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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Leaked memorandum warns of collapse of Ukraine's economy



Zenon Zawada

Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – An alarming memorandum warning of the impending collapse of the Ukrainian economy, allegedly penned by Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk, was leaked to the public on January 27.

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko allegedly forbid distribution of the January 6 memo addressed to the Cabinet of Ministers and ordered Mr. Pynzenyk to recall it before it was made public by Ekonomichna Pravda, a leading news website, which didn't disclose its source.

"The country is in danger, the citizens are in danger," the memo stated, adding, "There is an exit out of today's complicated situation, but there's almost no time left. In a month or two, in the absence of adequate measures, the situation will gov-

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Prime minister and president battle over National Bank chair



Oleksandr Prokopenko/UNIAN

National Bank of Ukraine Chair Volodymyr Stelmakh with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Igniting a potentially dangerous battle for the National Bank of Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc mustered a slim parliamentary majority on January 26 to dismiss National Bank of Ukraine Chair Volodymyr Stelmakh for alleged corruption and destructive monetary policies.

Observers and critics alike said the legislation to dismiss Mr. Stelmakh was absurd – 227 deputies voted to nullify the Parliament's December 2004 vote approving his candidacy.

"If we've come to such nonsense in our country, then we can cancel the resolution affirming (Yulia) Tymoshenko as

prime minister and go all the way to (Vitalii) Masol, the most competent prime minister, by the way," said Mykola Azarov, a national deputy of the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU).

Allies of President Viktor Yushchenko, who ignored repeated demands by the Verkhovna Rada to dismiss Mr. Stelmakh, said the vote was unconstitutional since Parliament can dismiss the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) only at the president's request.

Regardless of whether the vote was legitimate, however, observers said it demonstrated that enough Ukrainians have lost trust in the 70-year-old banker, who is breaking Ukrainian law just by not retiring after exceeding the age limit of 65 for civil servants.

"There is the fact of distrust and, to normalize the situation, the chair must be replaced," said Volodymyr Fesenko, board chairman of the Penta Center for Political Research in Kyiv.

President Yushchenko stands to cause further damage to Ukraine's devastated economy if he decides to defend Mr. Stelmakh and thwart further attempts to replace him, Mr. Fesenko said. He didn't rule out that possibility, however.

Other observers said two NBU chairs may emerge, just as two procurators general were appointed in 2007, in a battle that almost escalated into armed conflict between those loyal to the president and those supporting the Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

"A war over the National Bank will further undermine its standing both within Ukraine and abroad," Mr. Fesenko said. "The best resolution would be for Stelmakh to resign and a compromise to be reached on his replacement."

Banker Stanislav Arzhevitin, an Our

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Ukrainian Embassy reception celebrates U.S. president's inauguration

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – The January 20 inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States was celebrated at many festive gatherings in and around the nation's capital, among them a gala reception at the Embassy of Ukraine on the following evening.

Sponsored by the U.S.-Ukrainian Business Council (USUBC) with the support of 10 Ukrainian American organizations, the joyous event attracted close to 300 guests, including representatives of the U.S. government and congress, former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine and leaders of the Ukrainian American community.

A lot of the attention of the guests, however, was focused on two very famous ladies of Ukrainian descent who were there that evening: Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, who completed her second journey into space aboard the space shuttle in November 2008, and Oksana Baiul, the figure skating gold medal winner for Ukraine at the 1994 Winter Olympics.

There was also a little bombshell dropped by her shuttle commander about the astronaut's future plans.

The evening's host, Ukraine's Ambassador Oleh Shamshur, opened the evening by recalling the previous day's inauguration ceremony on the National Mall, which he attended. He found it "extremely inspiring," he said, especially the "spirit of hope" that was prevalent in the unprecedented gathering of nearly 2 million people who came to witness the event.



Yaro Bihun

Andrew Bihun of The Washington Group (left) joins U.S.-Ukraine Business Council President Morgan Williams in raising a toast and singing "God Bless America" and "Mnohaya Lita" in honor of the new U.S. president. Next to them in front of the Embassy main reception room are (from left): Olympic figure skating gold medalist Oksana Baiul (behind Mr. Williams), Andrea Knihnicky and Emily Knihnicky of the Voloshky dancers of Philadelphia, Solomia Dutkewych, astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, and pianists Svetlana Smolina and her husband, Maxim Mogilevsky.

He said he saw in the new president a leader with a "sober appreciation of the current situation" and one that was "ambitious enough" to resolve the problems facing his country.

As for the new U.S. administration's affect on the future of the U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relationship, which had developed a solid base over the last four years of the Bush administration, Ambassador Shamshur expressed the hope that "we will be able not simply to move on but to reach a new qualitative level in our relationship."

One of President Obama's foreign policy advisors during the election campaign was William Miller, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in the latter 1990s. In his remarks at the reception, he noted the "spirit of hope and optimism" conveyed on the Mall. At this time in our country's history, he said, it was fortunate "that we have a president who is there because of his merit, his intellect and his sense of possibility," and one who represents the aspirations of all Americans.

ANALYSIS

Role of Russian organized crime in the gas war of January 2009

by **Roman Kupchinsky**
Eurasia Daily Monitor
 January 27

On January 20 Alexei Miller, the CEO of Russia's state-owned gas monopoly, Gazprom, made an amazing confession. He told Interfax that in late December 2008, when negotiations between Ukraine and Russia on a new gas supply contract broke down, the party largely responsible for this was RosUkrEnergo (RUE), the Swiss-based middleman company that sold Central Asian gas to Ukraine.

RUE is 50 percent owned by Gazprom and 45 percent by a Ukrainian businessman, Dmytro Firtash. "Yes, it is true that when the prime ministers of Russia and Ukraine agreed to a price of \$235 for 1,000 cubic meters of gas... RosUkrEnergo proposed paying \$285. This company was betting that by making such an offer it would remain in the market," Mr. Miller stated. What Mr. Miller failed to explain was why RUE would dare undermine the Russian government.

From its inception RUE has been accused of opacity by the media and of "criminality" by Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Most of the charges centered on Gazprom's partner in RUE, Mr. Firtash, and his alleged links to a notorious Russian mobster, Semen Mogilevich. Mr. Firtash has denied any direct links to Mogilevich. This might be true, but the indirect links suggest that Mr. Mogilevich was indeed tied to Mr. Firtash, the Kremlin leadership and the Ukrainian elite.

The history of RUE began in December 2002 when Mr. Firtash registered a company in Hungary named Eural Tran Gas (ETG), which signed a contract with Gazprom on December 5, 2002, becoming the middleman in the Turkmen-Ukrainian gas trade.

Strange circumstances surrounded

ETG's creation: unemployed Romanians became principal of the company; an Israeli lawyer with ties to Mr. Mogilevich became a nominal director of the company; and Andras Knopp, a former Hungarian Communist cultural functionary with no knowledge of the gas business, became the director of the company. Even stranger was Mr. Firtash's refusal to reveal that he was the ultimate beneficiary of ETG. Soon after the contract was signed, ETG was given a \$70 million loan by Gazprom Bank, which also became the guarantor of a \$227 million loan to ETG by Vnesheconombank (Moscow Times, November 27, 2003).

By July 2004 media criticism of ETG forced the Kremlin to eliminate the company and create RosUkrEnergo in its place. RUE came into being during a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and then-Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in Yalta, Crimea. At that time both leaders stressed that RUE would be a fully transparent company, tacitly acknowledging media reports that ETG was opaque.

One of the two co-directors of RUE was Konstantin Chuychenko, a former KGB officer, the head of Gazprom's legal department, and a classmate of Dmitry Medvedev (Mr. Chuychenko's biography was posted on the Gazprom website, www.gazprom.com, but was removed after he left Gazprom to join President Medvedev's administration). The other co-director was Oleg Palchykov, the former director of the ETG office in Moscow who represented Centragas, a company silently controlled by Mr. Firtash (Izvestia, April 27, 2006). Mr. Palchykov's appointment as co-director of RUE was met with a great deal of skepticism.

"His [Palchykov's] candidacy was submitted by Raiffeisen Investment [the

(Continued on page 20)

A possible alliance between Yanukovich and Yushchenko?

by **Pavel Korduban**
Eurasia Daily Monitor
 January 7

The establishment of a new coalition in the Ukrainian Parliament has left the Party of Regions (PRU), led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, as the opposition. Mr. Yanukovich wants to use this opportunity to come back to power on a wave of popular discontent with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's government, under which the Ukrainian economy has been among the worst hit by the worldwide financial crisis.

Mr. Yanukovich has called for early elections in 2009, and he has threatened mass protests in the spring. President Viktor Yushchenko, also an opponent of Ms. Tymoshenko, may become an ally of Mr. Yanukovich.

Coalition talks between Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yanukovich, which lasted for months, fell through as the two leaders failed to reconcile their ambitions. A new coalition that Ms. Tymoshenko built in Parliament in mid-December 2008 in order to carry on as prime minister consists of her party, the Volodymyr

Lytvyn Bloc and the majority of the formerly pro-Yushchenko Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense faction (OU-PSD). The Communists, although formally remaining outside the coalition, backed it in several crucial votes in the Verkhovna Rada in December. As a result, the PRU is the only major party in the opposition.

This is a new situation for the PRU. In the past, it always had allies when in the opposition – most often the Communists. The PRU believes that being in the opposition at a time of crisis is a good way of winning elections. It hurried to distance itself from its former allies and rivals in the opposition, the Lytvyn Bloc and the Communists. The PRU condemned them, saying that they had "betrayed" their electorate because the new coalition was "against the people" as it was based on "an ideology formulated by the supporters of NATO and forced Ukrainianization" (Ukrayinska Pravda, December 16, 2008).

The Communists and the Lytvyn Bloc, like the PRU, are wary of both the government's NATO integration course and the campaign of cultural assimilation of

(Continued on page 20)

NEWSBRIEFS

Ukrainian flag marks its birthday

KYIV – The national flag of Ukraine marked its 17th birthday on January 28. On that date in 1992 the Verkhovna Rada adopted the resolution "On State Flag of Ukraine." The resolution noted that the national flag is "a rectangular cloth consisting of two equal by width and horizontally located stripes: the upper one is of the blue color, the lower one of the yellow color, with a 2:3 ratio of the flag's width against its length." In 1996 the importance and status of the national flag was delineated by the Constitution of Ukraine. The blue and yellow colors symbolized the state of Kyiv even before the adoption of Christianity. At those times, there was no the national flag as such; only princes' flags existed. Following the Tatar invasion, these symbols disappeared for some time, but they were renewed in church decorations and in the coat of arms of Ukrainian cities. The Day of the National Flag has been marked annually on August 23. For the first time in the history of modern-day Ukraine, the blue-and-yellow flag officially appeared in the summer of 1990 over the building of the Kyiv City Council. (Ukrinform)

U.S. presence in Crimea discussed

SYMPFEROPOL, Ukraine – U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor said on January 22 that the opening of a U.S. office in Symferopol was among the issues discussed during his meeting with the leadership of Crimea and political figures on the Ukrainian peninsula. "I've understood during meetings with the Crimean leadership that U.S. assistance is warmly welcomed in Crimea. It was pleasant to hear that the assistance we provide to one of the maternity hospitals in Symferopol has a positive effect on the health of Crimean families. We are proud that the implementation of this project helps save the lives of many newly born Crimean babies. We would like to extend such programs. This work would have been conducted more successfully if there were several officers in Symferopol," he said. He said that talks on the opening of a U.S. office in Symferopol were important and that they would continue. Mr.

Taylor said, "we want to be sure that humanitarian activities of the U.S. office, after it is opened in Symferopol, will be properly assessed by the leadership of Crimea and its residents." He added, "As for the protests being held by representatives from certain political forces in Crimea against the realization of this project, my attitude to these moods coincides with my attitude to democracy in general." The envoy also said that the United States is interested in a successful Ukraine, its strong economy, security and policy. The possibility of opening a U.S. representative office in Crimea is envisioned in the recently signed Charter of Strategic Partnership between Ukraine and the U.S. Ukraine's permanent presidential envoy in Crimea, Leonid Zhunko, said the office "will help the U.S. and Crimea to understand each other better. It will also have a positive impact on Crimea's economic development." (Ukrinform, Interfax-Ukraine)

Russian fleet violates law

KYIV – According to Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Russian Black Sea Fleet temporarily based in Sevastopol continues to ignore Ukrainian law. From September 1, 2007, through January 24, 2008, the fleet sent over half of its statements on crossing the Ukrainian state border with violations. "In 17 cases the Black Sea fleet ships deliberately refused to pass border control procedures," the director of the ministry's first territorial department, Leonid Osavoliuk, said at a press conference on January 27. He said that Russian servicemen, contrary to their bilateral agreements with Ukraine, are continuing to move across the waters of Ukraine without any control and are participating in military operations in third countries. Mr. Osavoliuk said that a total of 521 violations of law and 16 crimes, including thefts, scuffles and rape, were committed by the Russian Black Sea Fleet's personnel in 2008. "[Ukrainian] diplomats inform the Russian Foreign Ministry of all the violations committed by the Black Sea Fleet personnel in Ukraine," he said.

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 Editors: **Matthew Dubas**
Zenon Zawada (Kyiv)

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

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3041

e-mail: ukradmin@att.net

Maria Oscislawski, advertising manager

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040

e-mail: adukr@optonline.net

Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042

e-mail: ukrsubscr@att.net

The Holodomor 75 years later: The Vinnytsia Oblast

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

VINNYTSIA, Ukraine – Executing genocide by starvation demanded new inventions by the Communists.

Among the Holodomor artifacts that Vinnytsia researchers uncovered was a metal cane with a razor sharp tip, called a “shpychka,” that the Bolsheviks used to poke the ground in their search for grain buried in pits by desperate peasants hoping to survive the winter.

“If even one grain ended up on that tip, that immediately raised suspicion of buried grain, and they would locate it, dig it up and confiscate it,” said Valerii Latsyba, an assistant professor of history at Pyrohov National Medical University in Vinnytsia.

Among the oblasts performing the most serious and competent Holodomor research is Vinnytsia, led by Mr. Latsyba and Volodymyr Petrenko, an archivist in the city’s State Archives.

Rather than solely relying on the 78,521 confirmed casualties of the Holodomor (through documents and testimonies), the editorial team of the Vinnytsia Oblast volume of the National Book of Memory of Holodomor Victims submitted an estimate of 531,000 based on census estimates.

