our Youth - Ukraine's Best Investment into the Future". The teleconference included the electronic participation of students from four universities - National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, National Ivan Franko University of Lviv, Jaroslav Mud-

ryj National Academy of Law in Kharkiv, and Tavrich National Simferopol State University. Victor Yushchenko emphasized that education and research are the keys to every country's stability and prosperity. President Yushchenko recognized Kyiv Mohyla Academy's high academic standards and the university's leading role in helping build Ukraine's civic society, promoting political and social reforms and linking Ukraine to international academic and civic institutions.

HOLODOMOR 1932-1933: Documents and Materials

A new book titled "Holodomor 1932-1933: Documents and Materials" was published by the Kyiv Mohyla Publishing House. The book was rated as one of the 10 best books of 2007 at the Forum of Ukrainian Publishers held in Lviv. Kyiv Mohyla Academy distributed 200 copies of the book to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for use throughout the world. At the initiative of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, a series of programs to recognize Ukraine's Holodomor was organized in Moscow on November 15-16. A conference was held at the Russian University of Humanities Studies, an exhibit of documents and materials was held at the Moscow Ukrainian Cultural Center, and a presentation of publications on the Holodomor was organized at the Russian National Public Library of History. The Ukraine team was led by NAUKMA's honorary president Dr. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky, Vira Solovjova - director of Kyiv Mohyla Academy's Publishing House, Ruslan Pyrih - editor of the published book, Vasyl Marochko - PhD in history and director of NAUKMA's Institute on Holodomor, Olha Movchan - PhD in history. Numerous Russian historians participated in this controversial series of events dedicated to the Holodomor.



Volodymyr Klichko with NaUKMA students marking the opening of the school year September 1, 2007

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE: Whippany meets Brazil through dance

WHIPPANY, N.J. – Ukrainians of Morris County, N.J., recently had an opportunity to host a group of folk dancers from Brazil: members of the Barvinok Ukrainian Folklore Ensemble and the Santa Monica Traditional Brazilian Center.

The Brazilians' visit to the area was made possible by a unique cultural exchange with the local Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and Academy, whose artistic director is Andrij Cybyk. A professional dancer, teacher and choreographer, Mr. Cybyk traveled to Curitiba, Brazil, in March-April at the invitation of Barvinok to teach two weekend dance workshops.

As a result of that project in Brazil, Barvinok, which was headed to the United States for a fall tour, teamed up with Iskra to present a full-scale folk dance program at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, which is located in Whippany, N.J.

Traveling with 15 members of Barvinok (whose manager is Rogerio Berbeki Figueiredo) were 16 members of the Santa Monica troupe. All were hosted by local Ukrainian American families with ties to Iskra, mostly Iskra dancers' families.

On the day off between their arrival and the day of their performance, many New Jersey hosts took their Brazilian visitors sightseeing. One group, for example, traveled to Liberty State Park in Jersey City, located across from lower Manhattan, and from there by ferry to Liberty Island to visit the Statue of Liberty.

To their surprise, two of the hosts happened upon a fellow Ukrainian American, Supervisory Park Ranger Eugene Kuziw of the National Park Service, who provided the group with an exclusive tour of the Statue of Liberty and all related exhibits. Without Ranger Kuziw's assistance, the Brazilian visitors would have been able to see only a



Ukrainian and Brazilian dancers from Brazil at the conclusion of the performance.



Andrij Cybyk, artistic director of Iskra, with his dancers and Rogerio Berbeki Figueiredo, manager of Barvinok, acknowledge the audience's applause.



Brazil's Barvinok troupe performs a harvest dance.



Ranger Eugene Kuziw with a group of Brazilian dancers at the Statue of Liberty.

fraction of the exhibits and sites on Liberty Island. (The moral of the story: It pays to speak Ukrainian in public!)

On September 29, the dance troupes from New Jersey and Brazil performed before a capacity crowd at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey. Barvinok and Iskra's several ensembles, comprising dancers between the ages of 6 and 17, presented their Ukrainian folk dance repertoires, including each troupe's distinctive Hopak. The performance marked Iskra's first full concert at the UACCNJ; furthermore, the show attracted the largest crowd at the new center since its gala grand opening in November 2006.

