

**ХРИСТОС РОДИВСЯ! CHRIST IS BORN!**

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Monument commemorates 100th birthday of Stepan Bandera

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukrainians have already begun commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the January 1 birthday of the 20th century Ukrainian liberation hero, Stepan Bandera.

More than 3,000 Ternopil residents, defying snow and frigid temperatures, gathered across from the State Oblast Administration building in Ternopil to dedicate the city's statue to Bandera on December 26, 2008.

Among those attending were Ternopil Mayor Roman Zastavnyi, State Oblast Administration Chair Yurii Chyzhmar, Oblast Council Chair Mykhailo Mykolenko, Svoboda nationalist leader Oleh Tiahnybok and Bandera's grandson, the 38-year-old Stephen Bandera, a native Canadian who resides in Kyiv.

"The monument is for everyone who was called a 'banderivets' because they spoke Ukrainian or had the desire to see a free Ukraine," Mr. Bandera said.

The day's speakers stressed Bandera's role in the liberation struggle of Ukrainians, and noted that such statues were a sign of national consciousness being reborn in Ukraine.

Ternopil sculptor Roman Vilhushynskyi created the copper statue, which depicts a young Bandera decisively stepping forward, his right hand a closed fist, as a massive flag flaps behind him.

The Ternopil dedication was the first of a series of statues to be erected, including a sculpture in Ivano-Frankivsk to be unveiled on January 1.

The same day, Bandera's native village of Staryi Ushyniv will host a museum dedication ceremony, expected to be attended by President Viktor Yushchenko, who was vacationing in the Carpathian Mountains in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast for the New Year's holiday, the Presidential Secretariat reported.

The commemorations aren't limited to statues.

The Ukrainian government issued a commemorative postage stamp honoring the 100-year anniversary of Bandera's birth, bearing the portrait created by

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Ukrainian patriots at the December 26 unveiling ceremony of the Stepan Bandera statue (background) in Ternopil.

## Verkhovna Rada approves 2009 budget by slim majority

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Parliament cobbled together the minimum 226 votes needed to pass the 2009 budget on December 26, 2008, before the New Year's Day deadline.

Within three days, President Viktor Yushchenko put his signature on the nation's chief financial document, but not without sharply criticizing it and the government of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko that drafted it, calling the budget "a tragedy," among the worst in the last ten years.

"It's lamentable that the nation has gotten used to the country's budget being the subject of the hopes of one person, who is painting a Fata Morgana with her unique acting skill," President Yushchenko said, adding that city budgets, which depend on the state budget, would be hit hardest.

Indeed the consensus among economists and political observers is the 2009 budget is a fragile document with significant flaws rooted in unrealistic economic expectations.

It projects Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 0.4 percent, and an impossible inflation rate of 9 percent. It also projects an exchange rate in the range of 7 hryvnia per \$1 for the entire year.

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the former Verkhovna Rada chair and economics minister, said Ukraine's GDP will decline by 3 percent at best.

A responsible government would have decreased the budget's social payments sharply and reduced the deficit to zero in light of Ukraine's steep economic decline, Mr. Yatsenyuk said.

Instead, the budget consists of a \$4.4 billion deficit, or 3 percent of the projected GDP, above the recommended 2 percent.

"No one will take on the responsibility of voting for a realistic budget," he said, expecting an amendment bill in May 2009. "There is no political will for this, considering everyone dreams of seeing themselves in the president's chair."

The budget projects 238 billion hrv in 2009 revenue, compared to 232 billion hrv in 2008, and 266 billion hrv in spending, compared to 253 billion hrv in expenses in 2008.

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## Pittsburgh community welcomes Ukraine's first lady

by Nickolas Kotow

PITTSBURGH – First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, wife of President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine, arrived in Pittsburgh from Toronto on Friday evening, November 28, 2008.

The reason for her visit was an invitation by Bishop Robert M. Moskal to be the honored guest at the 20th annual bishop's charity gala of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio, which was to be held on Sunday, November 30, and to visit hospitals in Pittsburgh to acquaint them with the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation and its medical work on behalf of the children of Ukraine.

The first lady of Ukraine was greeted with the traditional bread and salt by Luba Hlutkowsky, and Lesyk Konecky presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Also greeting

her at Pittsburgh International Airport were Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Dr. Oleh Shamshur, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Dr. Daniel W. Pituch, the Rev. Dr. Anibal and Sonya Hlutkowsky Soutus, Peter Hlutkowsky, Bohdan Konecky, Alexander Konecky, Nickolas C. Kotow and Ashley Iddings from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center publicity office.

Mrs. Yushchenko and her party then traveled by motorcade to a nearby hotel. Her first night in Pittsburgh was spent at a private dinner hosted by the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Soutus.

On Saturday, November 29, was a busy day for the first lady. A tour of Pittsburgh area hospitals, including the Oakland and Lawrenceville sites of the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, the Hillman Cancer

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Michael E. Haritan

Sharing a champagne toast to the United States and Ukraine (from left) are: Ambassador Oleh Shamshur, Bishop Robert M. Moskal, First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski and Msgr. Martin Canavan.



## ANALYSIS

## Ukraine beefs up defenses with an eye on Russia

by **Taras Kuzio**

*Eurasia Daily Monitor*

Since the Russian invasion of Georgia in August, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has stressed the need to review defense priorities, with reference to the budgetary allocations to the military (The Times, August 23). The president warned that he would refuse to sign the state budget for 2009 unless it increased the military budget for 2008.

Mr. Yushchenko's demand for higher outlays came at a bad time, as Ukraine's 2009 budget will be severely constrained by Parliament's anti-crisis package adopted in October as a precondition for a \$16.4 billion IMF standby loan from the International Monetary Fund. The president is unwarranted in blaming the Yulia Tymoshenko government for the state of the military, inasmuch as it was starved of funds by all the previous 13 governments.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov announced plans to increase Ukraine's military presence in Crimea and to deploy new units on Ukraine's border with Russia. Asked if he feared that the Crimea would become a "second South Ossetia," Mr. Yekhanurov replied that "Military provocation will not take place. There are certain tendencies there, but we have sufficient forces to localize a threat" (Tyzhden, November 7-13). Unlike South Ossetia, Crimea has never been a frozen conflict zone outside of Ukraine's central control.

Mr. Yekhanurov pointed out that Crimea was different from South Ossetia because Ukraine had well-equipped security forces based on the peninsula that included

marines, the best trained units in the armed forces, as well as air force and anti-aircraft missile complexes (AMC). In the aftermath of the invasion of Georgia, these units would be strengthened and prioritized, Mr. Yekhanurov said.

The Pivdenmash company in Dnipropetrovsk, one of the largest military industrial complexes in the former USSR, is developing a new AMC, the advantage of which is that it can be used to provide support to both aviation troops and to infantry and naval forces. The new AMC, expected to enter production in 2010, will be used in ground-to-air, ground-to-ground, and ship-to-ship anti-aircraft units and is undergoing tests at Ukraine's only test site near Feodosiya, Crimea.

Mr. Yekhanurov announced plans to deploy new units to Ukraine's long land border with Russia. In the Soviet period, eastern Ukraine had no military district; Ukraine's two military districts were western and southern. A Northern Operational Command (NOC), headquartered in Chernihiv on the Russian border, was created in the mid 1990s to cover Ukraine's northern and eastern regions bordering Russia.

The 8th Army Corps forms the basis of NOC, which includes one airmobile, one artillery and three mechanized brigades, as well as the Army Aviation Regiment. The Army Aviation (air defense) Regiment was deployed in eastern Ukraine last year and provides a defense umbrella over economically important Donbas. In 2009 further Ukrainian military units will be deployed on Ukraine's land border with Russia (Delo,

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## SBU stops separatism in its tracks

by **Taras Kuzio**

*Eurasia Daily Monitor*

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has patted itself on the back for stopping separatism in three different regions: Donetsk, Crimea and Zakarpattia (www.ssu.gov.ua, December 9). All three cases involved pro-Russian organizations financed from Russian sources. The SBU's statements do not provide details about the popularity of these separatist movements or say whether they really constitute a threat to Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Separatism became a serious threat only in Crimea where it had the potential of turning into a frozen conflict, as in Moldova, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Unlike these three frozen conflicts, the Crimean separatist movement was derailed in a non-violent manner by the SBU and from internal splits within the separatist movement.

The SBU focused on the Sevastopol branch of the Institute for CIS Countries, which was closed by a court order. The Moscow headquarters of the institute is headed by Konstantin Zatulin, who – along with Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov – has been banned from entering Ukraine. All three Russian officials have long espoused support for Russian territorial claims toward the port of Sevastopol and Crimea.

A second threat neutralized by the SBU in Crimea was the People's Front "Sevastopol-Crimea-Russia." The SBU

asked the prosecutor's office to file a court order banning the organization, because its actions infringed upon Article 110 of the Criminal Code. The organization has since been banned, and two of its leaders have been charged with threatening Ukraine's territorial integrity. The SBU is seeking the maximum legal sentence of five years imprisonment.

Supporters of what the SBU called the "so-called Donetsk Republic" have been warned that their actions could lead to charges. The SBU searched the homes and workplaces of four of its leaders where they confiscated a large volume of materials that could be used in trials, if charges are filed.

There is little information about the "Donetsk Republic" movement, but it probably includes those who support the ideals of the short-lived Donetsk-Krivoy Rog Soviet Republic formed by the Bolsheviks on February 12, 1918. The republic claimed territories in the Donbas (Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts), Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts, and part of the neighboring Don region.

The republic was never recognized by anyone, including by the Russian SFSR. Today, neither the currently dominant Party of Regions in these four oblasts or the formerly dominant Communist Party is a separatist political force. Party of Regions oligarchs do not look favorably on Vladimir Putin's Russia, as they see the Russian oligarchs facing imprisonment, exile or submission.

(Continued on page 4)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Landmark year for U.S.-Ukraine relations

KYIV – Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko said on December 25 that he believes 2008 was a landmark in the Ukrainian-American relations. The year, he said, was a "historically active" one for the bilateral relationship. In particular, U.S. President George W. Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice all paid visits to Ukraine. Apart from this, Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko and Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko visited the United States. A road map of the Ukraine-U.S. relations and strategic partnership charter were signed in 2008. The Council for Commerce and Investments has proceeded to work. Mr. Ohryzko noted that the United States was active in promoting Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration. "I would say that this year was a breakthrough in terms of development of Ukrainian-American relations, and we hope that this is proved by the outcome of my visit to the United States, and the new administration will hold the same position as the previous one did in this context," the minister emphasized. (Ukrinform)

### Ukraine mourns on December 26

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko decreed a day of mourning in Ukraine on December 26, 2008, due to the explosion in Yevpatoria, Crimea, that killed 27 people. An explosion destroyed two sections of a five-floor apartment block on Nekrasov Street late on December 24. According to Eduard Hrykovskiy, first vice-chairman of Crimea's Council of Ministers, 19 people were found dead at the scene on the day of the accident, but the Emergencies Ministry said that up to 40 people could be still under the rubble. Twenty-one people were rescued. According to preliminary reports, the cause of the accident was an explosion of cylinders filled with oxygen and acetylene that were kept in a cellar of the utility office building. President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko traveled to the scene of the accident. (Ukrinform, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty)

### Medvedev to Ukraine: pay up

MOSCOW – Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has said Ukraine's economy will face "sanctions and demands" from Russia if Kyiv does not pay off its gas debt. Mr. Medvedev's remarks on Russian television on December 24, 2008, came as the state-controlled gas giant Gazprom warned Ukraine it would cut gas deliveries on January 1 if new contracts were not signed for 2009. The Russian president did not say what sanctions Moscow could use against Kyiv, but warned that it had a "whole arsenal of possibilities" at its disposal. Gazprom says Ukraine owes the company more than \$2 billion, including \$805 million for November, \$862 million for December, and \$450 million in penalties for late payment. Gazprom spokesman Sergei Kupriyanov told journalists on December 24 that Ukraine's state gas company Naftohaz told Gazprom officials that they wouldn't be able to pay the debt. Meanwhile, President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine earlier in the day said the sides had agreed to restructure the debt over several months, and that Kyiv may return some gas held in storage to Gazprom. "If there is no contract signed for gas supplies to Ukraine in 2009 then we will not be able to supply gas without contract on January 1," Mr. Kupriyanov said. (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty)

### Rada votes no confidence in NBU

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on December 26 passed a no-confidence motion against the chairman and the board of directors of the National Bank of Ukraine. The Rada also urged President Viktor Yushchenko to file a submission on NBU Chairman Volodymyr Stelmakh's dismissal to the Parliament. The resolution was adopted based on the results of a preliminary report issued by the temporary investigation commission that is checking the NBU's activity amid the financial turmoil that hit Ukraine. The Verkhovna Rada resolved to submit the commission's materials to the Procurator General's Office. (Ukrinform)

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## NEWS ANALYSIS: Little room for compromise with Russia over missile defense

by Pavel Felgenhauer  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Last-minute attempts by the outgoing U.S. administration to reach some understanding with Moscow on outstanding arms-control issues have failed.