Mr. Latsyba regrets that only 147 of the nearly 2,000 collected Soviet documents proving the genocide were included in the Vinnytsia Oblast volume.

The editorial team was able to finish its work in eight months thanks to the dozens of research groups, led by ethnographers and teachers, which gathered testimonies and confirmed names in the oblast’s 35 districts.

“Each fact of a deceased person in those years was supposed to be supported by a minimum of three witnesses who remembered these people, that they truly died, and they then testified to this,” Mr. Latsyba said.

Motivated by their love for Ukraine, they also had the help of luck.

While the Soviets were responsible for destroying tens of thousands of documents in other oblasts, Vinnytsia documents were somehow preserved.

An order came from the top ranks to burn the documents in 1941, but a senior lieutenant, Nikitin, for some reason never



Zenon Zawada
Volodymyr Petrenko (left), the leading archivist at the Vinnytsia Oblast State Archives, and Valerii Latsyba, an assistant professor of history at Pyrohov National Medical University, are leaders in Holodomor research in the Podillia region.

got around to it, Mr. Petrenko said.

Soviet authorities shipped the archives to Saratov, Russia, in 1941 when the Nazi Germans invaded, and safely returned them at the war’s conclusion.

Among the researchers, key conclusions was that the Holodomor was the culmination of a decade-long fight between the internationalist Communists and the Ukrainian peasant class that began once the Bolsheviks took power in the winter of 1921.

Throughout that decade, numerous peasant insurgent armies had surfaced throughout the Podillia region of Ukraine. They opposed the Bolsheviks because they were doing just fine without them, Mr. Latsyba said.

“There were very many testimonies of eyewitnesses, for example, who said their father or their grandfather had several dozen hectares [of land], a pair of horses, a thresher and we didn’t know destitution,” he said.

Therefore, they rejected Marxist slogans – “From each according to his ability, to

each according to his needs,” “Proletarians of the world unite” and the equality of labor – and they particularly opposed the mass destruction of churches.

In response, the Bolsheviks executed the instructions that Karl Marx had laid out in his writings – waging war against rebels, confiscating their property and applying severe graduated income taxes, which became intolerable.

By 1928 the average peasant faced 20 taxes, by 1930 the government demanded grain if money was lacking, and by March 1932 any food or produce was accepted as compensation.

The Holodomor not only involved collecting food, but destroying the means to produce food. Among the published Soviet documents is a 1932 command to confiscate the millstones that peasants

The Holodomor in the Vinnytsia Oblast

531,000 estimated casualties
107,520 known survivors remaining
1,004 population centers affected
394 known mass graves

used to grind grain.

That such evidence of the Holodomor’s obvious genocidal nature is widely known is due to the efforts of President Viktor Yushchenko, who deserves enormous credit for raising the Holodomor to the forefront of Ukrainian consciousness, Mr. Latsyba said.

As early as 2000, then Prime Minister Yushchenko’s Cabinet issued a resolution to reconstruct, research and organize facts about the Holodomor and mass graves.

Both Mr. Latsyba and Mr. Petrenko began their Holodomor research about that time, each producing his own works aside from their contribution to the National Book of Memory.

Ms. Latsyba served as the assistant chair of the editorial group that produced “Holod and Holodomor in Podillia: 1920 to 1940,” published in 2007 by the “Rehabilitated by History” Vinnytsia Oblast Editorial Board.

Just a month ago Mr. Petrenko published “The Bolshevik Government and Ukrainian Peasantry in the 1920s and 1930s: The Reasons, Technology and Consequences of the Holodomor-Genocide,” gathered from evidence in the Podillia region that includes parts of the Vinnytsia, Khmelnytsky, Ternopil and Odesa oblasts.

“The Holodomor was an artificial famine,” Mr. Petrenko said. “But hunger was constant and permanent, beginning in 1921, as a system invented by the government. It was advantageous for the Bolshevik government to keep the Ukrainian people as a whole in submission.”

NEWS ANALYSIS: A window of opportunity for Nabucco project

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Nabucco gas transport project, whose stakeholders and institutional backers are holding a high-level meeting in Budapest on January 26 and 27, faces a unique window of opportunity in a reshaped strategic context (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, January 6, 22).

The meeting is being held in the wake of Moscow’s unprecedented, two-week suspension of Russian gas supplies to Ukraine and Europe. Moscow’s brutal move inadvertently opened the window of opportunity for the Nabucco project even wider. The Russian supply cutoff demonstrated Russia’s unreliability as a supplier, the risks of dependence on Moscow and the imperative for Europe to diversify its supply sources by gaining direct access to Caspian gas through the Southern Corridor, with the Nabucco pipeline as its centerpiece.

The Budapest meeting had been announced well before the Russian gas cutoff, but the sequence of these events should powerfully spur practical decisions at the meeting on launching the Nabucco project.

The Nabucco consortium has received a promise of partial funding through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European

Investment Bank (EIB); but this is insufficient, as the Hungarian government’s project coordinator, Mihaly Bayer, noted in prefatory comments. In addition to EBRD and EIB funding, the Nabucco consortium’s companies also need more substantial funding directly or indirectly from the European Commission (Nepszabadsag, January 21).

The necessity of such intervention is increasingly understood in Brussels and elsewhere in Europe with regard to infrastructure and energy projects at the present time. But that understanding has not yet translated into European Union funding for Nabucco or related projects for gas in the Southern Corridor. While the EU has subsidized construction of highways and railroads for years from ample, specially earmarked funds, it has not subsidized pipelines and is only now considering this possibility.

The EU Commission recently created a 5 billion euro (\$6.6 billion) energy development fund, some 3.5 billion euro (\$4.03 billion) of which have already been assigned for wind and solar energy projects in northern and southern Europe, respectively. At least 30 other projects are listed as possible candidates for the remaining 1.5 billion euros. From an energy security perspective in the gas sector, where dependence on

(Continued on page 18)

PACE passes resolution on case of Heorhii Gongadze

PACE

STRASBOURG, France – The investigation into the murder of Ukrainian journalist Heorhii Gongadze cannot be considered solved until the “instigators and organizers” are held to account in addition to the actual perpetrators of the crime, said the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

In a resolution adopted on January 27, PACE welcomed the conviction of three former Internal Affairs Ministry police officers for the murder, but said Ukrainian prosecutors should now, among other things:

- vigorously pursue authentication of the so-called “Melnichenko recordings” – in which former President Leonid Kuchma and three other senior officials allegedly discuss disposing of Gongadze – with the participation of foreign experts, so that they can be used as evidence in court if necessary;
- pursue other methods of authenticating the recordings, such as interro-

gating as witnesses those allegedly recorded, and comparing their discussions with actual events;

- investigate how Gen. Pukach, the immediate superior of the convicted police officers and allegedly present at the murder, was released from custody and reportedly able to escape arrest in Israel;
- look into the unclear circumstances surrounding the death, attributed to suicide, of the late Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Kravchenko shortly before he was due to be questioned in the case.

The report’s author, Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger of Germany, said she had done her best to broker an arrangement between Mr. Melnychenko, the Procurator General’s Office of Ukraine and the U.S. Department of Justice to enable technical analysis of the recordings. Mr. Melnychenko had requested international involvement to exclude any “foul play,” she said.

Chicago helps launch first Electronic Library of Ukraine

by Natalie Campbell

CHICAGO – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Chicago-based Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America on January 26 in Kyiv signed a partnership agreement to establish the Electronic Library of Ukraine (ELibUkr). For the first time Ukrainian scholars and students will have access to the world's digitized network of academic and research information on an equal access basis through the Electronic Library/Knowledge Centers. The ELibUkr Project is an investment in Ukraine's future and will expand to include Ukraine's main universities within three years.

Realizing that access to academic and

research information was nearly non-existent in Ukraine, Marta Farion, president of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America and Chicago attorney on the executive committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, initiated the project in 2007.

With the support and collaboration of electronic library organizations, faculty from Northwestern University, the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and other Ukrainian universities, ELibUkr, will provide unprecedented access to public and proprietary information for Ukrainian residents while allowing the rest of the academic world to benefit from the rich intellectual holdings of Ukraine.

"The Chicago and Kyiv Sister Cities

relationship is the basis upon which this exciting project was developed," said Ms. Farion. "I am proud to be part of a truly global project that will not only allow thousands of academics, students and universities to immediately gain access to a wide range of information, but also will create new opportunities for generations to come."

"Through their 17 years as sister cities, Kyiv and Chicago have shared numerous exchanges spanning education, culture, medicine and government," said Leroy Allala, acting executive director of Chicago Sister Cities International. "Chicago Sister Cities is proud to support the ELibUkr Project, and it is the perfect example of how the Sister Cities relationship builds vital links between partner

cities that bring about projects that have global impact, benefiting residents both in Chicago and abroad."

Since the signing of an official sister city agreement in 1991, Kyiv and Chicago have developed a strong partnership based on a shared vision of promoting arts, culture, business and education. The Kyiv Committee of CSCIP has played host to several high-level delegation visits and organized numerous cultural, educational and social service exchanges.

ELibUkr is sponsored by USAID in partnership with the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America, the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, the Association Information-Consortium, the Center for Technology Innovation Management (CTIM) at Northwestern University, the Yurii Fedkovych National University of Chernivtsi, the Vasyl Karazin National University of Kharkiv and a consortium of Ukrainian universities.

The Chicago Sister Cities International Program, under the auspices of the City of Chicago and in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of International Relations, provides leadership to develop, manage and coordinate comprehensive programs and projects with Chicago's sister cities. It aims to increase international trade, promote economic development and support exchanges in the fields of culture, education, health care, social services, environment and technology with its sister cities for the benefit of Chicago, its residents and businesses.

Chicago's sister cities include: Accra, Ghana (1989); Amman, Jordan (2004); Athens, Greece (1997); Belgrade, Serbia (2005); Birmingham, England (1993); Busan, Republic of Korea (2007); Casablanca, Morocco (1982); Delhi, India (2001); Durban, South Africa (1997); Galway, Ireland (1997); Gothenburg, Sweden (1987); Hamburg, Germany (1994); Kyiv, Ukraine (1991); Lahore, Pakistan (2007); Lucerne, Switzerland (1998); Mexico City, Mexico (1991); Milan, Italy (1973); Moscow, Russia (1997); Osaka, Japan (1973); Paris, France (1996); Petach Tikva, Israel (1994); Prague, Czech Republic (1990); Shanghai, China (1985); Shenyang, China (1985); Toronto, Canada (1991); Vilnius, Lithuania (1993); and Warsaw, Poland (1960).

Cardin appointed as chairman of Helsinki Commission

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.) on January 23 expressed his appreciation to Majority Leader Harry Reid after his appointment as chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission) for the two-year period of the 111th Congress.

Chairman Cardin, also a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stated: "For more than three decades, the U.S. Helsinki Commission has played an important role in furthering America's foreign policy objectives. I am honored to take the reigns as chairman at such a critical time in our nation's history."

"This week our nation has begun to write a new chapter in history. President [Barack] Obama understands the urgent need to rejuvenate U.S. diplomacy to better advance America's priorities and rebuild our nation's position as an active

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"What's past is prologue."

– William Shakespeare
(carved on the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.)

1933



2009

Take a look at the past:

- Read The Weekly's special section about the Great Famine, or Holodomor, of 1932-1933.
- Peruse our special issues section, including The Weekly's inaugural issue of October 6, 1933.
- Enjoy our "Year in Review" issues published annually since 1976.
- Enter your search terms and find information previously accessible only in hard copy.

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

2009 Soyuzivka calendars available

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The 2009 Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation Calendars are here. Released by the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group and the Ukrainian National Association, the 2009 calendar benefits the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation.

Now in its third year, the Soyuzivka calendar includes photos taken by the following photographers: Laryssa Czebiniak, Lidia Kryzaniwsky, Maya Lew, Ruta Lew, Odarka Polanskyj-Stockert, Dianna Shmerykowsky, Marco Shmerykowsky and Oksana Trytjak.

This year's calendar includes Ukrainian months and days of the week as well as Soyuzivka event listings.

The calendars cost \$12 each, plus \$3 shipping, and are available for sale by mail order. There are a limited number of calendars, so readers are advised to place their orders quickly.

Calendar orders should be sent to: Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation Calendar, c/o Ukrainian National Association (Att'n: Marijka Drich), 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Check should be made payable to UNF- Soyuzivka Fund.



The cover of the 2009 Soyuzivka calendar, featuring a photo of a sunflower by Dianna Shmerykowsky.



A November scene photographed by Laryssa Czebiniak



A collage of wedding photos by Lidia Kryzaniwsky.

New on The Weekly website: community events calendar

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian Weekly has unveiled a new section on its website devoted to Community Events. A link to the section appears on the top right of The Weekly's home page, under the name of our newspaper (to access "Community Events," click on the link).

This special section will allow members of our community to have their major events listed well in advance on an online calendar.

The aim is to help community activists keep track of what is going on when and where, and thus help them in planning so that their events do not conflict with others that might be attended by the same audiences. Also, it is intended to

help community members make plans to attend such events well in advance.

At present the calendar lists several debutante balls (January and February 2009) and the third annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka (July 2009). The listings have color-coded labels for five categories of events: cultural, educational, political, religious and social.

To have a major community event listed on our long-term calendar please e-mail info on type of event, venue and date (for example: XYZ Debutante Ball, Hromada Hotel, West Town, NJ, January 1, 2009) to community@ukrweekly.com.

Young UNA'ers



Giulietta Graeff, daughter of Katherine Wislocky and Marcell Graeff of Cambridge, Mass., is a new member of UNA Branch 25. She was enrolled by her grandparents Gail and Robert Wislocky.



Andrew John Panycia, son of Chrystyna and William Panycia of Lincoln Park, N.J., is a new member of UNA Branch 5. He was enrolled by his grandmother Olga Pasternak.

**Do you have a young UNA'er,
or potential young UNA'er
in your family?**

Call the UNA Home Office, 973-292-9800,
to find out how to enroll.

To subscribe to The Ukrainian Weekly: call 973-292-9800 x 3042.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Economy on the brink

Ukraine is in serious trouble, and it's not just the usual calamity.

Tens of thousands of government workers, ranging from medical doctors to trolley-bus drivers, haven't been paid since November. Banks are collapsing, UkrPromBank being the latest casualty. Those surviving aren't lending, and they are hiking the interest rates on existing loans and mortgages. The pension fund is bankrupt, according to Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

In its desperate revenue-seeking measures, the Kyiv city government will charge 10 hrv (\$1.30) for vehicles to enter the city's cemeteries. As lousy an idea as that is, the government led by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko hasn't fared much better, resorting to legislation viewed by many as absurd to boot out National Bank of Ukraine Chair Volodymyr Stelmakh.