The Santa Monica group presented such numbers as a Brazilian Gaucho Dance Suite as well as a performance of Brazilian folk music, providing folklore aficionados with a colorful and distinctive experience.

The event was a very successful fundraiser for the UACCNJ. As a result of the full-house audience that came to watch the show, the Iskra dance ensemble was able to donate \$2,000 to the UACCNJ.

Late that night, the Brazilian troupes left New Jersey for the next stop on their tour: Middfest International, an annual cultural event in Middletown, Ohio. From there the dancers of Barvinok were off to several venues in Ukraine, including Zaporizhia.

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Ukrainians in U.K. ...

(Continued from page 1)

Duranty.

Duranty had admitted to a U.S. Embassy official in Berlin that his dispatches always reflected the official opinion of the Soviet government and not his own, according to State Department memos obtained by historian Leonard Leshuk. Yet, despite his lack of journalistic objectivity, Duranty won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the Soviet Union in 1932. Jones, on the other hand, was murdered in Inner Mongolia under mysterious circumstances in 1935. The young Welshman was killed one day before his 35th birthday.

Dr. Colley, who is now 82, is convinced that her uncle was killed in part because of his investigations into the Great Famine. And she has devoted her retirement to making sure that he did not die in vain. "I feel that Britain and Wales should accept that the Holodomor was a

genocide," she asserted.

Her message touched a crowd of English Ukrainians who gathered on Friday, November 23, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor. Huddled together in front of a bronze statue of St. Volodymyr the Great in London's Holland Park, the group also demanded that the British government acknowledge that the Holodomor was an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people.

"The Ukrainian community in the U.K. have been campaigning for the recognition of the genocide for over 50 years and nobody's been listening," said social worker Myron Sozanskyj, who organized the event. He cited a recent letter by U.K. Parliament member Geoff Hoon, who wrote, "the government does not judge that the evidence is sufficiently unequivocal to persuade us that the Famine should be categorized as genocide as defined by the 1948 U.N. Convention on Genocide."



Maryana Tuka, 17, and Solomia Boretska, 16, place candles in front of the statue of St. Volodymyr the Great in London's Holland Park.



Christina Maria Paschyn

English Ukrainian diaspora members march through the streets of London to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor.

House of Commons member John Grogan, who attended the commemorative service, criticized the government's position: "Obviously there's an academic debate, it's not just the British government – the scholars have argued fiercely over this – but I do think it meets the criteria that the United Nations have set down, and I hope we will recognize this."

Scholars have questioned whether the Holodomor was a deliberate attempt to destroy the Ukrainian nation since it occurred during a larger famine that affected other territories of the Soviet Union. However, recently declassified Soviet archives show that the Kremlin did target Ukraine specifically, as only regions outside of it were allowed access to humanitarian aid.

Several international parliaments have recognized the Famine as genocide, as did the Commission on the Ukraine Famine established by the U.S. Congress.

Steve Komarnyckyj, who runs the Holodomor recognition campaign website, www.holodomor.org.uk, denied the debate was even an issue.

"We can show that Stalin and Kaganovich wanted to strike a blow at the Ukrainian nation ... it is clear that it is genocide. That is beyond all reasonable

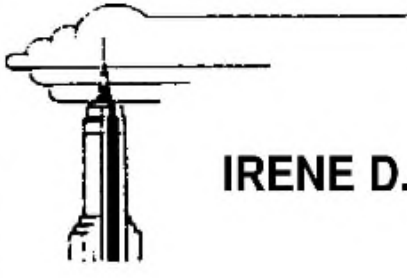
doubt," he said. "I believe that they [the U.K. government] don't want to antagonize relations with Russia following the [Alexander] Litvinenko incident."

Nevertheless, Mr. Grogan said he would sponsor a new motion to recognize the Holodomor as genocide next year.