RIA-Novosti recently quoted "a high-ranking source" in the Defense Ministry as saying, "The dialogue with the United States on arms control has been fruitless." The ministry accused the United States of attempting to count only the so-called "operationally deployed strategic warheads." Moscow, on the other hand, wants to count all existing strategic delivery systems regardless of whether they are equipped with nuclear warheads. The Russian military believes that the United States is seeking a capability to secretly expand its nuclear potential "to undermine the control regime and strategic predictability" (RIA-Novosti, December 9).

In early December NATO foreign ministers agreed to resume contacts gradually with Moscow; relations were chilled after Russian troops invaded Georgia in August, and this thaw was welcomed by Russia's ambassador to NATO, Dmitry Rogozin. At the same time, the NATO ministers said that the planned U.S. missile defenses in Poland and the Czech Republic would make a "substantial contribution" to protecting the allies from the threat of long-range ballistic missiles (Associated Press, December 3). Russia's official Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko insisted that such a missile defense (MD) system "would have an anti-Russian potential" (www.mid.ru, December 8).

President-elect Barack Obama, while deploring Russia's invasion of Georgia in August as "contrary to international norms,"

announced that it was "important for us to reset U.S.-Russian relations." Mr. Obama wants to cooperate with Russia on a "whole host of areas, particularly around nonproliferation of weapons and terrorism" ("Meet the Press," NBC News, December 7). Moscow has welcomed the message that a new dialogue is possible, while talks with the outgoing Bush administration have been stalled, in hope of more concessions from Mr. Obama (Kommersant, December 9).

During repeated PowerPoint briefings in the past, Pentagon officials have explained to their Russian counterparts that the ground-based interceptors (GBI) planned for Poland and the radar in the Czech Republic are not aimed at Russia and do not pose any threat. Indeed, the GBIs that have been already deployed in Alaska do not seem to worry Moscow, though they have a capability to hit Russian ICBMs over the Arctic. Moscow feels threatened by the planned MD deployments in Europe because the military assumes that it is not an MD system at all but a potent secret attack weapon under the guise of a missile defense against Iran. Washington and its European allies do not seem to fully appreciate this Russian anxiety.

The GBI missile is based on the so-called direct non-nuclear intercept: A solid metal warhead is directed to strike and pulverize an attacking ballistic target on collision course. During the Cold War the Russian military also attempted to develop such weapons but abandoned the program before 1980, deciding the goal was unachievable. Instead, the Russian military developed and deployed a less precise system around Moscow based on a so-called nuclear indirect MD: interceptor missiles are armed with megaton warheads that may disable incoming enemy nukes even if exploding several

**Moscow has welcomed the message that a new dialogue is possible with the incoming administration in the United States, while talks with the outgoing Bush administration have been stalled, in hope of more concessions from Barack Obama**

miles off target. The same nuclear interceptors have a double use: They can be aimed at ground targets several thousand miles away.

The Russian military believes that the "direct intercept" concept that they abandoned during the Cold War is still technically impossible. The military tells its political masters that the American direct intercept concept or "bullet hitting bullet" is a hoax and cannot work in the real world. It is assumed that the missiles in Poland will, in fact, be nuclear-tipped and intended for a surprise attack to annihilate the Russian political and military leadership in their

workplaces in Moscow, effectively incapacitating Russia before a mass of other U.S. nuclear missiles from more distant locations comes crashing in to destroy a helpless Russia. The GBIs deployed in Alaska and California could not possibly reach Moscow and therefore do not arouse any significant Russian objections.

Mr. Rogozin recently told a Moscow radio station:

"The missiles planned for Poland are double-purpose, very fast and modern weapons. They can be guided by radar to intercept ballistic and other flying targets, as well as targets on the ground. They would be able to reach Moscow in four minutes after take-off and are so precise they can hit the window of our president's office in the Kremlin. I believe that their deployment is intended for a disarming and disorganizing attack on the capital of Russia" (Ekho Moskvy, November 28).

At present, it seems that Moscow will settle only for a full scrapping of U.S. missile defense plans in Europe. Will the Obama administration be ready to concede what Moscow would consider a major military and political victory? Not only would the nightmare of a sudden U.S. attack be curtailed, it would imply that in the future the U.S. and NATO would seek Moscow's approval before any significant deployments of a "military infrastructure" in former Warsaw Pact nations and the Baltic republics. This would establish a sphere of Russian "privileged interests" and promote the kind of stability predictability, and security in Europe that the Kremlin is seeking.

*The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.*

## Our Ukraine party takes action against dissident members

KYIV – The second stage of the sixth congress of the Our Ukraine People's Union took place in Kyiv on December 27, 2008, and among the main topics on the agenda was what to do with dissident members of the party who voted for the establishment of a new parliamentary coalition proposed by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

The congress was closed to outsiders; therefore, journalists could not find out the details of the agenda. However, it was known that the congress would make decisions on further fate of Our Ukraine national deputies who backed the creation of the current parliamentary coalition of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc and a portion of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD) bloc.

A participant in the Our Ukraine congress told an Ukrinform correspondent that the delegates adopted a decision to exclude from the party council seven deputies who backed the establishment of the parliamentary coalition with the Tymoshenko Bloc. The seven are: Mykola Martynenko, Oleksander Tretiakov, Valerii Borysov, Eduard Zeinalov, Yurii Kliuchkovskiy, Olha Herasymyuk and Ruslan Kniazevych. They will remain party members but when the new composition of the political council is elected they will not be among its members. The ultimate fate of the seven senior members of Our Ukraine, none of whom were present at the party congress on December 27, will be decided by the party council.

Twenty deputies of Our Ukraine had broken ranks with President Viktor Yushchenko and joined with all 17 national deputies of People's Self-Defense to support the new coalition

established on December 16 and called the National Development, Stability and Order Coalition. The new coalition has been described as a de facto coalition because it lacks a 226-vote majority in the Verkhovna Rada and does not have legal standing due to the manner in which it was formed – with the participation of only a part of the OU-PSD faction.

The congress adopted amendments to the Our Ukraine People's Union statutes that created two managing positions in the party: the party chair and the chair of the party council. The party chair is a political leader elected by the party congress; it is an honorary post and is not included in the party's statutory authorities, but the party chair does have a vote among the party's central leadership. This is the position currently held by President Yushchenko. The chair of the party's council is elected by the council, not by the party congress, and is the head of Our Ukraine.

President Yushchenko had been elected party chairman on November 29, 2008, during the first stage of the Our Ukraine congress. Presidential press-secretary Iryna Vannikova noted at the time that this decision of the congress was evidence of Mr. Yushchenko's recognition as a political leader of the party. Earlier Viktor Yushchenko was the party's honorary chairman.

Speaking at the second state of the party congress, President Yushchenko called the original decision of the Our Ukraine congress on non-alignment in a parliamentary coalition with the Tymoshenko Bloc a matter of principle. He noted that, being a leader of Our Ukraine, he cannot direct the party to take responsibility for implementing policy

that does not meet the ideology of Our Ukraine.

Mr. Yushchenko underscored that the Our Ukraine People's Union is "the political force that today asserts: the things that take place in the area of corruption, blocking the capability of the court system, and populist policy, both economic and social, can never be our policy." Therefore, such a position means that the party must keep its distance from national deputies who vio-

lated the party's decision.

He also urged the OUPU to seek consolidation starting from the first days of the new year with pragmatic forces in the Verkhovna Rada. Only in cooperation with these forces can an adequate answer be found to Ukraine's current economic crisis, he added.

*Sources: Ukrinform, Kyiv Press Bureau of The Ukrainian Weekly.*

## Authorities suspect gas leak in Crimean apartment explosion

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – A suspected gas leak caused a five-storey apartment block in the Crimean resort town of Yevpatoria to explode on Wednesday, December 24, 2008.

The death toll had risen to 27 people, including two children, Ukraine's ministry of emergency situations said. Salvage teams found 21 people alive amid the rubble. Ukraine held a national day of mourning on Friday, December 26, with flags across the country lowered at half-mast.

Chances of finding more survivors was slim, as rescuers had picked their way through all the floors in the rubble and reached the basement. Nighttime temperatures dropped to 21 degrees Fahrenheit.

Officials are considering several causes

for the blast, including the explosion of oxygen canisters in the basement of the building. Neglect of safety precautions has led to frequent explosions in apartment buildings and public facilities constructed during Soviet times, particularly in winter when residents use more heating. Last year a blast in Dnipropetrovsk killed 15 residents.

President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko were in Yevpatoria on December 25 to inspect rescue efforts and talk to survivors. Ms. Tymoshenko, who visited the site on December 30 to monitor progress by local authorities, said that survivors would be given free housing before the end of the year.

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# Recent poll shows Ukrainians' attitudes toward the West and Russia

by Maria Kulczycky

CHICAGO – Ukrainians as a whole are not in favor of NATO membership for Ukraine, are more favorably inclined towards European Union membership, and support some type of union with Russia and Belarus.

These were among a number of attitudinal positions captured in a poll conducted in September by InterMedia, a global media and opinion research firm based in Washington. An overview of the poll results was provided by Jaroslaw Martyniuk, regional research manager for Eurasia at the firm. He spoke in mid-December at a presentation and holiday reception in Chicago hosted by the Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago.

InterMedia, formerly the Open Media Research Institute funded by George Soros, has been conducting media research for more than a decade, according to Mr. Martyniuk. Before joining the firm, Mr. Martyniuk worked for Soviet Area Audience and Opinion Research in Paris and the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute in Munich.

Mr. Martyniuk explained that, for years, polling of East European and Soviet bloc citizens consisted of interviews with visitors (tourists, diplomats, sailors and émigrés) who had temporarily or permanently exited the region. With the fall of the Soviet Union, in-country research became possible. Most InterMedia national surveys are conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS), an affiliate of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

"In September 1991 our polls indicated that 90 percent of the Ukrainian population would vote 'yes' in the December 1 referendum on independence," Mr. Martyniuk noted – a result that initially was hard to believe. Actual results, however, confirmed this finding. "That was our first indication that Ukrainians wanted their own country."

The latest poll conducted by InterMedia was based on a nationally representative sample using 2,011 face-to-face interviews throughout Ukraine. The maximum sampling error with a 95 percent confidence interval was plus or

minus 2.2 percent.

Asked whether Ukraine should join NATO, 19 percent of respondents agreed, while 61 percent disagreed. In contrast, 70 percent of Georgians agreed that Georgia should join NATO. Even in Serbia, which in the 1990s had been bombed by NATO, the support was 30 percent for NATO membership, Mr. Martyniuk observed.

On the question of Ukraine joining the European Union, Ukrainians were more amenable, with 42 percent agreeing and 27 percent disagreeing.

Another interesting question was whether Ukraine should have some kind of union with Russia and Belarus. Sixty percent agreed that it should, while 21 percent disagreed. In this instance, support could be interpreted as an economic rather than political union, Mr. Martyniuk explained. When asked if Ukraine should form a union with Russia and Belarus as a single state, 38 percent agreed, while 40 percent disagreed.

Asked how favorably they were inclined towards various countries, Ukrainians responded that they were favorably inclined towards Belarus (91 percent), Russia (90 percent), Germany (82 percent) and Great Britain (79 percent). In contrast, less than two-thirds (64 percent) were favorably disposed toward the U.S.

Eighty percent of respondents declared their ethnic background or nationality as Ukrainian, but were evenly divided on the language spoken at home: 42 percent Ukrainian and 42 percent Russian. Nearly all of the respondents said they are able to understand radio broadcasts in both Russian and Ukrainian, and are roughly equally split on the issue of whether Ukrainian should remain the state language of Ukraine (43 percent agreed and 41 percent disagreed).

The Orthodox Church dominates in terms of respondents who consider themselves members or feel close to it (52 percent), but considerably more said they were closer to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (31 percent) than to the Moscow Patriarchate (21 percent). Another 5 percent identified themselves as Russian Orthodox. Two-thirds of Ukrainians consider themselves to be believers, but half (54 percent) said they



**Anya Mostovych (left), president of the Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago and Maria Kulczycky (right), vice-president, with Jaroslaw Mr. Martyniuk, speaker at the December presentation and holiday reception of the Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago.**

attended church only during religious holidays or special occasions.