Ms. Tymoshenko's allegations of corruption on the part of Mr. Stelmakh and President Viktor Yushchenko deserve investigation by the Procurator General's Office – enough experts believe they are credible. But pointing the finger of blame, rather than offering your own solutions, is not the way out of “an exceptionally serious and deep crisis,” as described in the January 6 memo allegedly written by Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk.

If the prime minister's plan is to print more hryvni to raise government revenue, Ukraine risks devastating inflation, the Presidential Secretariat has warned. Meanwhile, the Tymoshenko government has offered no proposals or successful legislation to re-extend credit to faltering commercial banks or draft a new 2009 budget that would focus more on cutting government expenses rather than searching for new revenue streams through taxation.

Even if Mr. Pynzenyk's memo (we believe Mr. Yatsenyuk, who confirmed the finance minister did indeed write it) is a political provocation, other events are pushing Ukraine toward economic disaster, including the battle for control of the National Bank.

It's a dangerous situation – a furious opposition is accusing Mr. Stelmakh of destructive corruption, and President Yushchenko is refusing to seek compromise with the opposition and dismiss him. The National Bank is perhaps Ukraine's most delicate institution, and waging a war over its control threatens the country's economic stability.

Throughout the Yushchenko presidency, pundits and journalists have marveled at the Ukrainian paradox: strong economic growth despite persistent political turmoil. But the mayhem could last for only so long before it all eventually caught up to Kyiv. Indeed, with hyperinflation looming on the horizon, the current economic crisis is Ukraine's moment of truth, as it never has been since Ukrainian independence.

If Ukraine's leaders put aside their personal ambitions, seek compromise and pass painful measures that may be unpopular (such as canceling transportation discounts), they just may save the country from disaster. If they continue waging their battles for power and control, attacking and undermining each other, Ukraine could be lost.

If Mr. Pynzenyk's alleged conclusions are true, then Ukraine not only risks financial collapse, but its national security also is under serious threat. After all, the government of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is eager for any legitimate pretext to march in, under the flag of “peacekeeping” (as in Georgia) or maintaining regional stability.

The National Bank could become the straw that breaks the camel's back. President Yushchenko should dismiss Mr. Stelmakh and nominate a compromise candidate. At this point, it doesn't even matter who's right and who's wrong, who's stealing and who's lying. Ukrainian banking needs stability, and enough doubt surrounds the 70-year-old banker to send him packing to a Mediterranean beach to enjoy his retirement while Kyiv prosecutors investigate the corruption allegations against him.

And, the Tymoshenko government should set aside plans to raise revenue by printing money, for inflation is a danger that threatens to undo all the economic progress made not only during the Orange years, but going even further back.

Meanwhile, don't be surprised if you find a tall Christmas tree standing on Independence Square come spring. That's about the time the Kyiv government said it expects to have enough money to take it down.

Feb.
5
2008

Turning the pages back...

Last year, on February 5, 2008, President Viktor Yushchenko signed an accession agreement with the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The formal agreement was ratified by Ukraine's Parliament on April 11, 2008, with 411 of the 449 deputies present voting in favor. During the procedure 11 existing trade laws and regulations were modified in accordance with WTO protocols.

The 14-year process began in November 1993 with the creation of the Working Party on the Accession of Ukraine into the WTO and the subsequent 17 formal meetings that helped steer Ukraine toward acceptance.

Formal negotiations concluded on January 25, 2008, with the acceptance by the WTO's General Council of the Working Party's 240-page report, the market access schedules regarding goods and services, including an 890-page list of tariffs, quotas and ceilings on agricultural subsidies, and a 40-page list of services Ukraine is offering foreign access to, including limits on foreign ownership, the General Council Decision and the Protocol of Accession.

Mario Matus, ambassador of Chile to Ukraine, who served as the latest chairman of the Working Party, praised Ukraine for its patience and effort. “This is a historic day for Ukraine and a defining moment for the WTO itself, as the organization is set to move ever closer to becoming a truly global organization. The road has been long and often daunting. For an economy as important as Ukraine's, the negotiations were complex, detailed and time-consuming,” Mr. Matus said.

(Continued on page 18)

IN THE PRESS: The gas war

“The Gas War May Rehabilitate Ukraine's Yushchenko,” commentary and analysis by Adrian Karatnycky, *The Wall Street Journal Europe*, January 23:

“...Amid the gas row with Russia, plummeting industrial production, a fall of more than 50 percent in Ukraine's currency against the dollar, and massive layoffs on the horizon, Ukraine's president and prime minister need to find a modus vivendi. ...In recent months, neither leader appeared willing to compromise, and both engaged in an escalating campaign of political mudslinging. ...

“It's no wonder, then, that Ukraine's toxic political atmosphere represented a tantalizing opportunity for Russia to exploit internal divisions. Vladimir Putin has never accepted Ukraine's pro-Western tilt since the Orange Revolution. By provoking internal and international anxieties, the Kremlin sought to promote a change at the top in Ukraine and to reassert its influence in a fellow Slavic country in its geopolitical backyard.

“... the gas dispute with Russia has unified Ukraine's pro-Western leaders. President [Viktor] Yushchenko and Prime Minister [Yulia] Tymoshenko adopted common positions and made joint statements in the face of the Russian energy cutoff to Ukraine and Europe. ...

“As a result, the gas crisis has created a new chance for the beleaguered President Yushchenko to restore some luster to his faded image by reasserting the role of a unifier and statesman. ...

“By building on their cooperation and success during the gas crisis, the two leaders can at long last stumble into creating a tandem that can help restore some confidence domestically and abroad in Ukraine's ability to cope with major crises and to get things done. ...”

“War-war, not jaw-jaw,” *The Economist*, January 15:

“...Although few Europeans defend the Ukrainians, many are angry that Russia should seem keener to expose Ukraine as an unreliable transit country than to serve its ultimate customers.

“...Russia and Ukraine have tried to discredit each other, but have ended up discrediting themselves. Both run the risk of lawsuits from frustrated consumers.

“Vladimir Milov, a Russian opposition politician, thinks Russia wanted a clash with Ukraine, and says the firmness of its action and language resembles that seen in the war with Georgia last August. In both cases the aim was to discredit pro-Western leaders. And in both conflicts Russia blames America. Alexander Medvedev, deputy head of Gazprom, said this week that it looks like the Ukrainians ‘are dancing to the music which is being orchestrated not in Kiev, but outside the country.’ ...

“In both Ukraine and Georgia, Russia has exploited the failings of its opponents. Ukraine's political in-fighting, the existence of a controversial trading intermediary, its opaque system of gas distribution, the weakness of its law and the extent of corruption all make it vulnerable. ...

“That Russia should try to exploit weaknesses is not surprising. But it is not clear that either country will gain from the standoff. ...As José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission, put it this week, ‘Without judging intentions, there is an objective fact: Russia and Ukraine are showing they are incapable of delivering on their commitment to some member states.’ ...”

(Continued on page 20)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ukraine's leaders show their savvy

Dear Editor:

Ukraine's neighbors, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, learned from and remember the years of brutal oppression by the former Communist Soviet Union and its Russian chieftains. They are sympathetic, helpful or at least not a hindrance to Ukraine's drive to become part of democratic Europe.

Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, however, in spite of being born and having lived in the former Communist East Germany, opposes Ukraine's attempts to join Europe. She is afraid of getting caught between Russia with its natural gas supply to Germany and Ukraine's pipelines to the European Union, and possible new Cold War America. Her predecessor Gerhard Schroeder is pushing for Nord Stream (a pipeline under the Baltic Sea), and Gazprom also wants South Stream (a pipeline under the Black Sea, in order to circumvent Ukraine.)

History also suggests that Germany and Russia do have a string of political, economic and military pacts and cooperation in the past.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict over natural gas delivery to European countries makes Ukraine a political and economic player because 80 percent of natural gas imports to Europe come via Ukraine (and the plans for future pipelines as mentioned above are at a standstill due to the global economic depression). Political writing in *The Wall Street Journal* and

other news analysts see the natural gas as Vladimir Putin's latest weapon, with which he is trying to “undermine the pro-Western government in Kyiv and scare the European Union into submission.” (See *The Wall Street Journal*, January 7, in article: “The Winter Gas War.”)

While reading almost daily reports about the Russia-Ukraine spat over gas and its transport, one is (pleasantly) impressed by the savvy of Ukraine's government negotiators who are standing up to the “older brother” and to self-serving European Union officials in defense of Ukraine's interests.

Myroslaw Burbelo, M.D.
Westerly, R.I.

We welcome your opinion

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

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

Please note: THE LENGTH OF LETTERS CANNOT EXCEED 500 WORDS.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Eleven-year mission accomplished

One two of newly dedicated Intervention Rooms at the Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Hospital. The nursing staff presents Gloria Misnick with flowers chief endocrinologist Dr. Ihor Hrytsiuk looks on.

by William and Gloria Misnick

In the 11 years that we have dedicated ourselves to Lviv, through Sister Cities of Corning, N.Y., many objectives have been achieved.

After extensive fund-raising and generous donations from the citizens of the Corning/Elmira area, we were able to succeed in many endeavors benefiting the people of Lviv.

In the fall of 2004 the William and Gloria Misnick Diabetic Clinic was dedicated. There are over 400 children in Lviv and the surrounding area who are afflicted with diabetes. In addition, there are many children who are afflicted with cancer as a result of the Chernobyl disaster.

Over 90 containers for a total of 4,000 pounds of humanitarian aid have been sent to our adopted Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Hospital. We purchased a blood analyzer for the chief endocrinologist, Dr. Ihor Hrytsiuk. This analyzer, which costs \$2,700, is able to read the blood glucose three months prior to the conventional test and determine which children need to be more closely monitored.

Then we discovered the need for a Diabetic Teaching center so that parents and the children are able to cope with the disease in a positive way. The center was built within the hospital. With the gener-

William and Gloria Misnick, residents of Corning, N.Y., are active on the Corning-Lviv Sister Cities Committee.

ous help of the Lions Club of the Netherlands, the Lviv Lions Club and the Lviv Committee of Sister Cities in Corning, the center was opened in 2006. Dr. Hrytsiuk successfully teaches and encourages families of diabetics. There is a psychologist, dietician and other support staff who maintain the program.

The culmination of our efforts this year during our 10th trip to Lviv was the birth of two diabetic Intervention areas at the hospital. We now have four plaques in our honor; this was a very humbling experience.

We established a media center at the Library of the Ukrainian Society of the Blind. After shipping 75 tons of Braille and large print books, sending Braille paper and other supplies for the blind, the people are happy they now have sound equipment that they can enjoy.

At our adopted School 4, they are in the process of building a museum which will contain a Corning section. This will include books, Corning artifacts, photographs and much memorabilia.

During our visit at the school, which has taught English for over 50 years, we both were honored with the privilege of being named members of the Guidance Council. One of the most important functions of this council is to intervene in helping at-risk students to avoid dropouts. We will participate over the Internet whenever meetings are held there. We are the only citizens of the United States to be included in serving the students.

These 11 years have been the most rewarding years of our lives.



William and Gloria Misnick are centered by the plaque at one of two diabetic intervention rooms.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas

**With "head held high"**

When George W. Bush arrived in Texas to a warm welcome from thousands of cheering supporters, he said he was "coming home with my head held high and a sense of accomplishment."

And well he should. President Bush introduced an anti-terror infrastructure that kept the country safe for eight years. He cut taxes for everybody, presided over a robust economy for six of his eight years (unemployment was 4.5 percent; the Dow Jones hit 14,000; some 8 million jobs were created; after-tax per capita grew by 12 percent). He improved education for minorities with his bipartisan No Child Left Behind program; he initiated a popular prescription drug program for the elderly; he appointed judges to the Supreme Court who reflected his culture of life ideals. He also appointed two highly qualified African Americans and a Chinese American to his Cabinet.

As early as 2001 the Bush administration warned that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the principal culprits of the housing crisis, were over-leveraged and in need of greater oversight. Rep. Barney Frank and Sen. Chris Dodd assured the nation that all was well.

In foreign policy, the president was guided by the so-called "Bush Doctrine" – preemptive military actions in the event of perceived threat to the spread of democracy around the world. A monstrous regime was dismantled in Afghanistan; Al Qaeda terrorist camps were disbanded; Afghan leaders were democratically elected; Afghan women can now go to school.

Saddam Hussein is gone. Iraqis held elections and are slouching toward democracy. Libya has abandoned its weapons of mass destruction program. Free trade agreements among nations have been expanded, and millions of American dollars went to a devastated Africa to combat AIDS and malaria.

President Bush championed Ukraine's membership in NATO and the European Union at a time when post-Christian, pre-Islamic Western Europe, still terrified of Russia, dismissed Ukraine's aspirations as unrealistic. On December 19, 2008, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Ukraine's Foreign Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko signed a new strategic partnership agreement which included a new American "diplomatic presence" on the Crimean peninsula.

Leaving the White House, Mr. Bush's approval rating remained at 34 percent – somewhat higher than President Truman's 22 percent rating when he left office. Notably, the Pelosi/Reid Congress has a lower approval rating.

Mr. Bush is still being pilloried by the Left, the media, the ever-expanding blogosphere and even certain conservative commentators.

Joe Klein, bilious guru for Time magazine, accused Mr. Bush of "callous, despicable high crimes" for sanctioning torture of al-Qaeda and Taliban wartime prisoners. "Patient, persistent questioning using subtle psychological carrots and sticks is the surest way to get actionable information." Suggestion: play soft music when interrogating terrorists.

Resurrecting the "Bush lied, people died" mantra, The New York Times commentator Paul Krugman wants Mr. Bush investigated for deceiving Americans about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Vice-President Joe Biden and Rep. Nancy Pelosi are open to the prosecution of Bush administration officials for whatever.

"Conservatives who backed Bush in two

successive elections have little to show for their efforts," reads an editorial in the journal Newsmax. "Bush oversaw the greatest increase in discretionary social spending in history..." He also supported amnesty for illegal immigrants, another unforgivable transgression for some conservatives.