Dr. Colley hopes the British government will finally relent. She showed her commitment to the cause by marching alongside the English Ukrainian diaspora members, as they processed on the streets of central London holding candles, banners and Ukrainian flags. It also was Dr. Colley's way of ensuring that at least one victim of the Holodomor was honored that day: her uncle.

"To my grandparents it [Jones' murder] was a great tragedy, she said. "My grandmother kept all his papers, his articles, his diaries ... in order that something one day was done about this."

Christina Maria Paschyn is a graduate of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. She currently works for Time magazine in London. Her email address is christina.paschyn@gmail.com.



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San Francisco ...

(Continued from page 10)

including the six or more years that went into its formation with Father Constantine Berdar from Los Angeles before its formal establishment. Ms. Iskiw described the photos and expanded on the efforts of the parish pioneers – a number of whom were present. Her comprehensive presentation took note of every priest who had served the parish, beginning with Father Andrew Mykyta, and listed various accomplish-

ments, from converting a house into a chapel, to buying and renovating a synagogue and completing subsequent improvements throughout the years.

She concluded her speech with a song invoking the audience to be inspired by the dedication of the pioneers and to continue their work by building a new Ukrainian Catholic Church in San Francisco by the year 2057, which will be the 100th anniversary of the parish. This is quite a challenge for a very small community supported mostly by retired people.

Statements on the Famine-Genocide

(Continued from page 5)

I believe it is our moral responsibility to recognize the Ukrainian American community's work and continue to inform the whole world of the crime against the Ukrainian people and humanity committed by the Stalinist totalitarian regime. We cannot let any similar tragedy be repeated ever again. Together, we need to continue to fight totalitarianism and the oppression until every corner of this planet is free and democracy reigns supreme. We honor the memory of the innocent victims and the brave fighters for Ukraine's independence today, and we will remember them always.

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio)

Text of remarks delivered by Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) on November 14 in the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to record painful events in Ukraine's past. Throughout Ukraine's more than millennium-long history, it has often been attacked and occupied due to its geo-political location, fertile lands and rich natural resources. Because the Ukrainian nation continuously fought to ward off the enemies and preserve its freedom, many occupying powers resorted to oppression in order to maintain their control of Ukraine. It is widely held that one of the most brutal policies designed to subjugate Ukraine was carried out by the Stalinist regime of the former Soviet Union.

History records that, in order to suppress the numerous rebellions of the Ukrainian peasantry to the collectivization and Russification policies aggressively implemented by the Communists, Stalin set out to destroy the entire nation. His government imposed draconian grain quotas and enforced their fulfillment with brutality seldom seen in history. Secret police and specially created brigades were instructed to confiscate everything down to the last grain. They also confiscated money and any valuables in order to deprive people of any means for survival. Severe and swift punishments – often death – were delivered for any attempt to steal even a minuscule amount of grain or other foodstuffs. The Royal Consulate of Italy reported in 1933: "through barbaric requisitions ... the Moscow government has effectively engineered not so much a scarcity ... but rather a complete absence of every means of subsistence throughout the Ukrainian countryside." Stalin also sealed off the Ukrainian border to prevent migration. In 1932 a directive was issued to arrest anyone who tried to leave Ukraine without proper documentation. According to Russian scholar Ivnitsky, 219,460 individuals were arrested per this directive and 186,588 of them were sent back to their villages to die.

Eyewitness accounts provide vivid and gruesome details. Here is what one witness described to the House Select Committee on Communist Aggression in 1954: "The farmers with faces and legs swollen from the hunger of the Famine were invading the town and were dying in masses in the streets. The administration of the town was unable to bury the dead farmers in time, and there was a repulsive odor in the air during all this time. The police, or rather militia patrols, driving along the streets, collected the corpses. They also took those completely exhausted by starvation who arrived in town to ask for 'a little bit of bread,' put them on the mound of corpses saying, 'you'll get there, don't worry.' I saw this all myself, and quite often."

It is hard and painful to comprehend that these actions were not known to the world, in part because of the denial of the Famine-Genocide by Soviet authorities and refusal of offers of international aid. The tragic events of 1932-1933 in Ukraine remained hidden for many decades. The world is still largely unaware of the cruelty with which the totalitarian Stalinist regime killed 7 million to 10 million innocent people in an effort to break a people who strove for freedom and independence.