"The Ukrainian media environment is essentially free and open, in stark contrast with Belarus, Russia and Central Asia," noted Mr. Martyniuk. However, among unresolved legal issues are transparency of ownership, the privatization of state media and public access to information. Most troubling is a resurgence of the phenomenon of "paid for" journalism, referred to by the Ukrainian slang word "jeansa." In addition, the media is largely controlled by a few wealthy individuals.

Asked how Ukrainians get their news and information, 97 percent said from television, followed by friends and family (81 percent), proportions significantly greater than for radio (59 percent) and newspapers (61 percent). Heavy reliance on friends and family suggests skepticism about the media among Ukrainians, Mr. Martyniuk noted. A fast-growing source is the Internet (17 percent use it weekly), he observed. The Internet and mobile phones were particularly effective in the organization of the Orange Revolution.

The attitudes of Ukrainians are strongly influenced by the prevailing difficult economic situation, Mr. Martyniuk

explained. Asked about the most serious problems facing Ukraine, 73 percent of respondents cited increasing food prices, 42 percent said low salaries, 27 percent increasing energy prices and 26 percent unemployment. Issues such as corruption (14 percent), lack of rule of law (13 percent) human rights violations (8 percent) and environmental problems (5 percent) ranked much lower on the scale.

The Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago sponsors networking events and seminars that feature a balanced discussion of issues pertaining to Ukraine, the Ukrainian diaspora and the post-Soviet world. Members are primarily Ukrainian American professionals interested in establishing new personal and professional contacts while supporting Ukraine's economic development and democratization.

Recent speakers included Adrian Karatnycky, the Atlantic Council; Roman Kupchinsky, AZ East Group; Anne Applebaum, The Washington Post; and Alexander Motyl, Rutgers University

For additional information and a schedule of upcoming events readers may write to CBPG@operamail.com.

## SBU stops...

(Continued from page 2)

The SBU has taken action only against the aggressively pro-Russian minority wing of the Rusyn movement in Zakarpattia. Earlier this year the majority mainstream World Congress of Rusyns headed by Prof. Paul R. Magocsi, who is Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto, condemned the activities of Dmitry Sydor and his organization, the Transcarpathian Rusyn Parliament.

Ukrayina Moloda (November 10), which supports President Viktor Yushchenko, published details of the funding given to Mr. Sydor by a Russian government-funded NGO in Moscow. Political technologist Viacheslav Nikonov headed the Politika Fund in Moscow with which Mr. Sydor has been cooperating since 2005. In 2007 President Putin appointed Mr. Nikonov head of the newly established Russkii Mir (Russian World) organization, which Ukrayina Moloda describes as "a sub-structure of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation."

Rusyn activists claim to be a fourth eastern Slavic nation living in four countries: Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia and

Serbia. In March 2007 Ukraine became the last of these countries to recognize them as a separate ethnic group, when the Zakarpattia Oblast council voted in favor of this question. The vote was held on the instructions of presidential chief of staff Viktor Baloha, who hails from the center of the Rusyn area, the Transcarpathian town of Mukaciv. Mr. Baloha is widely believed to be seeking an alternative base of support in the Rusyn movement in the likely event that he is removed by President Viktor Yushchenko.

Mr. Sydor is a priest in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), which is under the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church. The UOC – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) is the largest Church in Transcarpathia, which, like the three oblasts of the Halychyna region, has traditionally been a stronghold of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

The UOC-MP has a checkered relationship with Ukraine. A majority of its parishes are in western and central "Orange Ukraine"; and during the 2004 presidential elections more Orthodox believers voted for Mr. Yushchenko than for the "pro-Russian" candidate Viktor Yanukovich. At the same time, the UOC-MP officially supported Mr. Yanukovich, the candidate of eastern Ukraine and

backed by Russia. This was an infringement of the legislation that separates Church and state.

The UOC supported the 75th commemoration of the Ukrainian Famine in the last week of November with UOC primate Metropolitan Vladimir Sabodan issuing a condemnation of the "genocide." Among Ukraine's major political leaders, only Party of Regions leader Mr. Yanukovich was conspicuously absent, following Russia's opposition to Ukraine's commemoration of the Famine.

The SBU's self-congratulation for its success in combating separatism was used to lobby for a higher budgetary allocation next year ([www.pravda.com.ua](http://www.pravda.com.ua), December 9). The SBU claimed that the intelligence services received an average 1 percent of the GDP in Western democracies; the SBU is lobbying for an allocation of 0.5 percent of the GDP. The anti-crisis measures introduced by the government as a requirement for the International Monetary Fund's stand-by loan in October include plans to cut the SBU by 15 to 20 percent. Mr. Yushchenko, however, has called for greater budgetary allocations to the military and SBU following the Russian invasion of Georgia.

Separatism in Crimea collapsed in the

mid-1990s after the Crimean presidency was abolished by President Leonid Kuchma. Crimean separatism is still a potential threat, however, because it is continually being fueled by Moscow, which, for example, issues Russian passports to Ukrainian citizens. Russia justified its invasion of Georgia by claiming it was defending "Russian citizens" after it had distributed passports to South Ossetians over the last two decades.

On a visit to Lithuania, Mr. Yushchenko called Moscow's new plans for issuing "Russian cards" disturbing. Meanwhile, the issuing of passports is an "infringement of international law and demonstrates disrespect to other sovereign states whose territories do not permit dual citizenship" ([www.pravda.com.ua](http://www.pravda.com.ua), December 10).

Separatism in Zakarpattia Transcarpathia and Donetsk are on a different scale, as they do not constitute serious threats. eastern and western Ukrainians remain strong supporters of Ukrainian territorial integrity.

*The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, [www.jamestown.org](http://www.jamestown.org).*



# Columbia University conference “visualizes” the Holodomor

by Oksana Zakydalsky

NEW YORK CITY – An international conference – “Visualizing the Holodomor: the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 on Film” – was organized by the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University on December 2, 2008. The program included the North American premiere of the documentary film “The Living” (Zhyvi) by Ukrainian director Serhiy Bukovsky.

In the past few months, as Ukrainians around the world marked the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, several conferences took place, but this one had its own perspective, focusing on film and filmmaking as a means of understanding the Holodomor and its consequences.

Yuri Shevchuk, lecturer at the Department of Slavic languages, director of the Film Club and organizer of the conference, drew attention to the fact that the Ukrainian Studies Program is internationally recognized as the leading center of Ukrainian film studies in North America.

Dr. Shevchuk explained that the scarcity of film documentation on the Holodomor was due to the fact that the USSR had denied the existence of the Famine in Ukraine in 1932-1933 and any mention of it meant punishment. By the end of the 1980s, it was officially admitted in the USSR that, although there had been a famine, it was due to natural causes and its man-made nature continued to be denied until the first years of Ukraine’s independence. It was not until May 15, 2003, that the Verkhovna Rada barely passed a resolution declaring the Great Famine of 1932-1933 an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people.

Roman Serbyn, professor emeritus of the University of Montreal, in his presentation “Historical Background on the Holodomor” pointed out that December 9 would be the 60th anniversary of the United Nations’ adoption of the Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Prof. Serbyn asserted that the Holodomor should include not only the Famine itself but the whole Soviet campaign against Ukrainians that included four criteria which identify a genocide: destruction of the intelligentsia, destruction of the Orthodox Church, forced deportation of Ukrainians during de-kulakization and finally, elimination of the peasantry through famine.

Raphael Lemkin, a Polish Jew and Holocaust survivor, who coined the term genocide and worked on the development of the Genocide Convention had, in the 1950s, according to a recently discovered



Serhiy Bukovsky



Natasha Mikhalych



Dr. Roman Serbyn

document, “Soviet Genocide in Ukraine,” described the Holodomor as an act of genocide.

Natasha Mikhalych, film student from the Parsons New School for Design, who was born in Odesa and came to the U.S. at the age of 10, showed her film “Kolky” – the story of her father’s village in the Podillia region of Ukraine.

In order to understand her heritage, Ms. Mikhalych went to Kolky, met with the villagers and filmed their memories of the continuous chain of disasters they have had to live through – collectivization, the Holodomor, Nazi occupation and slave labor in the Third Reich and the post-war famine. Her short film, an example of oral history, showed a deeply personal experience.

Crispin Brooks, curator of the Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive, at the University of Southern California, spoke on references to the Holodomor identified in testimonies of Ukrainian Jews, survivors of the Holocaust, which are found in the archive. Of the archive’s testimonies, videotaped in 56 countries, there are 3,500 that were done in Ukraine in the period 1995-1999. Dr. Brooks explained that of these, 750 witnesses bring up the Holodomor and he showed portions of about 10 such interviews. Most interviewees, spoke in Ukrainian, even when the interviewer spoke Russian.

Mr. Bukovsky is the director of the nine-part TV documentary series “War. A Ukrainian Account” (Viina. Ukrainskyi Rakhunok) made in 2002. More recently,



Dr. Crispin Brooks



Dr. Yuri Shevchuk

he directed the film “Spell Your Name” (Nazvy Svoye Imia) – a feature documentary about the Holocaust in Ukraine, produced by Steven Spielberg that premiered in September 2006. He was approached by the International Charitable Fund Ukraine-3000 run by Ukraine’s First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko to direct a feature documentary on the Holodomor for its 75th anniversary.

Mr. Bukovsky, together with his wife, Victoria Bondar, co-producer of “The Living,” presented the film at Columbia

University. He explained that “We set ourselves two aims: to include our events of 1932-1933 into a world context and to secure on video in time and space the last of the witnesses, for the heroes of this film are the children of the Holodomor.” The film presents the Famine through the reading of the diary of Gareth Jones (1905-1935), a Welsh journalist who went to Ukraine three times in the period 1932-1933. He challenged Walter Duranty’s infamous articles denying any famine that were published by

(Continued on page 11)

## The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: December

Amount	Name	City
\$1,000.00	Peter R. Jarosewycz (In memory of his parents and aunt, Dmytro, Maria and Olha)	Kansas City, MO
\$500.00	Irene Komarynsky	Stamford, CT
\$250.00	UNA Branch 20	Hamtramck, MI
\$100.00	Pauline and Warren Bruggeman	Schenectady, NY
\$70.00	M. Mackin	San Diego, CA
\$65.00	Peter Pytel	Twin Lakes, WI
\$55.00	Alexandra Ritter	Bethlehem, PA
\$50.00	Andrew Maleckyj John Melinyshyn	Toronto, ON Arlington Hts. IL
\$30.00	Walter Sosiak Olena Wawryshyn	Colonia, NJ Toronto, ON
\$25.00	Bohdan Birakowsky George Buk Vera Chuma-Bitcon Tom and Cheryl Hawrylko Ulana Leskiw Ania Bohachewsky Roman and Kathy Catherine Nazark	College Point, NY Las Vegas, NV Wayne, NJ Clifton, NJ Lisle, IL North Wales, PA New Hartford, NY Livonia, MI

	Mike Nebesny Natalie Pawlenko Volodymyr Procyk Oksana Sullivan Martha Tesluk-Derhak	Clinton, IN Princeton, NJ Astoria, NY Palo Alto, CA W. Hartford, CT
\$20.00	Terenia Chornodolsky Andrew Czuczuk Peter Fedynsky Alexander Kalinowski Stefan Krycki Natalia Lonchyna Steven Macko J.B. McKay and Olena Turula	Lutherville, MD Raleigh, NC Washington, DC Fredericksburg, VA Clifton, NJ Raleigh, NC Hoffman Estates, IL Edinboro, PA
\$15.00	Olha Balaban George Maryniuk Mykola Mirchuk Lubomyr Miz Myron Saldyt Adrian Zobniw	Walnut Creek, CA Jamaica Plain, MA Livingston, NJ Oak Forest, IL Carrales, NM Reading, MA
\$10.00	Vladimira Bilaniuk John Bortnyk Anatole Doroshenko Oleh Karpenko Albert Kipa	Douglaston, NY Forked River, NJ Northville, MI Perrysburg, OH Allentown, PA

	Roman Kokolskyj Adrian Krawczeniuk Olga Palaschenko Marusia Soroka Sonia Wowk	Sicklerville, NJ Old Greenwich, CT Parma, OH Mississauga, ON Windham, NY
\$5.00	Tillie Decyk Valentina Gordon Alexandra Hrycak Merle and Bonnie Jurkiewicz Harry Kowalcheck Lydia Kowalchuk Adrian Levytsky Peter Melnycky Bohdan Smolynsky John Wynohradnyk	Lincolnwood, IL Port Charlotte, FL Portland, OR Toledo, OH West Newton, PA New Hope, PA Elkins Park, PA Edmonton, AB Shrewsbury, MA Stony Point, NY

**TOTAL: \$2,935.00**

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Stalin as hero

Russia's shameful rejection of the historical truth regarding the Holodomor of 1932-1933 was much in the news in 2008. Now, just as 2008 was coming to a close, there was news from Russia that Joseph Stalin – responsible for the deaths of some 20 million people during his reign of terror from 1929 to his death in 1953 – has been voted by the Russian public as the third greatest Russian of all time. The poll was conducted by Rossiya, one of the country's biggest television stations, over a period of six months. During that time 500 original candidates for the greatest Russian were winnowed to a final dozen; over 50 million people voted by phone, over the Internet or via text messages.