The dyspeptic foreign press has been especially brutal. Calling him "the worst president ever," the Toronto Globe and Mail wrote that President Bush "was an unmitigated disaster, failing on the big issues from the invasion of Iraq to global warming, Hurricane Katrina and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression." Germany's Die Zeit opined that "Bush brought great misery to the world with his 'friend or foe' mentality." For France's LeMonde, Mr. Bush was "The most catastrophic leader the U.S. has ever known." The front page of Mexico's LaJornada caricatured Mr. Bush as Napoleon, Nero, a clown, a vampire, a dog, Pinocchio, a drunk and a pirate.

In some ways, President Bush never had a chance. For many on the left, Mr. Bush's presidency was illegitimate, accidental, unacceptable from the beginning – Al Gore was robbed of the presidency by the Supreme Court, they argued. The president's performance following 9-11 earned him some praise (even Dan Rather waxed patriotically), but not for long. By September 17, Bill Maher, host of "Politically Incorrect," was questioning President Bush's characterization of the 9-11 terrorists as "cowards." Within a few weeks, some liberals were parsing the meaning of "patriotism" deciding, finally, that those who were critical of our war against Islamic bombers were just as patriotic as those who fought to subdue the jihadists. Radical Islamists became "insurgents," and the term "Islamofascism" was taboo. President Bush's stumbles were magnified, his successes ignored.

Barack Obama's election was a significant milestone in our history. I salute him and wish him success in his efforts to improve our economy. Like his predecessor, Mr. Obama is urging political bipartisanship.

As promised, President Obama has already lifted restrictions on my tax dollars to fund groups that provide abortion services overseas. Mr. Obama also pledged that "the first thing" he would do as president "is sign the Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA) nullifying virtually all federal and state limitations on abortion, including the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act upheld by the Supreme Court. Millions of Americans vehemently oppose FOCA. Even Ukraine bans abortions after the first trimester.

President Obama has appointed experienced people to his Cabinet. Congress is on his side, at least for now. But Washington attracts people with huge egos of both parties. Expectations are high and people all over the world are part of the mania that surrounds our president, already hailed as the reincarnation of Presidents Washington, Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

I was in Kyiv when President Yushchenko was inaugurated. Hundreds of thousands were caught up in the Orange mania of the time. The balloon burst, disillusionment set in, political egotism took over and Ukraine remains paralyzed. Will we experience a similar scenario here? Whom will we blame now that George W. Bush is no longer around?

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

"Vechornytsi" Ukrainian evenings expand from NYC's East Village to Brooklyn

by Irina Pavlova

NEW YORK – "Recession? What recession are we talking about? Let's dance and enjoy ourselves!" said Tamara Chernyakhovska, a former dancer with the Vervovka National Dance Company of Ukraine and currently the instructor at the "Vechornytsi" Ukrainian village-style evenings.

The Vechornytsi nights finally found their way into Brooklyn in November 2008 from their traditional base in the heart of the East Village since 2007. Having survived the turbulences of hyperinflation and political chaos in the post-Soviet era, most Ukrainians developed immunity to any internal and external "shocks." Their methods of coping include anything from excessive complaining to writing political anecdotes, and, naturally, drinking relatively cheap "horilka" with Verka Serdyuchka's pop tunes playing in the background.

While such survival techniques proved

successful in modern Ukraine, its nationals and the entire New York Ukrainian community have been offered an alternative to coping with somber realities of today – to let go at "the Ukrainian Village Dance Party," as the brochure describes.

Sponsored by the Center for Traditional Music and Dance (CTMD), specifically CTMD's Ukrainian Wave Community Cultural Initiative, the Vechornytsi were initially introduced in April 2007 at the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant to demonstrate the wealth of the Ukrainian folk tradition that encompasses life: music, energetic dance, home-made food and endless socializing.

With financial assistance from governmental and corporate grants and, most recently, the Brooklyn Arts Council's Folk Feet Workshop Program, CTMD has been able to sustain its existing initiatives (St. George Music Education program, Ukrainian Museum Concerts, Ukrainian Women's Voices Program) and add new



Andriy Milavsky (on sopilka) and the Cheres folk ensemble.

ones such as the recent expansion to Brooklyn. These village-style gatherings are not very different from the authentic spirit of vechornytsi found in Ukraine. What is new, however, is the renaissance of these folk traditions miles away from their country of origin.

The melodic sounds of the Carpathian-style sopilka (woodwind flute), the accordion and the violin, skillfully produced by Andriy Milavsky and the musicians of his Cheres folk ensemble, were resonating outside the Ukrainian Restaurant in the East Village on Sunday afternoon, December 14, 2008. Quickly, the lower level of this normally quiet venue started to resemble a beehive filled with Americans, Ukrainians, Moldavians, Romanians, Sri Lankans and Indians – all trying to understand Ms. Chernyakhovska's dance instructions and insightful jokes, translated into her unique English.

Cheres musicians, with their culturally inclusive repertoire and the spark of true folk performers, not only conquered the hearts of western and eastern Ukrainians, but appealed to the tastes of other attendees with a Hora from Romania and the

Hungarian Czardasz. After the first three measures of the Hora, a Moldavian girl sitting in the audience jumped from her chair shouting, "I know this song so well; we used to sing it back at home! When are we organizing a Moldavian folk party in New York?"

These meaningful cultural interactions were gracefully interspersed with a performance by the vocal ensemble Promin, under the direction of Bohdanna Wolanska, the group's founder and conductor. Her unconventional selections of Christmas tunes, arranged by the Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych and others, pleased the attendees with their familiar folk melodies and their fresh classical arrangements.

A natural addition to the vocal performance arrived from the magical sounds of the bandura produced by Julian Kytasty and Ivan Lechicky of the New York Bandura Ensemble. The audience was invited to sing a traditional Christmas carol "Shchedryi Vechir, Dobryi Vechir" along with members of Promin.

Both the guests and the organizers left

(Continued on page 18)



Julian Kytasty and Ivan Lechicky, on bandura, accompany Bohdanna Wolanska's Promin vocal ensemble.

Leaked memorandum...

(Continued from page 1)

ern the country."

The memo confirmed reports by economists and observers that state revenue streams have dried up, infrastructure systems (ranging from energy to medicine) are faltering, and the hryvnia risks hyperinflation should the government begin printing money as a means of finance.

The day after the memo became public, Mr. Pynzenyk allegedly issued a statement through the Cabinet press office denying that he authored the memo and labeling it a "falsified provocation."

Yet, Mr. Pynzenyk never publicly confirmed or denied that he wrote the memo, not appearing at the weekly Wednesday meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on January 28 because he was allegedly on medical leave, according to First Vice Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov, who also labeled the memo a provocation.

However, that same morning Mr. Pynzenyk was reportedly seen leaving the Cabinet of Ministers building on Hrushevsky Street, accompanied by a security entourage that he recently hired, according to UNIAN, Ukraine's leading news wire.

And, former Verkhovna Rada Chair Arseniy Yatsenyuk said he was confident that Mr. Pynzenyk authored the 24-page memo, which bears a signature.

Ukraine's energy, utilities, medical, banking and educational systems are all threatened with bankruptcy because they lack financing, the memo's author wrote, citing steep declines in tax revenues.

Although the 2009 budget projected 310 billion hrv in revenues for the state general

fund, the memo estimates that only 225 billion hrv can be expected – a 27 percent difference.

Even if the 2009 gross domestic product (GDP) declines by 5 percent, which the memo stated is an optimistic projection, the resulting budget might not be enough to cover salaries and pensions alone, which are considered priority expenses that are protected in the general fund.

Unprotected expenses that will be deprived of financing include payment for supplies and services, construction and capital repairs, business-related trips, and purchases of supplies and services, the memo said.

"No government institution with expenses will be able to function," the memo said. "This is a paralysis of Ukraine's government institutions. And in such conditions, a budget norm was retained to raise wages to the minimum living standard!"

In November 2008, 425 local governments couldn't execute their budgets, compared to 31 in the same month in 2007. By December 2008 local budgets ran up a deficit of 463 million hrv for 2008, compared to 2 million hrv in the prior year. As a result, the majority of local governments are having problems paying the salaries of teachers, doctors and cultural workers.

The memo projected a 4.2 billion hrv deficit for the State Pension Fund. "For the first time in recent years, the budget foresees financing a deficit in the Pension Fund," the memo said.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian industries used 19 percent less electricity in October 2008, 35 percent less in November 2008 and 38 percent less in December 2008 – a key indicator of plummeting production.

"A third of Ukraine's industry has vanished!" the memo stated. "There haven't been such scales of declining industrial production for all the years of independence."

In the view of Ukrainian economist Andriy Novak, author of the book, "How to Lift the Ukrainian Economy," some of the memo's pessimistic projections are "slightly exaggerated," but with the helpful purpose of drawing attention to Ukraine's economic problems.

"Budgets need to be considered on worst-case scenarios," he said. "This scenario is possible if the government doesn't seriously approach economic problems. It seems like the government is not objectively considering the budget out of political concerns."

The memo's remedies include reducing ministers' salaries by 40 to 50 percent, canceling all benefits to national deputies and high-ranking officials, and reducing government automobiles, telephones and vacations.

Other proposals include limiting all social benefits, such as transportation benefits, to only the poorest in society and placing more utility burdens on the wealthy.

Free meals in schools and hospitals, as well as free textbooks, should also be limited to just the poorest, the memo said. College scholarships should also be reduced.

However, the memo's author explicitly opposed raising taxes and printing more money to cover the shortfall, limiting his advice to strictly cutting expenditures. "Ukraine's wounded economy now is not capable of forming a budget from taxes," the memo stated. "This will end quickly."

Printing money to cover budget shortfalls, a policy being pursued by Ms.

Tymoshenko, could trigger the type of hyperinflation that Ukraine experienced in the 1990s, the memo said.

The memo also revealed an obvious rift between Finance Minister Pynzenyk and Prime Minister Tymoshenko, and an increasing likelihood that he won't remain a Cabinet Minister. It's widely believed by observers that Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Pynzenyk had a conflict over the 2009 budget approved in late December 2008.

"It's very unfortunate that the Finance Ministry's position on the state of Ukraine's economy, the 2009 budget and necessary decisions on its balancing and balancing the Pension Fund was not accepted by the government," the memo noted.

The memo called for a new "honest and balanced" budget passed within the first weeks of January, otherwise "Ukraine won't survive with the approved 2009 budget!"

Mr. Pynzenyk likely wrote the memo because "he's covering his own [backside]" in case the economy gets worse, said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Institute of Statehood and Democracy in Kyiv.

"Pynzenyk has had no economic accomplishments, and this could be his claim to fame," he said. "But I don't see him looking at some figures and coming to a confident conclusion about the economy, much less being worried about it. It doesn't have the feel at all of what he's pretending it to be, which is concern for the economy."

Instead, Ms. Tymoshenko likely rejected a lobbying interest proposed by Mr. Pynzenyk, Mr. Lozowy said, and the memo is a way to gain some benefit or advantage for his public image as he departs from her Cabinet, which Mr. Lozowy viewed as inevitable.

The Ukrainian Museum presents works by Mychajlo Moroz

NEW YORK – The exhibition “A Generous Vision: A Major Gift of Works by Mychajlo Moroz” celebrates both the achievement of this outstanding Ukrainian landscape painter (1904-1992) and the exceptional generosity of Irena Moroz, the artist’s widow, who recently donated 127 paintings to The Ukrainian Museum.

The exhibition consists of 72 paintings selected from this major donation, which comprises one of the largest gifts of works by a single artist to the museum in its 32-year history. The exhibition will open on January 25 at The Ukrainian Museum, located at 222 E. Sixth St., in Manhattan’s East Village, and will be on view through September 6.

Moroz’s art is predicated on his exploration and celebration of nature, making him one of the pre-eminent Ukrainian landscape painters of the 20th century.

His productive, distinguished career consists of three major phases – his early years in Ukraine (1923-1944), his years as an immigrant in Germany (1944-1949) and his years in America (1949-1992).

During the 1920s and early 1930s Moroz was first a student of and then an assistant to Oleksa Novakivsky, western Ukraine’s most influential artist and pedagogue. In 1928 Moroz traveled to Paris, where he remained until 1930. While there, he became acquainted with the pictorial structure of Paul Cézanne and the coloristic freedom of Henri Matisse. He also studied in the prominent Académie Julian. In 1931 he and Novakivsky traveled together to Italy.

Moroz’s artistic odyssey was affected profoundly by World War II. He was forced to leave his native land, going first to Germany and then, in 1949, to the

United States, where he and his family made their permanent home.

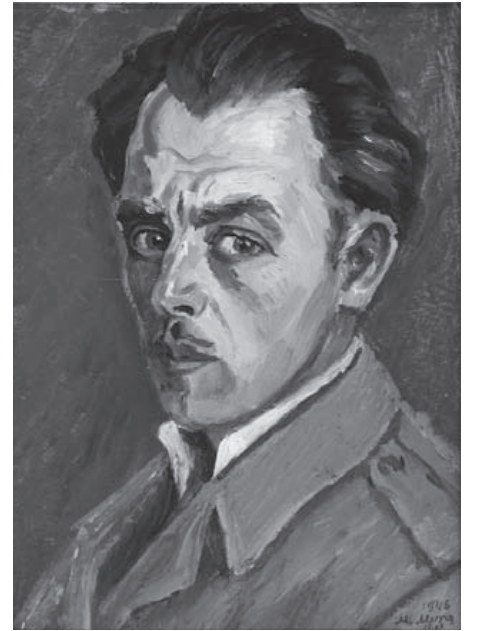
During his years in the United States he traveled widely, documenting many locales. Among the most vibrant works in the exhibition are some of his small paintings from the 1970s of Kufstein in Austria and views of Italy, including Florence, Venice and Forum Romanum.

Moroz’s art, which was always expressive, would in America become expressionist, as the emotive aspect of his response to nature became more pronounced.

His deep commitment to the landscape tradition establishes the major continuities in his art. The impressive body of work in the exhibition, spanning nearly 60 years, underscores compelling links between early and later imagery. Moroz’s seascapes from the coast of Maine from the 1960s and 1970s recall his early depictions of the Black Sea coast. His heroic treatment of the Colorado Mountains has its counterpoint in his depictions of the Alps from the 1940s. Most importantly, his varied, brilliant renderings of the Catskill Mountains establish a deep bond with the early landscapes of the Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine.

Moroz’s art will always be most closely linked to his Ukrainian heritage. Yet it is important to appreciate the international scope of his vision. During his extensive career in America, for example, he painted many of the country’s most beautiful natural sites – from the coast of Maine to the Grand Canyon. These works represent his most mature expression. As such, he belongs among the pre-eminent American landscapists of the second half of the 20th century.