The Ukrainian American community has done much to change this situation. On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide, we remind the world of the horrors that the Ukrainian nation survived and honor the memory of the innocent victims of the inhumane policies of the Stalinist regime. Remembering the events of the past helps to ensure that this type of tragedy does not recur anywhere in the world.

Rep. Sander M. Levin (D-Mich.)

Text of remarks delivered by Rep. Sander M. Levin (D-Mich.) on November 15 in the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I rise to mark the 75th anniversary of one of the worst crimes committed against our common humanity, and to remember the victims of the man-made Famine that killed millions of Ukrainians in 1932-1933.

During the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians were deliberately and systematically starved to death. We are familiar with the terrible suffering caused by famines that are the result of natural forces. But this period is all the more tragic because it resulted from criminal acts and deliberate, criminal decisions by political officials. Yet it is also one of the least known of human tragedies. Despite efforts by the Soviet government at the time and afterward to hide the planned and systematic nature of this Famine-Genocide, the Ukrainian diaspora has struggled to preserve its memory.

I am proud that Congress has supported these efforts. Last year, Congress approved legislation to authorize the government of Ukraine to donate a memorial in the District of Columbia honoring the victims of the Famine-Genocide. Today, the Ukrainian government, the Ukrainian American community and the Department of Interior are working to identify a site for this memorial where all Americans can come to remember the victims of these acts and to contemplate their meaning and consequences.

This memorial is very important to the 1.5 million Ukrainian Americans throughout the United States, and indeed to all humanity. It will not only honor their memory but serve as a tangible reminder to all of us that we must work together to prevent such tragedies in the future.

It is critical to ensure that this tragedy is never forgotten. This is an important lesson because the Soviet Union proved during this period that food can be a weapon. By introducing unrealistically high quotas on grain and other agricultural products, which were strictly enforced by Red Army troops, the Soviet government deliberately starved 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians. The harvest of 1932 was only 12 percent below 1926-1930 average, but millions of Ukrainians died a slow, agonizing death of hunger.

This effort was systematic and premeditated. Having sealed the borders of Ukraine to prevent any outward migration or outside relief efforts, the Soviet Union proceeded to confiscate grain and summarily execute anyone found taking even a handful of grain that was considered "social property." The result was devastating, and exactly what the Soviet government intended. Materials now being found in KGB archives have shown the pre-meditated, political nature of the Famine.

The United States and its people must stand with those living under oppressive and tyrannical regimes as they struggle for their freedom. Part of this struggle is to remember the brutal acts of these regimes and their victims. Preventing the recurrence of crimes against humanity such as the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide begins with remembering the tragedies of the past.

I urge all of my colleagues to join the Ukrainian American community today in remembering the victims of this tragedy and renewing our commitment to ensure that it is never repeated.

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Two colored...

(Continued from page 2)

great desire to see things done right away, and only his way."

He added that while Ukraine's "soft" leadership may have contributed to the lack of reforms there, Georgia's "strong-handed" leadership has presented the problem of trying to make too much progress too quickly.

Georgia's and Ukraine's significantly divergent social, economic and cultural landscapes have also played a crucial role in the way that the two countries have come to govern themselves.

Ukraine's regional diversity, the split between the Russian-speaking east and the Ukrainian-speaking west, is key to understanding its political culture. This difference was well-reflected in the initial mandate the two leaders received – Mr. Yushchenko came to power with approximately 52 percent of the vote, winning a slim 8-percentage-point majority over his eastern-backed rival, Mr. Yanukovich. Mr. Saakashvili, by contrast, won an overwhelming victory, with 96 percent of the vote.

Some consider the Ukrainian east-west divide to be a source of internal weakness. But others, such as Georgian political commentator Bakur Kvashilava, argue that it holds the benefit of laying the groundwork for the establishment of democratic principles and procedures.