On December 27, on the eve of the final round of voting, the BBC News reported the incongruous news: "The former Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin may have killed millions of his own people but this weekend he could be chosen by Russians as their greatest-ever countryman."

On December 28, the final results were in and Stalin came in third, receiving 519,971 votes, following Alexander Nevsky, medieval warrior prince, who earned 524,575 votes, and Pyotr Stolypin, pre-revolutionary statesman, with 523,766. Poet Alexander Pushkin was fourth with 516,608 votes, Tsar Peter I was in fifth place with 448,857 votes, and Vladimir Lenin was sixth with 424,283.

The BBC's report, filed from Moscow by Richard Galpin, pointed out that Stalin was high in the polling for many months and at one point was in first place, until the show's producer appealed to viewers to vote for someone else. The BBC quoted one of the contest's judges, Nikita Mikhalkov, as saying: "We now have to think very seriously why the nation chooses to put [Joseph] Stalin in third place."

It is troublesome that the citizens of Russia hold history's most brutal dictator in such high regard. But, it is not surprising. After all, in recent times the figure of Stalin has been resurrected by Russian authorities, including Vladimir Putin, former president and current prime minister, as a positive one.

There is a campaign to rehabilitate Stalin and there are even calls from some circles to declare him a saint, the BBC reported, citing the comments of a Communist Party leader, who said Stalin could be forgiven his "mistakes" because of his role in defeating Nazi Germany, and the act of a Russian Orthodox priest, who displayed an icon of Stalin in his church.

Moreover, new textbooks in Russia portray Stalin as a positive figure, and a manual for history teachers says Stalin acted "entirely rationally" in transforming the USSR into a superpower and that he had to resort to force to ensure "maximum efficiency." The BBC spoke with the editor of the manual, historian Alexander Danilov, who said the initiative for the makeover of Stalin "came from the very top." Mr. Danilov added: "I believe it was the idea of former president, now prime minister, Vladimir Putin. It fits completely with the political course we have had for the last eight years, which is dedicated to the unity of society."

At the same time, Russian authorities are also targeting those who – inconveniently for the official line – seek to tell the truth about the Stalin regime. Just last month, for example, riot police raided the St. Petersburg office of the human rights organization Memorial and seized 12 computer hard drives that contained digital archives about the murderous Stalin regime. "They knew what they were taking," Irina Filge, the office's director, told the Chicago Tribune. "Today, the state tries to reconstruct history to make it appear like a long chain of victories. And they want these victories to be seen as justifying Stalin's repressions."

Add to the above the museum in Volgograd that celebrates Stalin as a national hero and the 40-part TV drama about that dictator-cum-Russian savior and you can clearly see, as analyst Taras Kuzio has noted, that "Stalin is back in vogue" in Russia.

What does it say about Russia, its leaders and its people that Stalin is considered a hero and Stalinism is viewed as an overall positive development?

Jan.  
4  
2006

### Turning the pages back...

Two years ago, on January 4, 2006, Ukraine and the Russian Federation reached a consensus for gas supplies for 2006 after Russia disrupted supplies to Ukraine and Europe because Ukraine refused a fourfold increase in price.

Under the agreement, Gazprom, the Russian state-owned monopoly, sold natural gas to RosUkrEnergo for \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters, which was the price Gazprom insisted Ukraine pay.

RosUkrEnergo combined the Russian gas with cheaper gas from Turkmenistan and then charged Ukraine \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters, the price Ukrainian officials sought. Previously, Ukraine paid \$50 per 1000 cubic meters.

When Gazprom cut the natural gas supply on January 1, 2006, Italy lost 25 percent of its natural gas supply, France lost 30 percent and Poland lost one-third. Europe receives one-quarter of its natural gas supply from Russia, of which 90 percent crosses Ukraine by pipeline.

European leaders blamed the crisis on President Vladimir Putin's political motivation for destabilizing the Ukrainian government ahead of March elections.

Moscow is "using political brute force on countries that are moving outside its sphere of influence, and this risks creating instability," said Walt Patterson, an energy expert at the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London, as quoted by the International Herald Tribune.

Gazprom Exports Director Alexander Medvedev accused Ukrainian authorities of siphoning off 100 million cubic meters of natural gas worth \$25 million from the pipeline in the first 24 hours of the cut off.

Alex Danilyuk, a natural gas advisor to the Ukrainian government, admitted to the Financial Times that Ukraine had no choice but to take some of the Russian gas because Turkmenistan had also cut supplies to Ukraine.

(Continued on page 10)

## CHRISTMAS PASTORAL

### The star of Bethlehem

*Pastoral letter of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Hierarchs Beyond the Borders of Ukraine issued on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ 2009.*

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

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

Christ is Born!

Once again, we experience, by the grace of God, the Great Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the midst of Winter, bringing to us a spring-like joy, the joy of the birth of the Infant, "a great joy which will be for all people ... for there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2: 10-11).

Today is born the One whose advent the righteous men and women of the Old Testament hoped for, the One proclaimed by the prophets of the nation of Israel, the Creator of the world, the Almighty and Sustaining God is born of the All-Holy Virgin Mary as a weak human child. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity becomes the Son of man, to make us children of God by grace, so that we may, with boldness and without condemnation call upon our Heavenly God, as Father.

The Son of God descends from heaven to raise all to heaven, to grant us life eternal, "For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross (Colossians 1: 19-20). By His birth the Son of God humbles Himself as the Apostle Paul says: "...being in the form of God... made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:6-7) with endless love for us.

Today heaven and earth rejoice, "the fullness of time has arrived" (Galatians 4:4), anticipated for centuries, promised by God – "So all this was done that it might be fulfilled, which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 'Behold, the Virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel,' which is translated 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:22). Angels and humans spiritually rejoice. Today we sing with the Holy Church: "Christ is born – glorify Him! Christ has come from heaven – welcome Him!" Christ is on earth – exult Him! (Irmos of the Nativity Matins Canon).

The world, which after the sinful fall of Adam and Eve, was veiled in sadness and darkness and because of sin lost its filial relationship with God, rejoices today for the Son of God, by His nativity, again renews to humanity the path of reconciliation with God, which leads to adoption by God and to Theosis (becoming one with God).

On the eve of this Holy Day, more than 2,000 years ago, the new Bethlehem star shone above the world to guide the wise men from the East to the newborn Christ the Savior in a Bethlehem cave. As the Evangelist Matthew records, among the first to arrive and welcome the newborn God-man were the wise men from the East, "who saw His star and came to worship Him" (Matthew 2:2).

St. John Chrysostom comments that

the star of Bethlehem was not an ordinary star, for it moved not as do other stars in the firmament, from East to west, but from the north of Jerusalem to the south to Bethlehem; the wise men from the east saw it throughout the day and the night, until it stood over the Bethlehem cave, "where the young child was" (Matthew 2:9).

St. John Chrysostom states that this was not an ordinary star, but an invisible power, which appeared in the form of a star. Other holy fathers note that it was the Archangel Gabriel, who assumed that form of a star and who, after the wise men worshipped and presented gifts to the newborn Christ the Savior, appeared to them in a dream in his true form, warning them not to return to Herod.

More than 2,000 years ago the star of Bethlehem guided the wise men to worship the newborn Savior and today that star guides all of us to our parish churches to worship Him, Who is "the Way, the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6). For more than 1,020 years this star of Bethlehem has enlightened the way traveled by our God-loving Ukrainian people in Ukraine and beyond her borders. This path of life in Christ, followed by our people was at times similar to the times of martyrdom experienced in the early ages of Christianity.

For over 70 years the satanic Communist empire sought to replace the star of Bethlehem with its red star, but the light of the star of Bethlehem never did and never will grow dim and will never cease to enlighten the way traveled by our God-loving nation for "God is with us," Who is born today in Bethlehem of Judea.

We wholeheartedly greet all of you – our spiritual children and our brothers and sisters in the faith and by blood lineage, who reside in Ukraine and in the diaspora, with the great feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and we pray that the blessings of the newborn Christ the Savior will remain with you at all times unto the ages of ages.

In His abundant love and with great joy,

+ **Constantine**

Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and in Diaspora

+ **John**

Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ **Antony**

Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

+ **Ioan**

Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

+ **Yurij**

Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ **Jeremiah**

Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church, South America Eparchy

+ **Iarion**

Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ **Andrij**

Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ **Daniel**

Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### "Time traveling" at the museum

Dear Editor:

I recently had the opportunity to experience two events that could only be described as involving "time shifts" or "time traveling."

The first event was at the "Songs of Truth: The Art of the Kobzari" concert at The Ukrainian Museum on Friday, November 14. This program was organized by the Center for Traditional Music and Dance and by the New York Bandura Ensemble as part of the Bandura Downtown series.

The concert featured Julian Kytasty performing songs that would have been performed by kobzari 90 or 100 years ago, or more – psalms, prayers, laments of the Kozak captives, moralistic songs, dance tunes. Accompanying him was a multimedia presentation of the translated songs with images of the kobzari that had performed them, and readings by George Drance.

The setting itself was quite unique. Mr. Kytasty, seated, a table and lamp close by, his instrument (a reproduction of a Nedbaylo bandura from 1740, made by Bill Vetzal), some papers on the table – it was as if we were not at the museum but at his own home, allowed to watch him playing for himself. The feeling was overwhelming. At times I closed my eyes and imagined what it would have been like a hundred years ago – maybe a hot summer day, dusty, noisy, as all marketplaces tend to be, and there, under a tree, a kobzar, singing, entertaining, preaching through his repertoire of songs. In that one evening we were treated to just such an event – an event that did take place so many years ago.

Incidentally, Mr. Kytasty has recently released a CD "Songs of Truth: The Art of the Kobzari" that includes some of the old and original kobzar songs that he performed that evening.

The second event was on December 7, also at The Ukrainian Museum, when the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia, Ukraine, arrived to perform their koliady at the "Koliada and Hutsul Music: Winter Songs from the Carpathian Mountains" program organized by Virlana Tkacz and the Yara Arts Group. Usually, koliady are sung at Rizdvo (Christmas); here they were just a little early.

The Koliadnyky were Ivan Zelenchuk – the "bereza" (leader), Petro Zelenchuk, Mykola Zelenchuk, Mykhailo Tafiychuk and Dmytro Tafiychuk. Appearing with the Kolidanyky was one-half of the women's vocal group Svitanya (from Philadelphia) consisting of Anne Ehrhart, Laura Howson, Mary Kalyna and Chrissy Steele, along with Mr. Kytasty (bandura) and Valeriy Zhmud (violin).

The Koliadnyky performed the full cycle of koliady that would be sung at one's home – from announcing themselves via two trembity (Carpathian mountain horns) and the rih (horn), then singing songs to the "hospodar" (master of the house), the young woman of the house, the young man, and even a "kruhliak," a round dance for the bees so that they may make lots and lots of honey in the coming year. These koliady hearken back at least several hundred years, if not back to pre-Christian days.

As the "residents" of the house visited by the Koliadnyky – Svitanya, along with Messrs. Kytasty and Zhmud – responded to the Koliadnyky, in turn, with their own songs and Christmas carols. Of special note should be Svitanya's performance of "Zamuci se Bozha majka," for which they accompanied themselves on lute, dumbek and tambourine, with Mr. Kytasty on flute and Mr. Zhmud on violin, adding a subtle

Middle Eastern touch to this song about the Holy Mother.

As an unexpected parting gift, the Koliadnyky ended by singing a special koliada to the "hospodynia," Maria Shust, the director of The Ukrainian Museum.

These were two wonderful events. Yes, they took place now, but they felt like they were happening in another time's forgotten place.

Ihor Slabicky  
Portsmouth, R.I.

### Russia's paranoia – 007-style

Dear Editor:

Recently, Russian reaction to Ukraine's embrace of Western values has many wondering if Russia is bordering on mass paranoia. The latest bizarre symptom to manifest itself is the row over a Ukrainian-born actress's role in the 007 James Bond movie "Quantum of Solace," which recently opened in London.