The exhibition continues a program titled “In Celebration of Private



“Self-Portrait,” 1946 (oil on wood. 11 by 8 inches).

Collectors” initiated by the museum in 1998 in honor of those collectors whose generous gifts have enriched the museum’s permanent collections.

The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St. (between Second and Third avenues), New York, NY 10003; telephone, 212-228-0110; fax, 212-228-1947; e-mail, info@ukrainian-museum.org; website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org. Museum hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$6 for seniors and students; free for children under 12 and museum members.

– Press Office of The Ukrainian Museum



“Regensburg at Noontime,” 1949 (oil on board, 9.5 by 14 inches).

Prime minister...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukraine national deputy and close ally of President Yushchenko, warned that the attempt to replace Mr. Stelmakh could lead to “catastrophic consequences.”

“Imagine what a throng will now begin surrounding the National Bank chairmanship,” he told Ukrayina Moloda, a pro-Yushchenko daily newspaper. “I terribly dislike this naked populism. The National Bank is being dragged into a political struggle, and this is unacceptable.”

Mr. Stelmakh’s reputation suffered much damage after Prime Minister Tymoshenko accused him in mid-December 2008 of conspiring with President Yushchenko and his circle in intentionally plundering the hryvnia’s value in order to profit from its decline, to the tune of 4.6 billion hrv (\$657 million U.S.).

The scheme involved printing extra hryvni, under the pretext the money would allow banks to repay depositors withdrawing their money, Ms. Tymoshenko alleged.

Instead of earmarking the money for withdrawals and supporting the hryvnia, top bankers instead acquired the hryvni at a discounted exchange rate and used their newly acquired bills to buy U.S. dollars, expecting the hryvnia to fall even further, the prime minister alleged.

In exchange for the hryvni, the select bankers offered Mr. Stelmakh a bribe of 3 to 7 percent of the credit offered, she charged.

Although Prime Minister Tymoshenko claimed officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs would investigate the matter, no investigation has been completed, and no evidence or formal charges, have been produced.

Parliament also voted on December 18,

2008, to create a temporary investigation commission.

Mr. Stelmakh has been a close colleague of President Yushchenko ever since the latter was tapped as NBU chair in January 1993; he has served on Mr. Yushchenko’s financial team ever since.

In all likelihood, the two have engaged in numerous banking schemes together, both legal and illegal, said Ivan Lozowy, a New York University Law School graduate and veteran political observer.

“I’m sure their corruption goes way back,” he said, adding that he believes Ms. Tymoshenko’s accusations are credible and Mr. Stelmakh likely engaged in corruption with President Yushchenko’s permission.

Interestingly enough, civil servants receive pensions that almost equal their salaries, creating further questions about why Mr. Stelmakh would want to stay on as NBU chair.

Observers note that President Yushchenko has unbending loyalty to those in his inner circle and will defend them no matter what, as demonstrated when he kept New York native Roman Zvarych as justice minister, ignoring his 2005 admissions about lying about his education and professional experience.

“Stelmakh has Yushchenko’s trust, and Yushchenko has defended prior attempts to dismiss him,” said Mr. Fesenko. “But the president has to understand that keeping public trust in the National Bank requires replacing its leadership at this point.”

Aside from dismissing Mr. Stelmakh, the January 26 parliamentary resolution declared the NBU’s financing of separate commercial banks as non-transparent and its leadership’s handling of the financial crisis as unsatisfactory.

That same day lawmakers attempted but failed to pass a resolution canceling

the December 2004 resolution dismissing Serhii Tyhypko as NBU chair, which would have allowed him to replace his successor, Mr. Stelmakh.

Though Mr. Tyhypko’s candidacy has wide support, many deputies didn’t support the vote because they didn’t want to tarnish the reputation of a respected banker with an unconstitutional gesture, Mr. Fesenko said.

“They didn’t want to burn Tyhypko,” he said. “They needed to leave the situation unresolved to create a window of compromise to legitimately select a new National Bank chair.”

Although he has had close ties with Ms. Tymoshenko since the Orange Revolution and currently chairs the Cabinet’s investors council, Mr. Tyhypko draws wide confidence from across the political spectrum.

The 48-year-old native of Moldova, whose wealth was estimated at \$1.6 billion in 2008, served as NBU chair between December 2002 and December 2004.

After gaining the base of his wealth from banking, Mr. Tyhypko expanded his business empire into other industries, including insurance, machine-building, railcar manufacturing and repair, and pharmaceutical retail.

Ms. Tymoshenko has wanted to replace Mr. Stelmakh ever since late December, when the Parliament approved the 2009 budget and she began her assault against Ukraine’s monetary leadership.

The prime minister wants to cover the budget’s record 31.1 billion hrv deficit (\$4.4 billion U.S.) by printing more hryvni and she remains intent on doing so – a policy opposed by the president.

Oleksander Shlapak, the president’s top economic representative, warned on January 26 that the prime minister’s hryvnia emission plan could trigger Ukrainian inflation of nearly 100 percent.

Mr. Arzhevitin also warned of that imminent possibility. “The Cabinet of Ministers wants to get at the printing mint,” the banker said. “We remember what that can lead to – payments in toilet bowls, toilet paper, tires, grain, not even mentioning frantic inflation. Its levels reached 10,500 percent then. Do we want that?”

If Mr. Stelmakh resists pressures to resign, the Tymoshenko Bloc indicated it will aim to introduce legislation early next week that would transfer the authority to appoint the NBU chair from the president to the Parliament, news reports said.

Making contact with The Weekly

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Ukrainian Embassy...

(Continued from page 1)

Ambassador Miller likened the Mall in Washington to the Maidan in Kyiv, the birthplace of the Orange Revolution, which, he admitted, has left much still to be done.

"What you saw on the Mall yesterday was the real thing. It's the spirit of democracy. It's the spirit of a free people. And we share that as Americans with the Ukrainians. And I'm very proud of this close relationship," he said.

"This is a celebration of achievement, of human accomplishment, of human dignity and freedom, and I'm happy to be a part of it with you," Ambassador Miller added.

Another former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Steven Pifer, was at the reception but did not address the gathering.

Also speaking at the Embassy reception was U.S. Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.). He said he looks forward to working on the administration's agenda of the 111th Congress with the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, the USUBC and many individuals in the room who had worked with him in the past.

The subject and tone of the evening changed when USUBC President Morgan Williams called Olympic champion Ms. Baiul to the microphone.

She recalled the astonishment and pride with which she, at the age of 16, mounted the medals award stand at the 1994 Winter Olympics to receive her gold medal and watch the flag of Ukraine be raised. She kept her remarks very brief, but spent much of the evening interacting with her excited fans. She was also interviewed for the Voice of America "Chas-Time" Ukrainian television program.

A native of Odesa, Ms. Baiul came to the Embassy with another prominent

Odesa expatriate, concert pianist Maxim Mogilevsky and his wife, pianist Svetlana Smolina.

The arrival of the space shuttle astronauts was delayed somewhat because of the rush-hour traffic in Washington. When they arrived they were immediately introduced and joined in the singing of "God Bless America" and "Mnohaya Lita" (Many Years).

Introducing captain – her rank in the U.S. Navy – Stefanyshyn-Piper – and six of her shuttle colleagues, Mission Commander Christopher Ferguson noted that she was one of only a few women astronauts to lead space walks outside the shuttle. On their last flight in November, she ventured out into space three times, he said, bringing her career space-walk total to five, in the two shuttle missions she flew.

She did a wonderful job, Commander Ferguson said. And then he added: "My only regret is that – to NASA's disadvantage and, of course, to her professional advantage – she'll be leaving NASA coming up this summer. She'll return back to the Navy, which is a great thing for the United States Navy. They can't wait to have her back."

A native of St. Paul, Minn., Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper received her commission from the Navy ROTC Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she received a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1985. She was accepted as an astronaut candidate by NASA in 1996. In her two flights on the shuttle, she spent 27 days in space – more than 33 hours of which were spent "walking" in space.

Speaking in both English and Ukrainian, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper apologized for being late – agreeing with Ambassador Shamshur that "it is far easier to fly in space than it is to drive



Yaro Bihun

Astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper was, undeniably, the Embassy inaugural reception's most photographed guest. Here she is seen with four members of Philadelphia's Voloshky dancers: Andrea and Emily Knihnicky, Anna Borelli and Melania Trypupenko.

through the streets of Washington" – and expressed her appreciation for the warm welcome she and her colleagues received. This was her second reception at the Ukrainian Embassy, she noted – the first being after her first shuttle flight in 2006.

After a video presentation about the November 2008 mission of the shuttle, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper was kept busy by her many fans in attendance – among them four young ladies from the Voloshky dancers of Philadelphia – posing for photographs, discussing her experiences and autographing NASA-supplied photographs of the most recent space shuttle crew.

The sponsor of the event, the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, which fosters expanding bilateral commercial-economic relations, recently reached its goal of having 100 member corporations and interested institutions by the end of 2008 – the 100th member being Microsoft.

Mr. Williams said that the reception was intended not only to celebrate the inauguration of President Obama but also the

"strong bond of friendship between the people of Ukraine and the people of the United States." Among those who realize the value of this relationship and have spent lots of time, money and effort to keep it going, he said, are the supporting organizations that helped in organizing the event: The Washington Group, Ukrainian American Bar Association, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, Ukrainian-American Environmental Association, Ukrainian Americans for Obama-Biden, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Ukrainian Federation of America, Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

The leaders of these and other organizations were present at the reception, he said, adding that maybe "two or three" of them may well be joining the Obama administration.

"And it's going to take all of us working together to keep Ukraine high on the agenda here in Washington," Mr. Williams said.

Ukrainians attend N.J. inaugural party



Russ Chelak

RAHWAY, N.J. – As special guests of Gov. Jon Corzine, the Ukrainian American community was well represented at the official New Jersey inaugural celebrations, on Tuesday, January 20, at the Garden State Inaugural Ball held here at the Holiday Inn. The delegation included representatives of Ukrainian organizations and well-known members of the community: Camilla Huk, member of the New Jersey Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Immigrant Policies and the Governor's Ethnic Advisory Council; Roma Lisovich, treasurer of the Ukrainian National Association; Petro Stawnychy, head of the U.S. Plast National Command; John Burtyk of the New Jersey State Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; and Michael Koziupa, second vice-president of the Ukrainian National Association and a member of the Governor's Ethnic Advisory Council; as well as other members of the community. Above, inaugural revelers enjoy a moment with the governor: (from left): Mr. Koziupa, Christine Kotlar, Gov. Corzine, Mr. Burtyk and Ms. Huk.

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PHOTO REPORT: Ukrainian Embassy reception celebrates U.S. president's inauguration



Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper thanked the guests for the warm welcome with which she and her space shuttle colleagues were received at the Ukrainian Embassy. Standing with her behind the podium are Ambassador Oleh Shamshur, USUBC President Morgan Williams, space shuttle Mission Commander Christopher Ferguson and Olympic gold medalist Oksana Baiul.



Flanked at the podium by Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Shamshur (left) and U.S.-Ukraine Business Council President Morgan Williams (right), Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.) expressed his readiness to continue working with Ukrainian American leaders on implementing the new administration's agenda in next Congress.



Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller, who had advised the Obama election campaign on foreign policy issues, compared the spirit and energy exhibited on inauguration day on Washington's Mall to that of the Maidan in Kyiv at the birth of Ukraine's Orange Revolution. Listening in behind him is Rep. Jim Gerlach.



Following the official part of the inaugural reception, television journalists of the Voice of America Ukrainian news program "Chas-Time" conducted an interview with Ukraine's 1994 Olympic figure skating champion Oksana Baiul.



As the featured guest of the evening, Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper spent much of her time at the Embassy reception conversing with her admirers and signing autographs.



A sampling of the more than 200 people who came to the reception at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington to celebrate the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Most of the representatives of the Ukrainian American community came from the capital's surrounding states of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Take a look at the past

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TRAVELS: Adventures up north – Iceland and Greenland

by Ulyana Nadia Horodyskyj

Most people have few chances to go off into the unknown and have an adventure. As a geologist conducting field research, I have been afforded many opportunities to travel and see the world. At the age of 22, I have already had a fair share of adventures: in cold places, dangerous regions, and beautiful, pristine lands. Each has been a memorable experience, but my adventures during the summer of 2008 in Iceland and Greenland were the best yet.

While exhilarating and exciting, these adventures also tested me. For the first time, I was on my own, planning and coordinating a research expedition for myself and a group of fellow scientists from Brown University. I also had to scout out likely locations in advance of the rest of the group's arrival. Thus, I had two trips to coordinate: my solo trek and the group expedition.

The goal of this excursion was to collect soil and sand core samples, as well as rocks (about 100 kilos, over 200 pounds) to study chemical weathering processes in the region north of Vatnajökull, Europe's largest icecap.

It is believed that this part of Iceland is geologically similar to the terrain of ancient Mars. By analyzing these samples, we expect to gain a better understanding of the results being reported by robotic probes and orbiters sent to Mars.

Logistics are notoriously difficult to coordinate. The task is even more complex when two trips are linked. Add in factors such as weather, dangerous wildlife and exhaustion once you hit the ground, and it is an accomplishment simply to survive the experience.

Things got off to an interesting start. Upon arriving in Iceland around midnight, I stayed up the rest of the night, waiting in a bus station next to the domestic airport for a flight I was supposed to take the next morning. The flight was delayed (and eventually canceled) due to bad weather. I spent five hours at the waiting airport, until I finally gave up and went to explore the city instead. And then it started raining. Hard.

My short side trip to Greenland took two flights, a two-hour wait at a mosqui-

Ulyana Nadia Horodyskyj is in her second year of graduate studies at Brown University in Providence, R.I., pursuing a doctorate in planetary sciences. Her current field of interest is Mars terrain analogues here on Earth and how they can be used to explain recent anomalous results obtained by robotic probes and orbiters sent to Mars. In her free time, she enjoys rock climbing, mountaineering, photography and filming.



Hiking a 55-kilometer stretch from Landmannalauger to Thorsmork, southwest Iceland, through diverse volcanic landforms.

to-infested landing strip (I really would not call it an airport), and a helicopter ride to arrive at my final destination, Scoresbysund, a town above the Arctic Circle.