"Such regional disagreements complicate governance of a country, of course," Mr. Kvashilava said. "But long-term, as history and other examples teach us, if two opposing sides can agree on one fundamental issue – that Ukraine must be integral and undivided, for instance – then chances are they will also agree on a second fundamental issue, that the only correct path for coming to power is the democratic one – elections, referendums."

There has been a clear effort to solve all political crises – no matter how acute – through negotiation and accommodation in post-Orange Revolution Ukraine. For Mr. Kvashilava, this indicates that democratic procedures are finally taking root in the country's political culture, creating a telling contrast with Georgia.

"In Georgia, as the recent events demonstrated, it was absolutely legitimate

and acceptable for the population, as well as some representatives of the opposition, to call for the president's resignation, [the opposition's] assumption of power, 'saving the people' and so on," Mr. Kvashilava said. "The majority of protesters applauded these slogans – and this indicates that democracy, as the only way of life, in Georgia has not been established as firmly as in Ukraine."

Ukraine's regional and linguistic diversity has also served as a basis for less radical shifts in foreign policy. While in Georgia most political forces – and certainly the one in power – are openly pro-Western and have expressed the desire to distance Georgia from Russia's influence, Ukrainian politicians have been more restrained and cautious.

"The checks and balances that exist in Ukraine, because of various divisions within the country, meant the Ukrainian government, while it was always very keen on a close relationship with NATO, was never able to go flat out and seek NATO membership, or the initial Membership Action Plan," Mr. Redman of the Economist Intelligence Unit explained. "Whereas Mr. Saakashvili has had a very free hand in Georgia, and was able to do that. So he was more out-and-out pro-Western, pro-NATO, than the Ukrainians ever managed."

But that approach has come back to bite Georgia in another sense, as it served to strain further its already deteriorating relationship with Russia and has fueled aggressive rhetoric by Russian politicians who can't afford to show the same hostility to Ukraine, lest they risk alienating Russian-speaking Ukrainians.

Georgia and Ukraine still have much work to do to fulfill the many promises made during the Rose and Orange revolutions. The initial euphoria has long since subsided and, as Mr. Redman put it, it has become clear that the two countries' prospects are far from immune to unexpected twists.

"Georgia is more of an open canvas, where a leader can do more – but can also drag things in a fairly disastrous direction," Mr. Redman said. "Whereas any Ukrainian leader is still rather hampered, and that limits the capacity for doing damage – but it also limits the capacity to make positive change."

Ukrainians of Houston...

(Continued from page 10)

priests and encouraged everyone to pray and support vocations to the priesthood.

Helen Filenko was invited to the podium and spoke briefly about her assignment to write the church history for the 50th anniversary commemorative book. She relayed her thanks to all who contributed historical records to assist her in the process and stressed the importance of maintaining archives.

The entertainment portion of the program began with a beautiful poem in Ukrainian, by Julia Krutikov, about the Blessed Mother, Pokrova. The attendees enjoyed a wonderful choir performance under the direction of Anthony Potoczniak and members Olia Palmer, Bill Palmer, Ulyana Pintchouk, Lydia Tkachenko, Natalia Hrynshyn and Pavlo Sodomora. The icing to the performance was a solo by Mr. Sodomora on guitar, singing an ancient Kozak song about Pokrova, the Protectress.

The banquet room was brought to a hush when violinist Volodymyr Kotsiouruba performed two of his favorite classical pieces. His brilliant performance was very moving and brought many to their feet at the conclusion.

The Zhuravli Ukrainian dancers of Houston entertained the crowd with several dances from the Poltava region. Performing the dances were Juliana Noukas, Constantine Noukas, Olia Seniw, Nina Seniw, Kostya Lytvynchuk, Serhey Havchak, Maria Bobrovnyk and Michael Uschak; Olia Dovzhuk presented the traditional bread in the opening dance.

The highlight of the banquet was the presentation by Vasyl Dijak, a masterfully organized slide show presentation, choreographed to music that showed the history of the church, from its beginnings to the present.

Banquet attendees were each given a souvenir laminated bookmark with a picture of the Pokrova icon on the front and a prayer on the back, commemorating the day of the celebration. These mementos were fashioned by Irene Kuchta.