The Communist Party of St. Petersburg branded her a "traitor." Her crime: playing the role of a Latino who falls for the James Bond character in a fictional movie. The Communist Party is convinced that the 007 character is a CIA/M16 psychological secret weapon that is being used by Western media to defame Russia. The next psychotic manifestation of this paranoia may be the Russian Communist Party's banning of the Beatles song "Back from the USSR." They may be offended by the phrase "Those Ukraine girls really knock me out, they leave the West behind," considering it as proof that Ukraine's effort to join the European Union is only at the instigation of British agents.

As amusing as this 007 paranoia is, unfortunately, it also testifies to a troublesome deep-seated resentment toward Ukraine that many in the Russian political community harbor. Examples of this paranoia are legion.

Last year, Vladimir Putin told President George W. Bush that "Ukraine really isn't a country." In October 2008 at the United Nations, United States and British support for the proposed Ukrainian resolution on the "Holodomor," the 1932-1933 genocidal Famine in Ukraine, was vehemently condemned by Russia's ambassador as anti-Russian behavior.

Regrettably, one can with reasonable certainty anticipate that Russia's aggressive actions toward Ukraine will continue – if not accelerate – into the future. It is self evident that Ukraine's independence is vital to world security and is in the national interest of Europe and the United States. Toward this end, Ukraine must choose with care – so it can successfully defend itself – those confrontational issues that will certainly stir Russia's paranoia.

Likewise, it is the West's obligation, whenever possible, to help Ukraine ward off the more serious paranoid attacks from Russia that can destabilize the Ukrainian state and the European continent as a whole.

Myroslaw Smorodsky  
Mahwah, N.J.

### We welcome your opinion

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

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### Mila and Mervusya

Mila (Lyudmila) is the daughter of Boris Lvovich Bibikov, a loyal Jewish Ukrainian Bolshevik. He was erased in 1937.

Mervusya is Mervyn Matthews, born into a poor, working-class Welsh family who decided to learn Russian because, as he later told his son, it was the "most exotic possible thing I could think of". He attended Manchester University, perfected his Russian skills (he read War and Peace in the original) and ended up a researcher in the British Embassy in Moscow. "To the embassy cold warriors with whom he worked," his son writes, "Moscow was the heart of all the darkness in the world." This portrayal did not stop Mervyn, however. He happily attended lavish, clandestine dinners hosted by Vadim, an NKVD agent, eager to recruit the Welshman for the Bolshevik cause. Mervyn never joined.

Realizing that his tenure at the British Embassy was about to end, Mervyn used Vadim to finagle his acceptance as an exchange student at Moscow University. While a student, Mervyn met and fell in love with Mila Bobikov. The story of their tumultuous love affair is recounted by their son Owen in his captivating book, *Stalin's Children: Three Generations of Love, War and Survival*.

Like his parents, Owen is fluent in Russian. A journalist, he accepted a position at the Moscow Times in 1995 and later became the Moscow bureau chief for Newsweek. "I came to Moscow to get away from my parents," writes Owen. "Instead I found them there... This is a story about Russia and my family, about a place which made us and freed us and inspired us and very nearly broke us. And it's ultimately a story about escape, about how we all escaped from Russia – even my father, a Welshman, who has no Russian blood, even me who grew up in England." Nevertheless, we "still carry something of Russia inside ourselves, infecting our blood like a fever." Owen's memoir is a fascinating, beautifully written odyssey through Russia and his family history.

The narrative begins in the former KGB headquarters of the ancient city of Chernihiv in north central Ukraine. Owen is reading his grandfather's dossier which contains his confession – "enemy of the people" – and the date of his summary execution. Prior to his death, Boris Bibikov had been "a noted political agitator, a rising star within the Party, a holder of the Order of Lenin... serving his apprenticeship in a provincial administration as a prelude to a powerful post in Kiev or Moscow." He had earned his party stripes by terrifying thousands of displaced, illiterate Ukrainian peasant men and women into constructing KhtZ, a giant tractor factory in Kharkiv, "quite literally from the mud on which it stood."

While the Bobrikov family was living the privileged life reserved for Soviet nomenklatura, the Holodomor was raging all around them. "Despite the horrors which were being played out in the countryside", Owen writes, Comrade Bibikov and others building the great tractor factory pressed on, completing construction in just fifteen months.

Owen describes the Holodomor in great detail, contrasting the lies of Walter Duranty with the candor of Malcolm Muggeridge, Arthur Koestler, Victor

Kravchenko, and others. In doing so, however, he includes Lviv as one of the cities which experienced the Holodomor. An unfortunate error.

"Bibikov must have seen the hunger too," concludes his grandson, "the pinched faces, the bloated bellies and empty eyes. He traveled often on Party and factory business in his black Packard or in first class train carriages with guards in the corridors. He must have known that special trucks... patrolled the cities of the Ukraine at night to collect the corpses of peasants who had crawled there from the villages. Many must have made it to the barbed-wire perimeter of the KhtZ..."

Owen believes his grandfather's enthusiasm for Sergei Kirov – a popular leader and a threat to Stalin – at the 1934 All-Union Party Congress proved to be his undoing. Comrade Bobikov's arrest in 1937 marked the end of the good life for Mila, and her older sister Lenina.

Mervyn's six-year-long, carefully planned, often frustrated, ultimately successful struggle to marry Mila and to bring her to the United Kingdom is faithfully chronicled by the son in fascinating detail. Their correspondence and their emotional ups and downs battling Soviet bureaucratic intransigence is especially poignant. "For years Mervyn and Mila had been superhuman creatures to each other, bounding over mountains and valleys, beating on the doors of heaven, confronting the juggernaut of history," writes Owen. "When they finally came together as real, living people, they found themselves having to invent something neither of them had ever known – a happy family." It was difficult but the marriage survived, despite months of indecision, loneliness, and homesickness on Mila's part. "Nostalgia for a lost homeland is a particularly Russian affliction," reflects Owen.

Especially intriguing are Owen's recollections of Russia during the decadent Yeltsin years. "Moscow's rich young foreigners were the conquistadors of capitalism", he writes, "living in vast apartments once occupied by Stalin's ministers, throwing epic parties in what had been the politburo's most luxurious dachas, scooting off for weekends in Ibiza, taking their pick of the conquered land's womenfolk and generally reaping the fruits of a hundred billion dollars' worth of Cold War NATO military spending which allowed them to be there. By day they would trade stocks and buy companies...making fortunes selling Tampax, Marlboros and deodorant. By night they cruised around Moscow in polished black SUV's, guzzling cocaine and accumulating an entourage of astonishingly beautiful girlfriends." One of Owen's acquaintances became a millionaire, cozying up to the Russian Orthodox Church and its monopoly of the sale of duty-free, imported alcohol and cigarettes.

While millions of Stalin's children ended their lives in horrible torment, Mila's and Mervusya's love story had a happy ending. Owen's odyssey also ended well. He married the beautiful Xenia Kravchenko. Luckyfella.

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



## Monument...

(Continued from page 1)

Vasyl Vasylenko.

The Shevchenko National Opera in Kyiv hosted a December 22 ceremony, featuring addresses by Institute of National Memory Chair Ihor Yukhnovskyy and Ukrainian Insurgent Army expert and Security Service of Ukraine advisor Volodymyr Viatrovykh. A letter from President Viktor Yushchenko was read.

The National Symphony Orchestra performed music to accompany a photograph slide show compiled by Andrii Saniv.

The first full-length documentary on Bandera's life debuted on the national state-owned television network on December 28, directed by Taras Tkachenko and sponsored by Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc National Deputy Viktor Shvets,

Meanwhile, Lutsk government officials, Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) veterans and members of civic and youth organizations, such as Plast, honored Bandera at the Prosvita Ukrainian Home (Narodnyi Dim) on December 30.

Politicians are already expressing their willingness to support 2009 commemoration efforts. On December 25, the Verkhovna Rada mustered 236 votes to approve a list of government-recognized historical dates to commemorate next year, which included the 100-year anniversary of Bandera's birth.

Ukrainian patriots expect President Yushchenko will declare 2009 the "Year of Bandera" through a president decree establishing national events and programs to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of Bandera's birth, including educational and information campaigns.

Meantime, the Bandera National Renaissance Center in Kyiv, directed by Taras Rondzisty, announced it will lead its own yearlong educational campaign about Bandera, distributing compact discs and

pamphlets to cultural and educational institutions, with support from the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (Revolutionary), led by Andrii Haidamakha of Belgium.

"We are trying to get away from an earlier practice – commemorate tomorrow, but forget after a week," Mr. Rondzisty said.

The Krushelnytska State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre in Lviv will host its commemoration on January 9.

In late January, the Banderite and Melnykite wings of OUN will join to commemorate the 80-year anniversary of OUN's inception.

Officials in Lutsk said they plan to erect a statue in 2009, which is not always a safe proposition. The Lviv government has posted a 24-hour guard of its Bandera statue, located near the city's central train station, after threats made by the Ukrainophobic Eurasian Youth Movement to target it.

"The best monument to Bandera, the generation that he symbolized, would be a strong, flourishing Ukraine that is a European country, with the same standards in quality of life," Mr. Bandera said at the Ternopil unveiling.

Next year will also mark the 50-year anniversary of Bandera's assassination in Munich on October 17, 2009. A Divine Liturgy and commemoration ceremony is planned in Munich for that date, Mr. Rondzisty said.

This year's ceremonies are marred by the passing of Oksana Bandera, the last surviving sibling of the Ukrainian legend, who died the day after she celebrated her 91st birthday on December 22.

After spending 48 years in Siberia, Ms. Bandera spent her twilight years in Stryi. Her last wish was to be buried in her native village of Stryi Uhryniv.

The oldest surviving Bandera child is Lesia, who resides in Canada. There are five Bandera grandchildren, the oldest being Stephen, an editor with the Kyiv Post.

## Stepan Bandera Timeline

**January 1, 1908** – Stepan Bandera is born in the village of Stryi Uhryniv in the Kalush District of the Austrian Hungarian Empire, 10 kilometers from Kalush. His parents are Andrii Bandera, a priest in the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and Myroslava Glodzinska, the daughter of a Ukrainian Catholic priest.

**May 1919** – with the onset of Polish soldiers, the Bandera family moves east to the village of Yaholnytsia near Chortkiv in the Ternopil Oblast.

**October 1919** – Bandera begins his studies at the state gymnasium in Stryi.

**1922** – At age 14, Bandera joins Plast.

**1927** – Bandera successfully passes his matura exam and joins the Chervona Kalyna Detachment (Zahin) kurin.

**1928** – Bandera joins the Ukrainian Military Organization (UVO)

**September 1928** – Bandera moves to Lviv and begins studies at the Agricultural Department of the Higher Polytechnical School.

**Early 1929** – Bandera joins the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists

**1931** – Bandera joins the leadership of the propaganda review division of the OUN Regional Executive

**1932** – Bandera is appointed OUN regional leader and UVO regional commander in western Ukraine

**1932** – At 24 years old, Bandera is arrested and imprisoned for three months for his role in the assassination of the Polish Lviv Police Commissioner Emilian Czechowski.

**June 1934 to the end of 1935** – Bandera is arrested and imprisoned by the Polish police for organizing OUN and UVO events.

**Early 1936** – Along with 11 other suspects, Bandera is prosecuted in the Warsaw District court with the crime of his OUN membership and organizing the assassination of Polish Internal Affairs Minister Bronislaw Pieracki, notorious for his persecution of Ukrainians. He is given the death penalty, which is later reduced to a life sentence.

**Summer 1936** – Bandera is prosecuted for his OUN-UVO activities as the regional OUN leader. He receives his second life sentence.

**September 13, 1939** – While imprisoned in Brest (present-day Belarus), Bandera is freed by fellow Ukrainian prisoners amidst heavy German air-bombing of the city. By this time, Bandera spent five years in Poland's harshest prisons, most of it in strict isolation. He staged three hunger strikes, for 9, 13 and 16 days.

**October 1939** – After reaching Lviv from Brest through the OUN network, Bandera leaves for Krakow, a hub of Ukrainian activity, with his brother Vasyl, also freed from prison.

**January 1940** – Bandera meets with the OUN leadership in Rome, including Ukrainian Nationalists Command (Provid) Head Colonel Andrii Melnyk, who rejects Bandera's proposals, including planning the anti-Bolshevik struggle independent of the Nazi Germans.

**February 1940** – Bandera forms the OUN Revolutionary Command (Provid) under his leadership.

**February 1941** – The Revolutionary Command (Provid) calls OUN's Second Great Conference, which selects Bandera as its leader.