I was immediately tagged as a foreigner, not only because of how I looked, but because I did not speak a lick of Greenlandic or Danish. Nevertheless, it was an enriching experience because some of the locals communicated with me in surprisingly good English, showed me around the small town and made me feel very welcome.

While in town, credit card woes (for some reason my card would not work in the grocery store), a drunk shooting off a gun into the air and a loud argument in the center of town made me momentarily question my decision to travel alone to a strange (and seemingly dangerous) land. I thought that if I could sleep off my jet lag, things would get better the next day, while I was out hiking.

However, hiking alone in the backcountry of Greenland proved daunting, as I encountered bear tracks, bloody snow, bones and large, unstable boulders which I affectionately named "ankle-turners" and "bone-crushers" as I fell down many times, unbalanced by all my gear and a newly acquired rifle (for protection against polar bears).

My original route, only a few miles long, required navigating tough terrain. On one side of me were the mountains, with these very large and unstable boulders. On the other side was a steep snow-

(Continued on page 22)



Iceland's highest peak, Mt. Hvannadalshnjúkur, on a clear day.



A field site in northern Iceland, serving as a terrestrial analog to Mars.



Iceland's infamous Laki volcanic fissure (seen in the background).



Ice climbing in Iceland.

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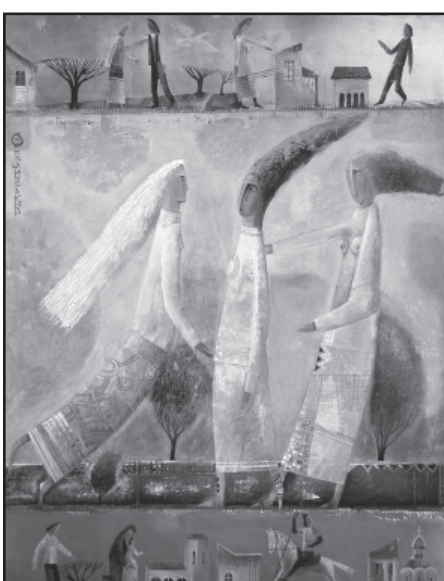
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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

"Although the Venice Convention foresees the cancellation of bilateral agreements if one of the parties of a contract ignores them, Ukraine does not have a goal of breaking the current agreement early," Mr. Osavoliuk said. On May 28, 1997, Ukraine and Russia signed inter-governmental agreements on the division, mutual calculations, status and conditions for the stationing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Ukraine. According to the document, Russia is renting part of Sevastopol to deploy the main base of its Black Sea Fleet for 20 years, until 2017. (Ukrinform)

YTB resolution on presidential election

KYIV – A draft resolution was registered on January 27 at the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine proposing that the next presidential election be scheduled for December 27. This date complies with the Constitution, said the author of the resolution, National Deputy Andrii Shevchenko of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn said that, since the president took the oath of office on January 23, 2005, the date of the new elections would be January 17, 2010. Mr. Lytvyn also spoke in favor of the adoption of a resolution with a precise date for the presidential election. This is necessary "to lift all questions and allow political forces to plan their activities and voters to be involved in particular deed," he said. The Presidential Secretariat also said January 17, 2010, should be the date of the next presidential elections. According to the Constitution of Ukraine, the presidential election should be held on the last Sunday of the last month of the fifth year of the president's term of office. (Ukrinform)

Patriarch Filaret's 80th birthday

KYIV – Ukraine is celebrating the 80th birthday of Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. Official solemnities took place on January 24-25; special expositions in Kyiv are presenting rare artifacts, namely the Ostroh Bible of 1581, the Ostromir Gospels of 1056-1057, the Peresopnytsia Gospel of 1551-1561, the prayerbook of Metropolitan Petro Mohyla, the stamp of Metropolitan of Kyiv, Halychyna and All Rus'-Ukraine Iov Boretskyi, as well as rare icons, portraits of metropolitans of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the scholarly works of Metropolitan Illarion (Ivan Ohiyenko), rare editions of religious literature and historic photos from the life of primates of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Addressing the audience, Patriarch Filaret noted that this exhibition will lay the foundation for a Christian museum of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. "We are unable to renovate the Ukrainian consciousness without museums. We will have more than enough exhibits for the museum of the history of Ukrainian Christianity," the primate underscored. Patriarch Filaret said he is convinced that the Orthodox world will recognize the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. There are about 3,000 parishes of the UOC-KP. (Ukrinform)

Revision of gas deals is urged

KYIV – Ukraine must revise the contracts concluded between the national joint stock company Naftohaz Ukrayiny and Russia's Gazprom natural gas monopoly on the supply and transit of natural gas, Oleksander Shlapak, first vice-chair of the Presidential Secretariat and the president's representative to the Cabinet of Ministers, said on January 23. He urged "attentively analyzing once

again the agreements signed and the European practice, working out proposals to the Russian side and launching consultations in the summer at the latest." Mr. Shlapak noted that the effort would involve the best of Ukrainian and European lawyers. He said that, according to settlements with Naftohaz, the average annual price of natural gas for Ukraine this year will be \$257.84 (U.S.) per 1,000 cubic meters. Thus, "Ukraine will be getting natural gas at European prices in 2009, and a 20 percent discount is empty talk." Mr. Shlapak also emphasized that in 2010 the price of natural gas for Ukraine will be "one of Europe's highest, even without taking into account the delivery of gas." He added that, "The specific terms of these two contracts on the delivery and transit are fully asymmetrical. We must buy and pay, and Russia may pump as much as it likes and pay just for that. We may remain without gas for breaking a single comma in the contract, and Russia makes us go to court even if it does not pay for this gas to us." Mr. Shlapak said the results of the deal will be disastrous for the Ukrainian economy. "It will be either necessary to sharply increase prices for Ukrainian consumers, or compensate for the price difference to Naftohaz Ukrayiny out of the budget, where there is no money for that," Mr. Shlapak noted. (Ukrinform)

Cabinet will not allow revision

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine will not allow any revision of the natural gas agreements that Ukraine and Russia signed in Moscow, First Vice Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov told a news briefing on January 23. "The government will not permit any revision of the agreements reached because they reflect the interests of this country, clearly based on its strategic and economic positions," he emphasized. Mr. Turchynov said that, in Ukraine on the whole and in some of its mass media, passions are kindled by those willing to revise the gas deals and thus return a mediator into the scheme, that is, RosUkrEnergo, which had mediated Ukraine-Russia gas relations. This enterprise, having no gas resource of its own, Mr. Turchynov said, in a matter of a few years became a gas empire that bought companies, TV channels, politicians and political parties. Mr. Turchynov said talk about overpriced gas for Ukraine is nonsense. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko: Ukraine will observe gas deal

KYIV – Ukraine will fully observe the gas agreements signed with Russia in Moscow and will meet its commitments on the transit of Russian gas to the European Union, said President Viktor Yushchenko at a January 27 press conference with the president of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, in Brussels. "Ukraine intends to observe [the agreements] and guarantees high-quality and full transit [of gas] to Europe," Mr. Yushchenko said, adding that Ukraine has always been and will continue to be a reliable transit country. "It is a matter of principle for me, as the president of Ukraine, to prove to the European Commission once again that Ukraine has done nothing to halt Russian gas supplies to Europe. I am confident that Ukraine has never had and will never have a politician being able to halt gas transit supplies. Ukraine does not accept any accusations of uncompleted gas payments and so-called gas thefts. Ukraine has clearly met and will always meet its commitments as a transit state. I want to emphasize that the crisis was not created by the transit problem. It was caused by problems with supplies and those improper steps that were taken with respect to the citizens of the European Union," Mr.

(Continued on page 15)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

Yushchenko said. (Ukrinform)

Historic site in Baturyn

KYIV – On the occasion of the Day of Unity, President Viktor Yushchenko left for Baturyn to take part in the opening of a national history and culture reserve in the hetman capital, where a sculptural composition in memory of five hetmans who had ties with Baturyn was unveiled. The com-

position, titled "Hetman Glory," is a part of the restored citadel of the fortress at Baturyn. Mr. Yushchenko said Baturyn and the Day of Unity are organically connected, because they are inseparable parts of the single process of establishing Ukrainian statehood. Baturyn was thrice destroyed, and each time rose from the ruins. Restoration of this city as a symbol of the invincibility of the Ukrainian nation is needed to ensure that future generations are proud of the heroic past of their nation, said the president's press service. (Ukrinform)



Ділимося сумною вісткою з Родиною і Приятелями, що 20 січня 2009 р. відійшла у вічність на 74-му році життя, заосмотрена найсвятішими Тайнами, наша найдорожча ДРУЖИНА, МАМА і БАБЦЯ

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 - МИШЕЛ МАЦИК
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ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбулися 10 листопада 2008 р. в Українській католицькій церкві Матері Божої Неустанної Помочі в Дірборн Гайтс, MI, а 15 листопада 2008 р. на Українському католицькому цвинтарі св. Духа в Гемптонбурґу, Н. Й.

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- АГАФІЯ КОЗЯР ГЛИНКА з мужем ІВАНОМ
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- д-р ІРИНА ГЛИНКА
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- правнук – ГРИГОРЧИК ГЛИНКА

Вічна йому пам'ять!



We sadly inform you of the passing
of our dear husband and father and your brother in Christ

Melnyk Dmytro Mikhailovich

Born October 20, 1921, in Jasiniv, Ukraine
Died January 13, 2009, in Goleta, California

Funeral services were held on January 22.
Interment was held on January 23 at the Goleta Cemetery, Goleta, California.

He lived and worked in Newark and Irvington, New Jersey. He was a member of the First Ukrainian Baptist Church in New Jersey. After his retirement he moved to Simi Valley and then Goleta, California. He continued to praise and serve the Lord at the First Ukrainian Baptist Church in Goleta.

He leaves behind wife Anna, son Jaroslaw, daughter-in-law Janyce and two brothers Vasil and Jaroslaw with their families in Jasiniv, Ukraine.



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- сестра – ВАНДА БАГМЕТ
- племінниці – НАТАЛКА з мужем ЛЕНСОМ ВІМС та донею
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Ukrainian Canadians receive awards from Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry



At the awards ceremony (from left) are: Oleh Romanyshyn, Iryna Mycak, Ihor Ostash, Andrew Gregorovich, Oleksander Danyleiko and Orest Steciw.

TORONTO – Three leading members of the national executive of the League of Ukrainian Canadians received prestigious awards from Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs: the Honorable Cross of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The awards were issued by Dr. Ihor Ostash, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada, on the 90th anniversary of the unification of western and eastern Ukrainian lands on January 22, 1919. This event was hosted by the Toronto Branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC).

Oleh Romanyshyn, president of the LUC, and Orest Steciw, LUC Holodomor projects coordinator, received awards for raising awareness about the Holodomor as authors of the comprehensive exhibit "Holodomor: Genocide by Famine."

The exhibit is part of a larger project called, "Let's Build 1,000 Monuments to the Victims of the Holodomor," which aims to distribute this exhibit, and thereby raise awareness, to all major universities, libraries and museums. (Readers may log on to www.holodomoreducation.org to learn more about this project.)

Iryna Mycak, a longstanding member of the Ukrainian Youth Association and League of Ukrainian Canadians, was honored with the same award for her work as chair of the UCC's National Holodomor Commemoration Committee.

According to Volodymyr Paslavskij, the executive director of the League of Ukrainian Canadians, "these awards signify as much support from the Ukrainian Canadian community as they signify recognition from Ukraine and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the type of work that LUC does on a daily basis."

Together with Messrs. Romanyshyn and Steciw, Andrew Gregorovich, a third author of the exhibit on the Holodomor, was recognized with the same award from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The League of Ukrainian Canadians is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to the continued growth and development of a prosperous Ukrainian community in Canada. It maintains strong ties

with non-governmental organizations in Canada and Ukraine, recognizing a strong interdependency and the mutual benefit of communication and cooperation. (For more information www.lucorg.com.)

New executive board elected for Vovcha Tropa Plast camp

by Natalka Firko

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The managing committee (Okružna Taborova Komisia) the Vovcha Tropa – Plast camp in East Chatham, N.Y. on November 14, 2008 held its biennial elect a new executive board.

Katria Harasewych, a long-time OTK member from Flourtown, Pa., was elected president. She took over the post from Sonia Bokalo of Telford, Pa. Tunia Bilyk-Shatynski of Pennington, N.J., assumed the responsibilities of vice-president, counselor staffing and administration, replacing Lydia Huk of Clifton, N.J. The position of vice-president of operations was assumed by Darka Halaburda-Patti of Clifton, N.J., who replaced Petro Bokalo of Telford, Pa.

Rounding out the OTK executive team are Darka Temnycky of Clifton, N.J., newly elected secretary, and Lida Chernichenko of Chester, N.J., who continues in her role as treasurer.

OTK comprises approximately 22 vol-

unteer-members, who are active in such endeavors as registration, medical affairs, inventory, communications, field trip coordination – all functional areas required to successfully operate multiple Plast camps and other events at the Vovcha Tropa facilities.

Also part of OTK is a three-person controller/audit group that oversees funding and expenses.

The outgoing OTK executives will remain on board in honorary and advisory roles. The committee also continues to enjoy an influx into its ranks of recent college graduates and young professionals who spent their summers at Vovcha Tropa Plast camps and seek ongoing involvement.

The new executive board is already busy at work preparing for an active spring and summer season at Vovcha Tropa. A continuing collaboration between OTK and the National Plast Command in the U.S. is part of OTK's

(Continued on page 22)

ЗАМОВЛЯЙТЕ ЕНЦИКЛОПЕДІЮ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ ДІЯСПОРИ у Науковому Товаристві ім. Шевченка в Америці

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Turning the pages back...

(Continued from page 6)

"Ukraine's membership in the WTO is truly a historic moment and is a decisive milestone in the development of our economy," President Yushchenko said. "We are convinced that our efforts will yield results and allow us to build closer economic ties worldwide."

In line with Ukraine's WTO accession, President Yushchenko assured that every sector of Ukraine's commerce and trade would have the opportunity to adapt itself to WTO regulations, as foreseen by the five-year transition period following full membership. Economic experts speculated that Ukraine's agricultural exports could grow by as much as 44 percent.

Mr. Yushchenko said that WTO membership for Ukraine would mean that the Ukrainian consumer would be able to buy higher-quality goods and services at lower market rates and would pave the way for a free-trade zone with the European Union.

Source: "World Trade Organization approves membership long sought by Ukraine," by Illya M. Labunka, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 10, 2008.