At the close of the banquet, Father Dovzhuk thanked everyone for their attendance and support, and reminded everyone that the commemorative book would be available in the near future.

Russia accuses...

(Continued from page 3)

Russian and the Ukrainian people," Mr. Korovin said.

Last month, three members of the Eurasian Union of Youth vandalized a government plaque dedicated to the Ukrainian Constitution atop Mount Haverlia, Ukraine's highest peak, in the Carpathian Mountains, the Security Service of Ukraine reported.

"I would want to advise our Russian colleagues, as friendly advice, to read history books," Mr. Deschytsia said in response to the Moscow attacks. "Smashing displays is not an approach. An approach is reading about history and drawing conclusions."

Embassy ...

(Continued from page 1)

Secretary of the District of Columbia Dr. Stephanie Scott also addressed the gathering as the representative of Washington's Mayor Marion Fenty.

At the conclusion of the brief program, the participants were asked to place their candles in the shape of a cross as a memorial to the victims of the Holodomor in one of the Embassy's entranceways.

The Embassy candlelight vigil concluded the day's Holodomor commemoration activities in Washington, which began in the morning at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral with a memorial service concelebrated by the pastors of the Washington area's Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic churches.

The evening commemoration at the Embassy of Ukraine also had a brief religious memorial service conducted by the Rev. Nestor Ivasiw, pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family.

Among the close to 100 people attending were the former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst and Ukrainian American Coordinating Council President Ihor Gawdiak.

Cleveland walkathon...

(Continued from page 11)

two young missionaries, Andrea Komichak and Michael Nakonachny, who were part of last summer's delegation that worked with severely disabled children in orphanages at Znamianka (Kirovohrad Oblast) and Puhachiv (Zhytomyr Oblast). The young missionaries showed a brief but deeply moving film of their experience by their colleague David Kennedy.

Following their presentation, Alexander Kuzma, a member of CCRDF's board of directors thanked the parishioners of St. Vladimir's and the walkathon organizers for their devotion to the cause of Chornobyl's children. He also shared some of his experiences working in Ukraine in 2005-2006 and the impact of medical aid programs and new technology funded by the Ukrainian American community.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to support the Volodymyrets Central Regional Hospital or other programs funded by CCRDF, supporters may send their checks to CCRDF at 60-C N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981 or call 860-463-1986. Supporters are also urged to visit the CCRDF website at www.childrenofchornobyl.org.

To learn more about the Tremont Walk, or to sign up for next year's charity Walkathon, visit the official website at tremontwalkforchornobyl.org.



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OUT AND ABOUT

- December 6
Toronto
Lecture by Keith Darden, "Mass Schooling and the Formation of Enduring Loyalties: The Case of Ukraine," University of Toronto, 416-946-8900
- December 7
Washington
Monthly social, The Washington Group, Leopold's Café, 240-381-0993 or president@thewashingtongroup.org
- December 7, 9, 16
New York
Art exhibit, lecture and performance by Wira Wowk, "Solar Wheel," Ukrainian National Women's League of America art gallery, 212-260-4490
- December 8
Jenkintown, PA
Christmas bazaar, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166
- December 8
New York
Memorial program dedicated to Dr. Swiatoslaw Trofimenko, Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- December 8
Whippany, NJ
Christmas celebration fund-raiser, featuring music by Papa Duke, Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-376-1748
- December 8-9
Silver Spring, MD
Christmas bazaar, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 301-434-6075
- December 9
Hillside, NJ
St. Nicholas Christmas program, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, 908-289-0127 or 973-599-9381
- December 9
Yonkers, NY
Christmas bazaar, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ukrainian National Women's League of America, paniolia@hotmail.com or 914-963-0209
- December 10
Toronto
Christmas bazaar, sponsored by the Levada Choir of the Ukrainian Youth Ensembles, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 416-239-1685
- December 10
Washington
Lecture by Margarita Balmaceda, "Understanding Energy Dependency in the Former Soviet World: Corruption, Intermediary Companies and Energy Security in Ukraine and Lithuania," Kennan Institute, 202-691-4100
- December 11
Washington
"Business Opportunities in Russia and Ukraine," BISNIS, Ronald Regan Building