**June 30, 1941** – Bandera and the Command (Provid), including Yaroslav Stetsko, declare Ukrainian independence in Lviv, naming Stetsko prime minister. In five days, the Nazis arrest Bandera.

**July 1941 - September 1944** – Bandera is imprisoned in Berlin and in 1943, transferred to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Oranienburg. He is freed by the Germans, who hope he will cooperate with them in forming a front with the Ukrainians against the Bolsheviks. He flees in early January 1945.

**February 1945** – The OUN Command's Regional Wider Council (Krayova Shyrsha Narada) selects Bandera, Stetsko and Roman Shukhevych to the Command Bureau.

**1947** – The OUN Foreign Part (Zakordona Chastyna) conference selects Bandera as the OUN Command Chair.

**December 1950** – Bandera resigns his post as OUN Foreign Part Command Chair in reaction to accusations of dictatorial ambitions, but remains as OUN Command Chair.

**May 1953** – The OUN Foreign Part Fourth Conference re-elects Bandera as OUN Foreign Part Command Chair.

**October 15, 1959** – Bandera dies in Munich from a poison ampoule shot at his face by KGB agent Bohdan Stashynskyi.

**October 19, 1962** – the German courts sentence Stashynskyi to eight years imprisonment, commuted to four years for his cooperation with American authorities.




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## Holodomor Awareness Week marked in Winnipeg

by Dr. Roman Yereniuk

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – Winnipeg marked Holodomor Awareness Week on November 16-22, 2008, with some 1,000 people attending the official opening ceremonies held at the Manitoba Legislative Building on Sunday, November 16.

The master of ceremonies for the official opening event was a member of the Manitoba Legislature, Len Derkach. Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of Canada and the Rev. Gene Maximiuk of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada led the participants in special Holodomor prayers.

The Alexander Koshetz Choir, First Mennonite Church Choir, Hoosli Male Choir and students from the Ukrainian Bilingual Program performed several songs appropriate for the commemoration of the Holodomor.

Greetings on this occasion were extended by Manitoba's Deputy Premier Roseanne Wowchuk, who read the proclamation signed by the Premier Gary Doer. She was followed by Hugh McFadyen, leader of the Conservative Opposition; Dr. Jon Gerrard, leader of the Liberal Party; Member of Parliament Vic Toews, president of the Treasury Board; Member of Parliament James Bezan; and Councillor Gord Steeves, acting deputy mayor of Winnipeg. Leo Ledohowski, CEO and President of Canad Inns, who sponsored the major video of the Winnipeg survivors and also was a funder of the event, also brought greetings to the crowd.

Some 25 survivors attended the event and were presented certificates and gifts.

Eric Robinson, minister of culture of the province of Manitoba, was presented a Holodomor painting by local artist Orysia Senitowich Gorski. The province agreed to have the painting hung in a prominent location in the Legislative Building.

A world-class exhibit commemorating the Holodomor of 1932-1933 was displayed in the Rotunda of the Manitoba Legislative Building for the entire week of the commemorations.

A two-day public viewing of Holodomor films was held at the Theater of Maples Collegiate in Winnipeg. Films

shown included "Harvest of Despair: The 1932-1933 Famine in Ukraine" (by Slavko Novytsky and Yuri Luhovy of Toronto); "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933" by Marta Tomkiw and Bobby Leigh of Los Angeles; "Famine '33" by Oles Yanchuk of Ukraine; and "Holodomor – Let Their Memory Be Eternal" by Mr. Ledohowski of Winnipeg.

On November 21-22, 2008, a hunger fast began at 8 p.m. Friday and lasted until 2 p.m. Saturday for youths age 14 and older at the University of Winnipeg. Approximately 50 students participated in the 18-hour fast.

Guest speakers at the evening event were Antin Stowell, winner of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association UCCLA Foundation Holodomor essay competition on the topic of the Holodomor, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk of Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario; representatives of the two Ukrainian Churches; the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, and Mrs. Krushliak, a Holodomor survivor.

On Saturday, November 22, the closing events of the commemorative week were held at the Winnipeg City Hall Holodomor monument. Metropolitan Huculak of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and Metropolitan John of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and some 11 priests officiated at the memorial service.

After the service the 500 attendees went inside City Hall for the continuation of the commemoration. Councillor Harry Lazarenko brought greetings on behalf of the mayor Sam Katz. Keynote speakers were Dr. Luciuk and the Rev. Dr. Gudziak. Students from two Winnipeg School of Ukrainian students recited poems on the theme of the Holodomor.

The week of commemoration of the Holodomor received great coverage on television and front page and editorial stories in the Winnipeg Free Press.

The organizing committee noticed many new faces in the crowds for the commemoration and the events were attended by many people living outside Winnipeg.

## Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 1)

Presidential Secretariat economist Oleksander Shlapak projected the budget for social payments would dry up as early as February, given Ms. Tymoshenko's unrealistic promises to continue compensating Ukrainians billions more for their bank deposits lost in the Soviet Union's collapse.

"It's yet another confirmation of how populism today disrupts the system of state finances and how the government loses its authority when it makes not contemplated decisions of a similar kind," he said.

The budget aims to service \$14 billion in foreign debt and borrow \$10 billion domestically, both of which are unrealistic, Mr. Shlapak said.

Meanwhile, the three percent deficit will have to be financed from the Stabilization Fund, which was supposed to help the government cope with the ongoing financial crisis, the president said.

The Party of the Regions of Ukraine had its fair share of criticism for the budget, claiming it reduced the minimal cost of living standard, minimum pensions, benefits and other social payments, without offering specific figures in its press statement posted on its website.

"This kind of budget doesn't resolve even a single problem caused by the crisis, instead deepening existing ones and giving rise to new ones," the December 23 statement said.

For 2009, the budget froze the minimal cost of living standard at \$96 a month, reported Ekonomichna Pravda, which is supposed to be the minimum monthly income a Ukrainian can survive on.

Yet again, a parliamentary vote aroused controversy.

After the vote, Tymoshenko Bloc rogue deputy Ihor Rybakov, who earlier this year submitted his resignation from the Democratic Forces Coalition, informed the press that someone in Parliament voted on his behalf without his permission.

Claiming that he had his voting card with him, Mr. Rybakov alleged someone must have produced a duplicate voting card to produce the necessary vote to pass the budget.

When it did pass, Tymoshenko Bloc deputies were ecstatic, embracing each other in the session hall.

The cause for their enthusiasm was probably best summarized by National Deputy Oleh Zarubynskyi, who noted on the day of the vote that "70 people are already on tropical islands."

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## Parma designates a portion of the city as "Ukrainian Village"

PARMA, Ohio – The Parma City Council in October 2008 passed a resolution officially renaming a portion of State Road as Ukrainian Village. The two-mile corridor between Tuxedo Avenue and Grantwood Drive has long been heavily populated with Ukrainian residents, churches, stores and businesses.

"This is just the beginning of a true renaissance for that portion of Parma," said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero, according to a news release issued on October 24, 2008. "We will soon be seeing Ukrainian banners lining the streets and storefront redevelopment, many projects being undertaken as an investment by several members of the Ukrainian community."

City officials say the effort to create the "commerce-friendly" neighborhood is the most appropriate way to celebrate the rich culture and heritage of local Ukrainians, Parma's largest new immigrant demographic. Nearly 10 percent of Parma's population is foreign-born, and the largest number represented, nearly 1,500, are from Ukraine.

"These are exciting times for the Ukrainian community in Parma," said Andy Futey, honorary Ukrainian consul for Ohio. "The Ukrainians are being recognized for their many contributions to the area. They are also giving back to Parma while becoming more active in the community."

The city is investing approximately \$250,000 in federal grants over the next four years to help create the Ukrainian Village. Parma city officials have been working closely with the recently created Ukrainian Village Advisory Committee.

Mr. Futey said he believes the Ukrainian Village area will continue to grow with new residents from Cleveland's Tremont Ukrainian neighborhood, as well as new citizens from Ukraine.

"Growth and prosperity are a given," said Mr. Futey. "We're so pleased Mayor DePiero and the city of Parma have taken this great idea from the talking stages to reality. I have no doubt the Ukrainian Village will benefit the entire region."



Signs that will be posted in sections of Parma, Ohio, designated as "Ukrainian Village."



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## Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Gazprom was widely suspected of cutting off the Turkmen gas as well in order to put additional pressure on Ukraine.

European leaders began to question Russia's reliability as an energy partner, prompting Gazprom officials to return to the negotiating table and restore much of the natural gas it had cut off.

As part of the agreement between Naftohaz, Ukraine's state-owned natural gas counterpart, and Gazprom, the Russian counterpart agreed to a 47 percent increase in the fee it pays for transporting gas through Ukrainian-owned pipelines and to stop the system of bartering transit fees for natural gas.

Evidence of Moscow's political motivations were evident when Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn traveled to Moscow during the crisis, where he insisted the Yushchenko government apologize for its role in the crisis, even after Western governments almost unanimously criticized the Kremlin.

Source: "Intricate deal ends gas crisis between Russia and Ukraine," by Zenon Zawada, January 8, 2006.

## An open invitation to local community activists

Would you like fellow Ukrainians to know about events in your community? Would you like to become one of The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondents? Then what are you waiting for?

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions from local community activists. You may reach The Weekly by phone, (973) 292-9800; fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com; or mail, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.



# Conference examines Ukrainian Catholic Church in 21st century

by Iryna Ivankovych-Bloshchynska

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – With the joint efforts of St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics and the Ukrainian Patriarchal Society in the U.S.A., a conference: “The Ukrainian Catholic Church in 21st Century America” was held on November 8, 2008, here at the Basilian Spirituality Center of the Order of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great.

With a turnout of over 90 participants, the conference gathered notable speakers and scholars in the area of theology, religious studies and history of the Church, sociology and politics. Hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church: Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, eparch of Stamford, Conn., and Bishop Basil Losten, eparchemeritus of Stamford, clergy of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great and laity spent a day in reflecting on “our past in order to see our future.”

After the opening prayer by Bisop Paul Chomnycky, words of welcome were delivered by Sister Laura Palka, provincial superior of the Basilian Sisters; Roma Hayda, president of the Ukrainian Patriarchal Society in the U.S.A., and Leonid Rudnytsky, president of St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S.A.

Ambassador Thomas Patrick Melady, opened the first session of the conference. In his keynote address he shared his memories of the revival of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in late 1980s, stressing the crucial role of the Ukrainian diaspora both in the United States and in Italy in

leading Ukraine toward its independence.

The second session, chaired by Dr. Albert Kipa, was opened with the Rev. Ivan Kaszczak's retrospective analysis of “The First 40 Years in America: A Paradigm for the Future.” According to the speaker, the key mission of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, “To preach to all nations,” remains strong 100 years after its official establishment in the U.S. Being proud of our beautiful, Kyivan/Ukrainian tradition and roots, we are “a world Church whose mission is not confined to any particular territory,” said the Rev. Kaszczak.

Indeed, the contemporary world is in dire need of preaching and evangelization. Turning to agnosticism and atheism, both the U.S. and Europe have become dangerously secular. Therefore, “Educating the Laity for a Post-Western Christianity” according to Andrew Sorokowski, has to take a leading role in preparing new generations for the challenges of being a Christian in the 21st century.

The third speaker, Bishop Chomnycky, spoke about the “Current Reforms of the Basilian Order,” having presented a comprehensive comparison of two models of the order: monastic (Rutsky and Kuntsevych model of 1617) and missionary (Dobromyl reform of 1882). Alexander Lushnycky served as discussant of the session.

The afternoon session chaired by Nicholas Rudnytsky raised numerous issues of both sociological and cultural aspects of religious upbringing. One of them, according to the Rev. Mark Morozowycz, (Eparchy of Parma), is a perception of the “Tradition as Innovation



**Organizers and speakers of the conference (from left): Albert Kipa, Andrew Sorokowski, the Rev. Mark Morozowycz, Roma Hayda, Alexander Lushnycky, Mykola Yaremko, Sister Ann Laszok, Oksana Yaremko, Leonid Rudnytsky, Thomas Patrick Melady, Nicholas Rudnytsky, Bishop Paul Chomnycky and the Rev. Ivan Kaszczak.**

– Recent Developments in the Ukrainian Catholic Church in United States.” As a Church, we have to be aware of our history, of the richness of our Byzantine rite, and it is our duty to preserve the Ukrainian Catholic identity in its pure Eastern form by returning to our pristine tradition, he said. If we are successful in maintaining our heritage, we are called to pass it on to future “Generations of Faith.”

As Sister Ann Laszok, OSBM (Eparchy of Parma), explained in her presentation “Ukrainian Catholic Family Life in a Secular World,” her “Generations of Faith” program has been well received in various parishes across all eparchies of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S. and in some Ukrainian parishes in Canada.

Two participants of “The Generations of Faith,” Mykola and Oksana Yaremko of Livingston, N.J. shared their personal experience of being involved in the program which unites people of all ages around the life in Christ in the traditions of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

In his presentation “Priests and Faithful from Ukraine: Challenges of Integration,” the Rev. Andriy Rabyi, vice-chancellor of

the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, shared his personal experience of the much painful integration process. Each generation of immigrants faces similar circumstances of ethnic, social, psychological and linguistic problems before they can successfully integrate in the life of their new society.

In the course of the discussion led by Mrs. Hayda representatives of both the third and fourth waves of immigration expressed the strong need for mutual dialogue which could bring realistic solutions to the hardship of immigration.

St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics and the Ukrainian Patriarchal Society in the U.S. extended gratitude to the most active organizers of the conference: Nicholas Rudnytsky and Ulana Prociuk, and to its generous supporters: Self-Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union in Philadelphia, Manor College and the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine. Mr. Rudnytsky also thanked Taras Lewyckyj for his magnificent art work in advertising the conference and the Sisters of St. Basil the Great for their hospitality.

## Columbia University...

(Continued from page 5)

The New York Times.

But Mr. Bukovsky cautioned that the film “is about not remembering the facts, but also understanding the causes and effects of the tragedy and evoking an emotional response in the audience.”

He consciously avoids showing the horrors of the Famine – the carcasses of the starving, the stories of cannibalism, the counting of the dead. Instead, in interviews with survivors, he presents, in vivid close-ups, the faces of “the living” – the ancient women with kind or smiling eyes, the leath-

ery, lined faces of the old men, often in powerful silent scenes. “It is a story told in a soft, quiet voice,” Mr. Bukovsky said.

The world premiere of “The Living” took place in Kyiv on November 21, at two locations – the Ukrainyski Dim (Ukraine Home) for specially invited guests, and at the Building of Film, for the general public. There are plans to show the film at the Berlin Film Festival in February as well as other film festivals, which means that may be found won't be commercially available for some time.

More information, including a trailer of the film, may be found on the website <http://theliving.org.ua>.

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# Ukrainian wedding traditions is theme of UNWLA Day

by Bozhena Olshaniwsky

WHIPPANY, N.J. – “Ukrainian Wedding Traditions” was the theme of the community gathering sponsored by the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America (UNWLA) New Jersey Regional Council here at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) on Sunday, November 16, 2008.

The program consisted of a display of items related to wedding traditions in Ukraine, such as icons, embroidered ritual cloths, traditional wedding breads (singular: “korovai”; plural: “korovayi”), decorative bridal headdresses, embroidered wedding gowns, embroidered men’s shirts and other items. The wedding table was beautifully displayed with traditional wedding dishes.

The auditorium was filled to capacity and a buffet was offered. A musical background was provided by Olha Stashchysyn on bandura and Suzanna Hywel on the flute.

The New Jersey State Council comprises eight branches of the UNWLA and 200 members. The purpose of such annual events is to inform the community about the work of the UNWLA and to encourage and recruit new members.

Several distinguished guests were present at this event: Marianna Zajac, national president of the UNWLA; Irena Stecki, member of the executive board; and Maria Cade, president of the UNWLA’s Central New York Regional Council.

The program was opened by Olha Lukiw, president of the New Jersey Regional Council. She greeted all present, introduced the main dignitaries and explained the theme and purpose of the event. She explained that the goals of the UNWLA are to cultivate and preserve Ukrainian history, culture and traditions for future generations. She also appealed to the women of the Whippany area to re-establish the local branch of the UNWLA which once was very active.

Ksenia Rakowsky, mistress of ceremonies, introduced the special speakers.

The first main speaker was the Rev. Roman Mirchuk, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, N.J. He compared the old traditions of the wedding and marriage to the modern ones, explaining that modernism often ignores religious sacraments and philosophy, that many couples live without the benefit of a church marriage, which reflects the deterioration of morals. He noted that old traditions in Ukraine were destroyed under communism and atheism, which brought about moral bankruptcy.

Slava Stojko then spoke on the subject of icons. The displayed icons in the hall were the works of Halyna Tytla and Lidia Piasecky. Mrs. Stojko gave a short history of icons starting from the Byzantine Greeks to modern times, including the use of icons in Ukraine.

In the villages, icons used to be displayed on the prominent wall of the main room in the house – the “pokuttia,” Mrs. Stojko related. They were decorated with dry herbs and flowers, and were given as gifts at weddings, christenings and family events.

In the Pecherska Lavra and Pochayiv Lavra monasteries in Ukraine there were schools of icon painting. The technique is very specific: the holy picture was portrayed on a board that required special preparation; the tempera (paint) was prepared with egg yolks; the colors were red for the Holy Mother, dark blue for Jesus Christ, light blue for the sky, gold for God the Father, etc. After painting, the icon was coated with a special solution for preservation, Mrs. Stojko explained.

Natalia Hryniuk, who spoke about the “korovai,” displayed some of her creations and explained the work that goes into making of this traditional wedding bread. The korovai symbolizes the unity of the family



The presentation of Ukrainian-style wedding apparel at UNWLA Day in Whippany, N.J.

and fertility. The number of the birds on the korovai symbolizes the number of children in the family. The korovai is decorated with flowers, ribbons, birds sculpted out of baked dough and branches of decorative plants. Korovai is a very old custom in Ukraine.

Additional korovayi on display were made by Nina Kovbasniuk, Gregory Hywel, Kateryna Wolowodiuk and Ms. Lukiw. Ms. Lukiw’s korovai was sliced and served on a tray for all to taste.

The role of the embroidered ritual cloths, or “rushnyky,” in the wedding ceremony was explained next. When a girl accepted a proposal from a young man, she tied the “starosty” (matchmakers) with the rushnyky. During the wedding in church the bridal couple stood on the rushnyk with their arms tied together with another ritual cloth.

The prospective bride personally went from house to house inviting guests to her wedding. The wedding lasted several days, and the celebration often continued a few more days. During the wedding, the bride’s braid was cut off and her head was covered with a special cap, called the “ochipok.” Each part of the wedding had its specific songs sung by different participants of the wedding. The wedding was an occasion for participation by the entire community.

Ukrainian wedding gowns and men’s shirts were then modeled by several young ladies and young men. The gowns displayed were embroidered by mothers or grandmothers of the brides. Sometimes it took many months to create a hand-embroidered gown that was a veritable work of art. The grooms’ shirts were embroidered to match the gown in both color and design. The gowns displayed were embroidered with Moline threads of white-on-white, blue, orange and burgundy. There were also several bridesmaids’ gowns.

At the end of the fashion show of gowns, a Hutsul wedding costume from the Carpathian region of Ukraine was displayed. The headdress of the Hutsul costume was decorated with flowers, leaves of periwinkle, ribbons, seeds of garlic, honey and gold leaf, symbolizing love, health and protection from disease. The headdress is called “ohlon.”

“Den Soyuzianky,” or UNWLA Day, was very successful and the participants and guests went home feeling they’d had an enjoyable and educational afternoon.



Items used in Ukrainian wedding traditions, including a “korovai” in the center.



The mistress of ceremonies, Ksenia Rakowsky.



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# NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

## Rada dismisses SPF chair

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 26, 2008, voted to dismiss Valentyna Semeniuk-Samsonenko from her position as chair of Ukraine's State Property Fund. The decision was backed by the parliamentary factions of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense, the Communist Party and the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc. Ms. Semeniuk-Samsonenko was not present at the Parliament's session. (Ukrinform)

## Pinchuk a top Clinton donor

NEW YORK – The New York Times, in a report on the major donors to the William J. Clinton Foundation, noted that among them is oligarch Victor Pinchuk of Ukraine, who contributed between \$1 million and \$5 million. Other international donors to the Clinton Foundation were from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, India and the United Kingdom. The newspaper wrote that Mr. Pinchuk is "a Ukrainian billionaire who made his money during the controversial privatization process of Ukraine's steel industry." The Times also noted that Mr. Pinchuk "agreed to underwrite a new Clinton initiative to encourage philanthropy in developing economies in Asia, the Middle East and Africa." That project, however, has been suspended, the newspaper noted, in keeping with an agreement between President-elect Barack Obama and the

Clinton Foundation, that was made after Mr. Obama nominated Hillary Clinton to be his secretary of state. (The New York Times)

## Serial killer is sentenced

DNIPROPETROVSK – A serial killer in the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnipropetrovsk has been sentenced to life in prison, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. Serhii Tkach was arrested in 2005. He had been found guilty of almost 80 rapes and murders. His victims were girls and young women. Mr. Tkach, who used to be a professional criminal investigator, has been able to conceal his crimes skillfully for more than 20 years. Nine people had been erroneously convicted for some of the rapes and murders committed by Mr. Tkach. (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty)

## NBU coin honors Symonenko

KYIV – The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) on December 25, 2008, put into circulation a commemorative coin with a face value of 2 hrv that is dedicated to outstanding poet of the 1960s, Vasyl Symonenko. The 31-milimeter-diameter coin with a ribbed edge weighs 12.8 grams, is made of nickel silver and is of special uncirculated quality. The number of such coins minted is 35,000. In 2008 the NBU planned to put into circulation 40 kinds of commemorative and jubilee coins with 32 names, while in 2007 the bank produced 39 kinds of coins with 31 names. Since 1995, the bank has put into circulation over 351 kinds of commemorative and jubilee coins with 282 names, including over 30 gold coins. (Ukrinform)

# Ukraine beefs up...

(Continued from page 2)

November 26).

Following the collapse of the USSR, Crimea quickly came under Ukrainian central control, the exception being the Black Sea Fleet, which remained contested until the May 1997 agreement with Russia. The Southern Operational Command (SOC), headquartered in Odesa, is based on the former Soviet Southern Military District, excluding Moldova.

Ukraine has large armed forces structures in Crimea, which falls under the SOC, as the region was heavily militarized in the USSR. The 6th Army Corps is central to the SOC, which includes one airborne, one airmobile, one armored, one artillery and three mechanized brigades (www.sentinel.janes.com).

In addition, Ukraine has other security forces in Crimea: naval (seamen, marines and special forces), border troops, and Internal Affairs Ministry Special Forces. The Crimea Tactical Group in Belbek is based around the 204th Fighter Aviation Brigade operating MiG-29s for air defense and attack.

Elite National Guard units were stationed in Crimea from 1991 to 1999. After President Leonid Kuchma abolished the guard and transferred these units to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) in 2000 they were the best trained MVS Special Forces.

During the Orange Revolution, at a time when the majority of the MIA had defected to the Yushchenko side, the Crimean MIA Special Forces remained loyal to the end to Mr. Kuchma. Dispatched to Kyiv to guard the presidential administration, Crimean MIA Special Forces, such as BARS, were mistakenly reported as "Russian spetsnaz."

Russia's reaction to Ukraine's proposed re-deployment was entirely negative, with Russia describing it as a "provocation." Nikolai Tulayev, a member of the State Duma's Committee on Defense and Security, ridiculed the idea that Ukraine's armed forces would become a threat to Russia. "From the military point of view, the Ukrainian armed forces do not constitute a

threat to anybody," Mr. Tulayev scoffed (UNIAN, November 29).

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin rejected the idea of a Russian threat to Ukraine's territorial integrity (Germany's ARD television channel, August 30). Following Russia's invasion of Georgia, no Ukrainian president or government could ignore continued provocations in Crimea by Russian nationalists, the distribution of Russian passports to Ukrainian citizens, and threats not to remove the Black Sea Fleet in 2017. Two Russian Crimean leaders were arrested in November 2008 and charged with threatening Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Mr. Putin told the April summit of NATO that Ukraine was an artificial state that could disintegrate if the country joined NATO. These views are commonplace across Russia's political spectrum, from the Communists, through Unified Russia's "pragmatists," to the pro-Putin nationalist camp. Russia's NATO representative Dimitri Rogozin warned the BBC on December 1 that Ukraine would disintegrate if it joined NATO.

Regime loyalist and nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the deputy chairman of the State Duma and leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, said that two-thirds of Ukraine was in reality "Russian territory." If Ukraine wanted to remain independent, Mr. Zhirinovskiy advised, it could only remain so in a third of the territory that it currently occupied, with the other two-thirds reverting to Russia (www.pravda.com.ua, December 1). These views are echoed by Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, a senior member of Unified Russia, who raised territorial demands on Sevastopol during his visit to the Crimean peninsula in May.