- December 15
New York
Annual "Yalynka" party, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Ukrainian Institute of America, nyc@uesa.com
- December 15
New York
Lecture by Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev, "Archeological Excavations in Baturyn in 2007," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- December 15
Bethesda, MD
Christmas bazaar and St. Nicholas children's program, Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies, Westland Middle School, 410-730-8108 or lada2@verizon.net
- December 16
Toronto
Christmas bazaar, sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, University of Toronto, 416-763-4982
- December 16
Baltimore, MD
Christmas bazaar, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-687-3465 or 410-675-7557

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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Svoboda	December 14	December 3
The Weekly	December 30	December 10
Svoboda	December 28	December 10

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 2

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Academy of Art and Sciences in New York will host a conference commemorating Oleh Kandyba-Olzhych as a poet, scholar and a political thinker. The lectures will be presented by: Anna Procyk, "Oleh Kandyba-Olzhych Against the Background of the Ideological and Political Currents of the Inter-War Period"; Lubomyr Wynar, "Scholarly Activities of Dr. Oleh Kandyba"; and Assya Humesky, "The Literary Legacy of Oleh Olzhych." The conference will begin at 2 p.m. in the academy's building, 206 W. 100th St. For more information call 212-222-1866.

**Friday, December 7 -
Sunday, December 16**

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 64, and the Ukrainian Art and Literary Club present "Solar Wheel," a series of programs dedicated to the work and art of writer Wira Wowk from Brazil. The program will feature an exhibit of Ms. Wowk's paper cutouts, including originals on loan from the Archives of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. The series will begin on Friday, December 7, at 7 pm, with lectures titled "An Unusual Personality" by Our Life Editor Irena Chaban and "Wira Wowk's Paper Cutouts" by Jaroslawa Gerulak. Composer Volodymyr Tkachenko will give a piano performance of his "Fantasies on Musical Themes by Wira Wowk." On Sunday, December 11, at 2 pm, actress Larysa Kukrytska and journalist Lidia Babuiuk will read literary selections, illustrated by Lavrentia Turkewicz through bandura and song. The series will conclude on Sunday, December 16, with a program scheduled for 4 p.m. The exhibit will be open on Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m., at the UNWLA Art Gallery, 203 Second Ave., fourth floor, New York, NY 10003. For more information call 212-260-4490, log on to www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub/ or e-mail ukrartlitclub@yahoo.com.

Saturday, December 8

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) invites all to a memorial program dedicated to Dr. Swiatoslaw Trofimenko (1931-2007), internationally renowned chemist, specialist in organic, inorganic and coordination chemistry, a full member, vice-president and learned secretary of NTSh. The program will feature talks by Dr. Orest Popovych and Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych as well as a video-film by Vasyl Lopukh. It will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

WHIPPANY, NJ: 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.

Saturday-Sunday, December 8-9

SILVER SPRING, Md.: Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 16631 New Hampshire Ave., will hold its Ukrainian Christmas Bazaar, featuring traditional foods to eat in or take out, as well as Ukrainian icons, music, books, embroidery, ceramics, jewelry, dolls and other gifts. Hours: Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-3 p.m. Tours of the church will be available. For information call 301-434-6075.

Sunday, December 9

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Academy of Art and Sciences in New York invites all to a lecture by Prof. Myroslav Skandrij of the University of Manitoba on the subject "The Jewish Voice in Ukrainian Culture: The Problem of Establishing a Jewish-Ukrainian Identity." The lecture will begin at 2 p.m. at the academy, 206 W. 100th St. For more information call 212-222-1866.

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Chorus Dumka will give a Christmas concert at St. Patrick's Cathedral (Fifth Avenue and 53rd 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.ukieschool.org, or contact Lada Onyshkevych, lada2@verizon.net or 410-730-8108.

Sunday, December 16

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" at 1:30 p.m. Venue: 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. Please note: this event was rescheduled from December 9.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

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