Ukraine's deployment of additional units to Crimea and its land border with Russia reflects Ukraine's perceived security threats following Russia's invasion of Georgia. In Ukraine's eyes the threat is real, albeit unrecognized by Brussels.

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.



## Pittsburgh...

(Continued from page 1)

Center and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Shadyside Hospital was arranged by Dr. Pituch, chief of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Shadyside Hospital, and the Ukrainian Technological Society's 2008 Ukrainian of the Year.

A brochure prepared by Ms. Iddings, including biographical information on the first lady and explaining the work of the Ukraine 3000 Foundation, was distributed to the 20 hospital administrators and physicians who participated in presentations to Mrs. Yushchenko on pediatric care, cancer immunotherapy, cochlear implants, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and other medical specialties at these world-class medical facilities.

Accompanying Mrs. Yushchenko was pediatrician Dr. Vira Pavliuk, director of medical programs for Ukraine 3000, who was able to establish contacts with her professional colleagues here.

Mrs. Yushchenko also visited with children in the playroom at the Oakland site of Children's Hospital. Scenes of her visit with the children were broadcast on local television channels KDKA and WTAE on their evening news programs.

At a working lunch, the first lady was welcomed to Pittsburgh by City Councilman William Peduto.

In the late afternoon, she visited the Ukrainian Nationality Classroom in the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh, where she was greeted by E. Maxine Bruhns, director of the Nationality Class Rooms Program; Michael Komichak, chair of the Ukrainian Nationality Class Room Committee, which built and dedicated the Room in 1990; Raymond Komichak of the committee; Prof. Walter R. Boykowycz, architect of record for construction of the Room, and Dr. and Mrs. Roman Kyshakevych, son of the late Dr. George Kyshakevych, who was the principal fund-raiser for the room.

Mrs. Yushchenko presented Mr. Komichak with gifts from Ukraine for display in the room.

On Saturday evening the first lady and her party had a private dinner on Pittsburgh's Mount Washington, from where she could see the panorama of the city and its lights, including the North Shore and South Side areas that were home to many of the first Ukrainian immigrants to Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Yushchenko attended divine liturgy on Sunday morning at the mother church of Ukrainians in Western Pennsylvania, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church located on Pittsburgh's Southside. She was welcomed with the traditional bread and salt by Maria Chirovsky and her daughter, Taisa. Celebrants were the Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster in British Columbia, the Revs. Soutus, John A. Ropke and Ivan Chirovsky (pastor). The choir was directed by Stephen Zinski.

Following divine liturgy, Mrs. Yushchenko was shown the exhibits next door at the Cultural Museum of Ridna Shkola of Pittsburgh, which includes many regional Ukrainian costumes created by Vasyl Jula. She also spoke personally with many of those who had attended the liturgy.

At 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 30, at the Airport Marriott Hotel, Mrs. Yushchenko talked with guests during the social hour at the 20th annual bishop's charity gala organized by the Diocesan Resource Committee of St. Josaphat Eparchy, and jointly sponsored with Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 27 of Pittsburgh, Ukrainian Selfreliance of Western Pennsylvania Federal Credit Union, the Western Pennsylvania Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America, Ridna Shkola of Pittsburgh, the New Ukrainian Wave Corporation ("Fourth

Wave") Pittsburgh Chapter, the St. Josaphat Society of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pa., the Poltava Ukrainian Dance Company of Pittsburgh, and the Ukrainian Radio Program.

After the more than 150 guests were seated, Mrs. Yushchenko entered the banquet hall and was greeted with traditional bread and salt by members of the Poltava Ukrainian Dance Company. The female ensemble then performed a special dance for the first lady.

The singing of the national anthems of the United States and Ukraine was led by Mr. Zinski and members of St. John the Baptist Church choir.

The master of ceremonies, Msgr. George Appleyard, dean of the Central Deanery of the St. Josaphat Eparchy, introduced Dr. Lillian Misko-Coury, chair of the Diocesan Resource Committee, who offered words of welcome to the first lady, Bishop Moskal and guests.

The Rt. Rev. Mitred, Msgr. Martin Canavan, vicar general of the St. Josaphat Eparchy, offered the invocation. A champagne toast was then offered by attorney Raymond Komichak to the United States and Ukraine and their mutual friendship, and Bishop Moskal offered a toast to Ukraine's first lady.

After dinner, presentations were made to Mrs. Yushchenko. Mary Esther van Shura, assistant to Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato, read a proclamation in honor of Mrs. Yushchenko, designating November 30 as "Ukraine Day" in Allegheny County. Myroslava Rozdolska, president of the New Ukrainian Wave Corporation, presented her with an original painting of the Statue of Liberty. Ms. Hlutekowsky and Anne Konecky read the text in Ukrainian and English, respectively, of a certificate created by graphic artist Kathy Boykowycz, signed by representatives of all the sponsoring organizations, which welcomed the first lady to Pittsburgh.

Ms. Hlutekowsky, on behalf of Ridna Shkola of Pittsburgh and the Poltava Dance Company, presented to Mrs. Yushchenko a commemorative silver plate, engraved with a scene of the three rivers of Pittsburgh created by the Wendell August Forge Company. Marika Zaliszczuk, president of Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 27, presented a beautiful pysanka written by member Ivanna Staroschak. Dame Marny Gilluly, commander of the Atlantic Commandery of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, presented Mrs. Yushchenko with the order's Silver Medal of Merit for her work on behalf of the children of Ukraine.

In her remarks, Mrs. Yushchenko said that she was overwhelmed by the reception she had received from the Pittsburgh Ukrainian community. She spoke of deeds not words, in Ukraine and in the diaspora. Deeds are what is needed to build modern day Ukraine, she said, and she asked those in the diaspora to continue and to increase their deeds in building Ukraine, especially through the work of the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation, which is working to bring world-class medical science and technology as soon as possible to at least one hospital in every region in Ukraine.

She especially noted the deeds of presenting and preserving Ukrainian culture in Pittsburgh of Michael Komichak, for his 58 years as director and host of the "Ukrainian Radio Program," and those of Mrs. Hlutekowsky as director of the Poltava Ukrainian Dance Company and her work with Ridna Shkola, the local Ukrainian Saturday school.

Bishop Moskal concluded the evening's gala by offering words of appreciation for the work of Mrs. Yushchenko as first lady of Ukraine and a prayer of benediction. He led all in the singing of "Pod Tvoyu Mylost."

The first lady and her party left Pittsburgh on Monday for Washington.



Michael E. Haritan

The female ensemble of the Poltava Ukrainian Dance Company of Pittsburgh performs a special scarf dance.



Luba Hlutekowsky (left) with granddaughters Oriana and Chrystyna Hlutekowsky and Kateryna Yushchenko holding a commemorative plate.



Msgr. George Appleyard and Commander Dame Marny Gilluly and members of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem.



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*та*

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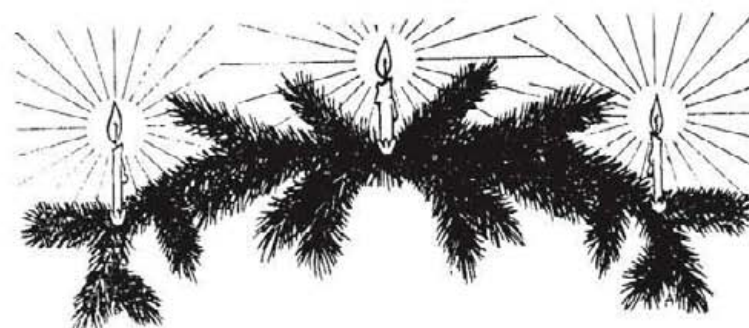
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# OUT AND ABOUT

- |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |              |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| January 7<br>Parma, OH       | 21st annual Christmas radio program on WJMO 1300 AM, featuring divine liturgy, great complines and matins services, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, www.stvladimirs.org or 440-885-1509 | 707-935-9142 |
| January 9<br>Ottawa          | Piano recital by Alexander Seredenko, Le Salon, National Arts Center, 613-947-7000 or 866-850-ARTS                                                                                                 |              |
| January 10<br>Hartford, CT   | Malanka, featuring music by Na Zdorov'ya, Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 860-296-6955                                                                                                        |              |
| January 11<br>Toronto        | Christmas Concert, featuring Levada and Orion choirs and the Vanguard Concert Band of the Ukrainian Youth Ensembles, St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 416-239-1685                              |              |
| January 10<br>Passaic, NJ    | Malanka, featuring music by Halychany, Organization for the Defense of Lemko-West Ukraine, Ukrainian Center, 973-772-3344                                                                          |              |
| January 15<br>Washington     | Lecture by Olena Nikolayenko, "Youth Movement in Post-Communist Societies - A Model of Nonviolent Resistance," Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4000                 |              |
| January 16<br>Scranton, PA   | Malanka, featuring music by Fata Morgana, St. Vladimir Parish Center, 570-563-2275                                                                                                                 |              |
| January 17<br>Ottawa         | Malanka, St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church hall, 613-596-5906                                                                                                                                     |              |
| January 17<br>Jenkintown, PA | Malanka, featuring music by Hrim, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166                                                                    |              |
| January 17<br>San Francisco  | Malanka, featuring music by Victor Nazarchuk and performance by Anitchka, St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church Hall, 650-968-6425 or                                                              |              |
| January 17<br>Ansonia, CT    | Slavic New Year Dance, with music by Vox Ethnika, John A. Sullivan's, 203-235-0667                                                                                                                 |              |
| January 17<br>Baltimore, MD  | Malanka, featuring music by Svitank, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-248-0329 or 410-730-1245                                                                                           |              |
| January 17<br>Carteret, NJ   | Malanka, featuring music by Na Zdorov'ya, St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church and St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, St. Demetrius Banquet Center, 732-541-5452 or 732-541-6163            |              |
| January 17<br>Warners, NY    | Malanka, with music by New Dimension, St. Luke Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 315-468-1981                                                                                                             |              |
| January 17<br>Philadelphia   | Concert featuring Peter Ostroushko and Svitanya Eastern European Women's Vocal Ensemble, Crossroads Music, 215-729-1028                                                                            |              |

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. 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. Please send e-mail to [mdubas@ukrweekly.com](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com).

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вітають

УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ НАРОД В УКРАЇНІ ТА НА ПОСЕЛЕННЯХ, СВІТОВИЙ КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ, УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ КОНГРЕСОВИЙ КОМІТЕТ АМЕРИКИ, ЦЕНТРАЛЮ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ КРЕДИТОВИХ КООПЕРАТИВ В АМЕРИЦІ, ВСІХ СВОЇХ ЧЛЕНІВ, ПРИЯТЕЛІВ ТА УКРАЇНСЬКУ ГРОМАДУ В ЙОНКЕРСІ, Н. Й., СПРІНГ' ВАЛІ, Н.Й., СТЕМФОРДІ, КОНН., НЮ-ГЕЙВЕН КОНН. ТА ОКОЛИЦЯХ

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## Soyuzivka's Datebook

**January 6** – Ukrainian Christmas Eve Supper

**January 10** – Ukrainian Engineers' Malanka with Svitanok 1/10/09



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140  
216 Foordmore Road P.O. Box 529  
Kerhonkson, NY 12446  
E-mail: Soyuzivka@aol.com  
Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Friday, January 16**

**NEW YORK:** A screening of the Hollywood production "The North Star" (1943, black and white), a pro-Soviet propaganda film about a Ukrainian village that defends itself against the Nazis, will take place at 7 p.m. at The Ukrainian Museum. The film is based on a script originally written by Lillian Hellman and directed by Lewis Milestone, with music by Aaron Copland. The all-star cast includes Hollywood greats Anne Baxter, Dana Andrews, Jane Withers, Farley Granger, Walter Brennan, Walter Huston, Erich von Stroheim and Dean Jagger. Prof. Alexander J. Motyl, Rutgers University, will present and discuss the film's flawed portrayal of Ukrainians in World War II. A reception will follow the question and answer session. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St., New York, NY 10003. Donation: \$15; members and seniors, \$10; students, \$5. Seating is limited;

RSVP by calling 212-228-0110 or e-mailing info@ukrainianmuseum.org.

**Saturday, January 17**

**CARTERET, N.J.:** St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka (Ukrainian New Year gathering) at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave. Music will be by Na Zdorovya. Tickets are \$55, which includes admission, choice of sirloin beef or chicken Francaise dinner, open bar, midnight hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast. The center is located just blocks from Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike; there is a Holiday Inn right off the exit. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7 p.m.; music starts at 8 p.m. For table and ticket reservations call Peter Prociuk, 732-41-5452. Tickets will not be sold at the door; outside liquor is prohibited. Deadline to purchase tickets is January 11.

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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

Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510; e-mail, preview@ukrweekly.com. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**

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