"Vechornytsi"...

(Continued from page 8)

this emotionally fulfilling and culturally enriching event a few pounds lighter (thanks to Ms. Chernyakhovska's enthusiasm on the dance floor), less financially stressed (a reasonable entrance fee of \$10 was worth every penny), and zealous about the upcoming vechornytsi evening at 6-9 p.m. at the Brooklyn Ukrainian Restaurant 1223 Avenue U, (Ave U stop off the Q train) on February 26. And there can be no excuse for NYC folk music and dance fans as well as culturally curious citizens to miss this event. The admission fee of \$15 includes authentic Ukrainian appetizers at a buffet that can be enjoyed during short breaks from energetic dance instructions from Ms. Chernyakhovska and the boisterous melodies of the Carpathian Mountains, produced by Cheres.

A window...

(Continued from page 3)

Russia is the most fraught with risk, three projects stand out for their urgency: interconnector Poland-Slovakia and Slovakia-Hungary pipelines and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal on Croatia's Adriatic coast.

Those two inter-connectors relate to Nabucco and the Southern Corridor for natural gas while also reflecting the EU's policy goal to interconnect the national pipeline networks in Europe. In Central-Eastern and Southeastern Europe this means building north-south pipeline links, given that the Soviet-bequeathed transit pipelines run east-west, exposing the unconnected countries to grave risks as the recent crisis demonstrated. The proposed Poland-Slovakia and Slovakia-Hungary inter-connectors answer to that necessity. Moreover, Hungary is already building inter-connectors jointly with Croatia and with Romania, which could add up to a north-south interconnected system encompassing those five countries.

For its part, Slovakia, which suffered the most from the Russian cutoff, has announced its intention to join both the Nabucco project and the Hungarian-initiated NETS (New European Transmission Systems) regional interconnectivity project (SME, January 26).


Poland has announced that it is analyzing the possibility of linking up with the planned Nabucco pipeline. The working hypothesis is a link via Slovakia to Baumgarten, Nabucco's designated terminus near Vienna. Given, however, the Austrian OMV's cession of 50 percent ownership in the Baumgarten platform to Gazprom since 2007, Baumgarten seems less appropriate than a Hungarian location for a Polish hook-up to Nabucco via Slovakia.

The proposed LNG maritime terminal in Croatia could help a number of countries reduce their dependence on pipeline-delivered Russian gas. Moscow's recent supply cutoff has spotlighted the need to create LNG options for import diversification, particularly in Central and Southeastern Europe, where dependence on Russia is highest and LNG development is practically nil.

In Hungary itself, some officials in the Socialist minority government seem to cast doubt on the government's commitment to Nabucco. Finance Minister Janos Veres, Energy Minister Csaba Molnar and Hungary's ambassador to Moscow Gyorgy Gillian have all made favorable references to Gazprom's South Stream project, the rival to Nabucco, on the eve of the Nabucco meeting in Budapest. The technique of such statements is to endorse both South Stream and Nabucco in the same breath, as if ignoring the fact that the two projects compete against each other for Caspian gas, regional markets, and investment funds (HIR Television, January 21; Nepszabadsag, January 22; Interfax, January 24).

Such statements elevate Gazprom's South Stream to the same level as the Western-backed Nabucco, creating the impression that the Hungarian government wavers yet again between the West and Russia on energy policy. One year ago, Veres and the Hungarian Embassy in Moscow pushed strongly for Hungary's accession to South Stream. Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany caved in at that time but shifted course again toward Nabucco by mid-2008 and has stayed this course since then. The opposition Fidesz party has led the way in forming a national and parliamentary consensus for the Nabucco project since 2007.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Receives State Department award

WASHINGTON – On January 9, Wolodymyr Sulzynsky, a senior attorney-adviser with the Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, was honored with the U.S. Secretary of State's Career Achievement Award upon his retirement after 33 years of service with the U.S. government.

The award from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was presented to Mr. Sulzynsky by Legal Adviser John Bellinger during an award ceremony at the State Department.

As a senior attorney-adviser with the U.S. Department of State, Mr. Sulzynsky worked on a broad range of international law issues and provided guidance on public diplomacy, non-proliferation, foreign assistance, export controls and other matters. He also provided legal support to the International War Crimes Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

During his tenure with the State Department, Mr. Sulzynsky served as a U.S. diplomat with the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. In February 1992 Mr. Sulzynsky was part of the initial group of State Department diplomats who volunteered to go to Ukraine to assist in establishing the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv following Ukraine's independence in 1991. Mr. Sulzynsky returned to Kyiv later that year on a three-year assignment working with U.S. Ambassador William Green Miller on key arms control agreements and related issues. [The August 13, 1995 edition of The Ukrainian Weekly included an article on Mr. Sulzynsky's assignment in Kyiv, as part of a series on Ukrainian American diplomats in Ukraine, titled, "Wolodymyr Sulzynsky: from volunteer to first secretary."]

In 1998, Mr. Sulzynsky returned to the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv for a four-year assignment and served as the legal adviser to U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual on judicial reform, criminal justice and related rule of law programs in Ukraine.

Mr. Sulzynsky also was an election observer with the U.S. delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) during the 2004 presidential election in Ukraine.

Prior to joining the U.S. Department of State, Mr. Sulzynsky was a senior trial attorney with the Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice, and served with the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Mr. Sulzynsky is also retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve with the rank of commander.

Mr. Sulzynsky received his J.D. from St. John's University, and graduated from Fordham University with a B.S. in economics. He was awarded an LL.M. (international and comparative law) and an M.A. (national security studies) from Georgetown University. He also studied at The Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands.

Mr. Sulzynsky is admitted to practice before the District of Columbia and New York State Bars.

Mr. Sulzynsky is a member of the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City, and the Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired (DACOR) Club in Washington. Mr. Sulzynsky and his family are members of the Holy Trinity Particular Ukrainian Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Md.



State Department Legal Adviser John Bellinger presents award to Wolodymyr Sulzynsky (center) as Ambassador William Green Miller looks on.

Nurse honored for wartime service

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Evelyn "Chappy" Kowalchuk, 88, was honored for her service as a nurse during World War II during Operation Market Garden on September 13-14, 2008, at Royal Air Field at Spanhoe in Northamptonshire, England.

Ms. Kowalchuk, who resides in Huddleston, Va., is a first-generation American born of Ukrainian American parents in New Jersey, and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942 through 1946. She was one of the world's first 125 female flight nurses and spent a night in a foxhole tending to wounded troops during the evacuation of casualties after the Allied Forces D-Day landing in 1944.

Nicknamed "Chappy" for her distaste of hearing foul language from the airmen, she is one of only 15 American women awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal; she accepted the medal on behalf of her squadron.

"I feel like sort of a pioneer," Ms. Kowalchuk told Air Force Print News Today. "Flight nurses were experimental in the second world war, and what we did has culminated in what aeromedical evacuation is today."

After graduating from nursing school in 1941, Ms. Kowalchuk followed her classmates as they enlisted in the U.S. Army, Navy and Marines. After applying,

she never got a response.

"I just felt like there was something wrong with my applications because I wasn't getting an answer," she told Laker Weekly, a local newspaper in Virginia.

Then one of her sisters pointed out the problem: their mother was throwing away the military's correspondence in hopes that her youngest would follow her two older sisters' footsteps by getting married and having children.

She reapplied with her sister's address for the return. Then, in October 1942, at the age of 22, Ms. Kowalchuk began her medical training and then eight weeks of air evacuation nurse training at the U.S. Army Air Corps.

During the National D-Day Memorial dedication ceremony in Bedford, Va., Ms. Kowalchuk represented the flight nurses of the 818th Medical Air Evacuation Squadron and was escorted by President George W. Bush.

Ms. Kowalchuk is active with the American Legion and local posts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and since the mid-1990s has traveled extensively on speaking tours about her service, representing all veteran nurses who proudly served their country. "I regularly speaks at the Lynchburg Nursing School graduation ceremonies, but I'm not recruiting the new graduates," she told The Weekly.


N.Y. artist displays pysanky, ceramics



Anna Denysyk

MORRISTOWN, N.J. – New York artist Sofika Zielyk was among the nearly 160 craft artists whose works were on display and for sale at the 32nd annual Morristown CraftMarket held in October 2008. The show is one of the country's longest running and most successful craft shows. Artists at the 2008 show presented unique creations in media as jewelry, ceramics, glass, leather, wood, metal and wearable fiber. Ms. Zielyk's booth at the show contained both pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) and ceramics. Her pysanky were also featured in advertisements for the Morristown CraftMarket. Above, the artist is seen with her mother, Larysa Zielyk, at the show. To view Ms. Zielyk's work, readers can log on to www.sofika.com.

"Notes on People" is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian community. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person's UNA branch number (if applicable). Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt.



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Role of Russian...

(Continued from page 2)

nominal owners of Centragas]; and we were unable to stop it," Alexander Ryazanov, the deputy director of Gazprom and a member of RUE's coordinating committee, told the Russian newspaper Vedomosti (www.proua.com, February 8, 2005). Why Gazprom wanted to prevent Mr. Palchykov's appointment in the first place was not clear. Gazprom had always insisted that its partners in RUE were honest, transparent businessmen. Had this view suddenly changed?

Part of the explanation could be that the Moscow ETG office Mr. Palchykov headed was located in a building on Novy Arbat 14 that was also used by an alleged mobster, Igor Fisherman, who was wanted together with Mr. Mogilevich by the FBI. According to Vedomosti on May 30, 2006, Mr. Fisherman was Mr. Firtash's partner in the purchase of 75 percent of a Russian company Zangas. The flow of money from RUE to Gazprom was also murky. Apparently it first went to a shell company in Cyprus and then on to Moscow to another shell company, Rubin (Stern, September 13, 2007). Why wasn't the money sent directly to Gazprom?

Mr. Chuychenko, Mr. Medvedev's man in RUE, however, remained adamant in his whitewashing of Mr. Firtash and RUE. "Dmytro Firtash is a very well-known figure in the gas business," Mr. Chuychenko told Ukrayina Television on December 1, 2006. "He has been working in the gas business in Ukraine for a long time, so his appearance in this field was no accident."

On October 9, 2007, Mr. Medvedev made an incredible statement on the German television station ARD: "We will most likely review the scheme of our relations [with Ukraine] and will end the existence of middlemen structures, which we

do not fully understand." How could Mr. Medvedev, the head of Gazprom's board of directors, not understand what RUE was?

Mr. Chuychenko's claims about Mr. Firtash were soon disputed by Mr. Putin, who told Interfax on January 8: "50 percent of RUE belongs to Gazprom... the Ukrainian side belongs to persons we do not know ... they showed us Mr. Firtash once..."

A controversy over massive Ukrainian debts to RUE and RUE debts to Gazprom heated up in January 2008, and Mr. Mogilevich was arrested in Moscow in February 2008. He was charged with aiding a Russian businessman, Vladimir Nekrasov, the alleged owner of the chain of Arbat Prestige perfume stores, in a tax evasion scheme. Documents from the Russian business registry in the possession of the Jamestown Foundation (publisher of Eurasia Daily Monitor), however, show that Mr. Firtash was instrumental in creating Arbat Prestige.

The day after the Ukrainian-Russian gas agreement was signed, the Russian press reported that a Moscow court had ordered that Mr. Mogilevich and Nekrasov remain in detention until March 23 (www.newsru.com/russia/21jan2009/prodlen.html, January 21). Was the timing coincidental or was it linked to RUE's debt to Gazprom?

The litany of contradictions voiced by top Russian officials in the RUE case, as well as documented evidence, suggests that organized crime is linked not only to RUE; it is a stark indication that corruption in the Kremlin has expanded since Mr. Putin's election in 2000. Who stood to benefit from RUE? Mr. Putin claims it was the Ukrainian leadership. The facts suggest otherwise.

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

A possible alliance...

(Continued from page 2)

the Russian-speaking Ukrainians in the eastern and southern parts of the country. But now that its former allies are supporting the government, the PRU claims the anti-NATO and pro-Russian niche all for itself. If the PRU wins more support in the densely populated southeast plus the votes of those central Ukrainians who are disillusioned with both Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yushchenko, it should win any election hands down. Mr. Yanukovich wants early elections early in 2009 in order not to lose momentum.

"If the government is ineffective, it should resign. If it does not want to resign, it should be ushered away," Mr. Yanukovich said in a recent TV interview (Channel 5, December 14, 2008). Addressing his "shadow government," Mr. Yanukovich said that he was giving Prime Minister Tymoshenko 100 days to improve the situation in the economy and, if she fails, he would take people to the streets (www.liga.net, December 11). He also threatened a wave of strikes and protests (Ukrayinska Pravda, December 16, 2008).

Speaking in a later interview, Mr. Yanukovich specified that he "did not see any other way out" but to launch mass protests in the spring if the government did not agree to hold simultaneous early parliamentary and presidential elections (Inter TV, December 21, 2008). In his most recent interview, Mr. Yanukovich repeated his calls for the "earliest possible" parliamentary and presidential elections in order to oust Ms. Tymoshenko (Channel 5, January 6).

The PRU conducted a dress rehearsal of mass protests in Kyiv in late December 2008, when several thousand people organized by the Federation of Trade Unions (FPU) picketed the government building (Ukrayinska Pravda, December 23, 2008). The PRU managed to install its member Vasyl Khara at the FPU's helm this past November (www.fpu.org.ua, November 20, 2008). The FPU, an heir to the Soviet

trade unions, is the strongest and best organized union, so its help in organizing a nationwide anti-government campaign may be crucial.

Interestingly, Yushchenko looks like a natural ally for Mr. Yanukovich in a campaign to undermine the government of his former Orange Revolution allies. Mr. Yanukovich probably meant Yushchenko when he suggested that "a certain portion of my opponents should join us to build our Ukraine together" (Channel 5, January 6). Both Mr. Yanukovich and Mr. Yushchenko deny the legitimacy of the new coalition, arguing that it controls less than half of Parliament. They also agree that the main aim of the coalition is to keep Ms. Tymoshenko's "populist" government afloat. Both hold Ms. Tymoshenko, rather than the global crisis, responsible for the current economic hardships and want her resignation.

Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich have also been on the same side in the recent banking scandals and possibly in the continuing Russia-Ukraine gas row. Ms. Tymoshenko accused the National bank of Ukraine, President Yushchenko and the Nadra bank of conducting illegal currency operations. She wants to oust the head of the NBU Volodymyr Stelmakh (Ukrayinski Novyny, December 12, 2008; Ukrayinska Pravda, December 20, 2008). Yushchenko defended the Nadra bank and refused to dismiss Mr. Stelmakh (Ukrayinska Pravda, December 22, 27, 2008). Nadra is linked to businessman Dmytro Firtash, who is believed to be among the main financiers of the PRU. Mr. Firtash also co-owns RosUkrEnergo, which has been the intermediary, with President Yushchenko's consent, in gas trade between Russia and Ukraine since 2006. Prime Minister Tymoshenko has pledged to expel RosUkrEnergo from the market.

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IN THE PRESS...

(Continued from page 6)

"Europe's Gas Crisis: Don't act surprised," op-ed article by Jonathan Elkind and Edward Chow, International Herald Tribune, January 7:

"...In the nearly two decades since the breakup of the Soviet Union, Russia and Ukraine have failed to stabilize their commercial relationship in the gas sector. Both sides bear responsibility, while Europe behaves as if it is an unaffected bystander, despite the fact that 80 percent of its gas imports from Russia transit through Ukraine. ...

"Meanwhile Washington, entranced by the pro-democracy symbolism of the Orange Revolution, has also shied away from Ukraine's energy problems. ... Never once did the White House apply real pressure on Ukraine to end the excuses and introduce real energy reform. ...

"If Ukraine is to become part of the Euro-Atlantic community, which we would welcome, the arena in which the country can contribute most concretely to European stability, security and harmony is energy security. The matter is also existential for an independent Ukraine.

Kiev [sic] can push ahead with gas sector reform ... And if it pursues this path, it should seek and receive urgent, intensive and coordinated support from Western friends. Or Ukraine can wring its hands and let the current situation continue with short-term fixes that only weaken its position with Russia. If the country chooses the latter course, no one in Kiev [sic] - or in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, or

Washington - should act surprised that gas crises and energy insecurity become a recurring nightmare for Europe."

Europe's Big Chill, editorial, The New York Times, January 9:

"...it's debatable as to who is chiefly responsible for this week's sharp cut in Russian gas flowing through Ukraine. Russia is feeling the pain of falling energy prices and is anxious to get closer to the market price from Ukraine. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin also has no compunctions about using energy to promote his imperial ambitions. But Ukraine is by no means an innocent victim. Its president and prime minister are locked in a fierce power struggle, and its energy industry is mired in shady political and business dealings.

"All this was known in 2006. Since then, neither Russia nor Ukraine has made any effort to stabilize their gas trade - nor have they felt any outside pressure to do so. The Bush administration deemed it far more important to try to get Ukraine into NATO than to press it to reform its energy industry. Germany, France and other European nations spent all their time currying favor with Mr. Putin, while the European Union stood on the sidelines. ...

"The incoming American administration will have to come up with a clear-eyed approach to Mr. Putin - something President Bush never managed. ... Along with the United States, the Europeans also must come up with a strategy for moderating or containing Mr. Putin's bullying ways. ..."

UMANA Illinois Branch elects new leadership, holds "Yalynka"

by George Hrycelak

CHICAGO – On Sunday, January 25, the Illinois Branch of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held its annual "Yalynka" and biennial election of officers for 2009-2011 at the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union (SUAFUCU) in the heart of Chicago's Ukrainian Village.

The UMANA business meeting drew nearly 50 interested members, who heard outgoing president Dr. Roman Saldan thank them for their support, and summarize the branch's two years of activity. Past President Dr. George Kuritza presented the financial report, stressing a slight increase in meeting and event costs, but leaving the branch in a positive economic state. Dr. Paul Pundy, honorary member and activist emeritus, summarized events surrounding the upcoming centennial of the Ukrainian Medical Association in Lviv in 2010.

UMANA Foundation President Dr. Maria Hrycelak invited all present to the upcoming traditional debutante ball, with the proceeds supporting a pilot project of first aid and CPR courses in Chicago and Whippany, N.J., designed for Ukrainian American camp counselors from the Ukrainian American Youth Association,

Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Association of American Youth of Ukrainian Descent (ODUM).

A brief discussion followed, with election of a slate of officers for the coming two years: President Dr. Peter Liber, Vice-President Dr. George Charuk and Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Theresa Kuritza.

Dr. Liber thanked all present for their support, and pledged he would "maintain and improve the Illinois branch's range of activities in the upcoming two years." He reminded members that the next meeting of UMANA-Illinois branch is scheduled for March 15.

After the business meeting, the traditional Yalynka holiday festivities with family and guests took place in the credit union's spacious third floor conference hall. Vice-President of Operations George Bozio and Vice-President of Administration Ulana Hrynewych, speaking on behalf of SUAFUCU President/CEO Bohdan Watral, welcomed UMANA members to their institution, and extended an invitation to further financial and professional interaction and cooperation.

Enthusiastic conversation dominated the afternoon, with a tasty repast catered by Halyna Fedus of newly opened Shokolad Pastry and Café in the Ukrainian



George Hrycelak

Dr. Roman Saldan (left) welcomes incoming President Dr. Peter Liber (center), and Vice-President Dr. George Charuk (right) as new officers of the Illinois Branch of UMANA.

Village section of Chicago. The Sessions Jazz Trio provided background music.

Convivial relaxation ensued among the over 100 attendees enjoying the traditional event. New members, candidates for membership and stalwart associates mingled, exchanging experiences, opinions and suggestions in a collegial atmosphere.

At the conclusion, members were reminded to attend the biennial Convention of Delegates and Scientific Conference, to be held July 1-5 at the Pinnacle Marriott in Vancouver, British Columbia. For further information about upcoming events readers may call UMANA at 773-278-6262.



UMANA Illinois Branch members at their 2009 Yalynka.

Cardin appointed...

(Continued from page 4)

and responsible member of the global community. I look forward to working with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as she leads the effort to restore our nation's credibility in the area of human rights, as we strive to define a 21st century relationship with Russia, and in so many other areas that will help make our nation and our world more secure," he said. "As Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I also intend to focus a brighter spotlight on the plight of refugees and the need for transparency in resource extraction and commerce."

The outgoing chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-Fla.), noted, "I want to congratulate Sen. Cardin on assuming the chairmanship of the Commission. I greatly appreciated his advice and candor during my tenure as chairman. I look forward to playing an active role on the commission as co-chairman and bringing greater attention to the many issues we face abroad."

Formally known as the Commission on

Security and Cooperation in Europe, the U.S. Helsinki Commission, is a U.S. government agency that monitors progress in the implementation of the provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Accords and works to address and assess democratic, economic and human rights developments. The commission consists of nine members from the Senate, nine from the House of Representatives, and one member each from the departments of State, Defense and Commerce.

Chairman Cardin has had a long-standing career in foreign affairs and human rights. He currently is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has served as a member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission since 1993, including as ranking member in 2003-2006. In the 110th Congress he was appointed as co-chairman of the Commission, and is currently vice-president of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly.

Rep. Hastings will soon be appointed by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi as co-chairman of the Commission for 111th Congress.



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Adventures...

(Continued from page 13)

covered slope that dropped off into the iceberg-choked freezing waters. As fog began rolling in, I stopped, once again, and wondered why I had wandered off on my own. For the first time, I was truly afraid for my life. I half expected a polar bear to appear at any moment. I was, after all, hiking in truly wild country.

After a few moments of contemplating the best course of action, I prudently headed the other way, toward a place called "Walrus Bay," which was, essentially, a sandy beach overlooking a glacial lagoon.

Getting to the bay took a long time, as I had to once again negotiate the boulders – but this time downhill. Once at the bay, I realized that to get to my campsite, I needed to cross some standing water. After tromping through the snow, I knew my boots were not waterproof, and I could not afford to get them wet again, since they would not dry during the night.

So, I removed my boots and socks, rolled up my pants and walked as quickly as I could. It took only a few minutes, but it was enough to numb my toes thoroughly. The pain was intense as I rubbed my feet to restore circulation. But, I had a good camping site, situated between the lagoon and the mountains. Not only was it beautiful, it was a strategic location too, in case of roaming wildlife. I could see

anything approaching from any direction.

After setting up camp, I explored the surrounding area, taking detailed photographs and collecting soil samples for later analysis. I hardly slept that "night." It was very bright inside my white tent – due to the midnight sun, that far north – and I kept hearing the ice breaking apart in the water. This brought waves to the shore. At times, the waves lapping upon shore sounded like approaching footsteps, adding to my unease.

After the short night, I headed back into town to re-supply and clean up. This was also my chance to speak with the locals and learn a bit more about life in the town. On the way back, I once again had to cross freezing water barefoot (even worse in the morning).

Then, as I was approaching town, I saw some men waving at me and shouting in Danish. I waved back, only to learn that they wanted me to get off the road and away from a big musk ox that had wandered in from the mountains. As I got closer, the ox turned and looked at me. It was a very unsettling feeling. However, I stood my ground) and, fortunately, it did not come any closer.

The police tried to scare it away by firing into the air. While the ox visibly flinched, it still refused to move. The locals decided to shoot it but, even with all their firepower, they could not bring it down. Instead, the wounds simply enraged the ox and it charged. One man

quickly asked to borrow my rifle (which used Super Hammerhead cartridges) and ended the ox's suffering. The stench was overwhelming. In fact, it stays with me to this day. Since this experience, I have taken to eating more fruits and vegetables than meat.

After my short visit to Greenland, I returned to Iceland and set off on a long bus ride to Skaftafell National Park, situated at the southern edge of Europe's largest icecap, Vatnajokull. My time at the park was very enjoyable. I spent the days hiking, climbing onto glaciers (horizontally and vertically), collecting geologic samples, filming, taking pictures and simply enjoying the outdoors. I felt quite safe. After all, the most dangerous wildlife I encountered in Iceland was sheep!

During this week, I ate by cooking freeze-dried meals in a "bag oven." The way it works is quite simple: it includes a heat activation pad and salt tablets. By dissolving the salt with some water and pouring it onto the pad, the pad gets hot and cooks the food. It takes only about 15 minutes. Having a hot meal in the evenings was always a treat.

During my last day at the park, I tried to climb up a 2,100-meter (6,900-foot) peak with an Icelandic mountain guide and a very tall German. The start of the climb was steep and rocky. The rest was glacier travel using crampons (spikes on boots), an ice ax and rope. The glacier was crevasse-ridden, and twice I fell up to mid-thigh through some weakened "snow bridges" (which conceal the deep crevasses below).

At one point, the clouds rolled in, and it was difficult to see. Being attached by rope to the other climbers gave me a sense of security. It was, in effect, a lifeline. It was a tough climb, and we made it only to 1,300 meters (4,300 feet) before having to turn back due to weather. Needless to say, we did not make the summit (where conditions, apparently, were even worse), but it was an excellent, though exhausting, experience.

Other adventures in Iceland included exploring Laki, a volcanic fissure that released tons of sulfur gas into the atmosphere, killing 25 percent of the population back in the 1700s; and Eldfell Volcano, located on Heimaey Island (part of the Westmann Island group, south of Iceland), which erupted in the 1970s, practically burying the town in ash and wiping out part of it with lava flows.

At Thingvellir National Park, in southwestern Iceland, I had the chance to go snorkeling (in a dry suit) between the European and North American tectonic plates. The water was a balmy 3° C (37° F) and after 20 minutes, I could barely feel my fingers, despite the fact I was wearing heavy gloves.

While in the highlands of Iceland, I completed a 55-kilometer (30 mile) hike with friends I met last year, during my trip to Kamchatka, Russia. The journey was an enjoyable one, though it had its moments of uncertainty and anguish. Sometimes the path was flat and easy,

meandering along scenic stretches. At other times, it was more challenging, requiring us to climb steep terrain with no summit in sight.

There was not one moment during all those kilometers that I considered giving up, even when I could barely feel my left shoulder (my backpack strap broke) or my legs, as we crossed three frigid glacial rivers with strong currents. At times, I found the strength from within, and at other times I drew it from my friends. In the first few minutes of the trek, just as we had set out on a particularly steep stretch, an older gentleman passed me, looked at me and said "courage." I kept that one word in mind during the trek, especially when I felt the 23 kilos (50 pounds) of gear weighing me down.

When the rest of the field team from Brown University joined me in Iceland, I had to shift gears mentally to adjust from solitary exploration. I had barely thought of my life back in the States during this trip. On other trips, I would often get homesick. On this trip, I felt in my element, living in the moment, day by day. That kind of simplicity (and clarity) is hard to find these days in the modern world. Yet, in nature, there is no other way. Gadgets work only until the batteries die or there is no reception. We had our share of equipment failures, but were able to improvise repairs that allowed us to continue working. Nothing like having a super Swiss Army knife for those moments!

After experiencing Greenland and spending a few weeks on my own in Iceland, I found myself adapting more readily to conditions beyond my control (such as weather) and simply enjoying the moment: while hiking alone and hearing only the wind, even while bashing my knees into the ice after falling during a vertical climb.

When the Icelandic equivalent of a nor'easter hit, it was absolutely incredible to see and feel the forces of nature first hand. Working conditions were dire: 120-kilometer-per hour (75-mile per hour) winds at the worst, rain, rotten egg smell (from sulfur dioxide gas) and pelting scoria (sharp, light-weight volcanic rocks that got picked up and thrown by the intense winds). I was pretty much crying out rock dust for a day afterwards. After completing our field work, we raced back to the cars and tried to get warm. The reading on the car's thermometer said "ice." Ah, the irony.

The experiences I had at the top of the world certainly are memorable. Upon returning to the States and going back to work, I have often thought of the adventures and mis-adventures I had, and they constantly bring a smile to my face. The fact that I was able to plan the trip, execute the trip and come back home in one piece, full of life and crazy stories, has given me more confidence in my abilities as a field geologist. I look forward to more adventures this winter, as I venture into the Himalayas, and next year, as I prepare for an extended stay in Antarctica.



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(Continued from page 17)

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OUT AND ABOUT

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|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| February 2
Cambridge, MA | Lecture by Paul Josephson, "Science and Stalinism on the Soviet 'Periphery': Physics in Ukraine, 1928-1953," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 | February 22
Colebrook, CT | Winterfest ice skating party, Bobrivka, 860-883-1391 or 203-932-4376 |
| February 6
Philadelphia | Poetry reading with Viktor Neborak, Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, 215-684-3548 | February 23
Cambridge, MA | Lecture by Andriy Danylenko, "The Gospels in Vernacular Ukrainian: Contrasting the Language Programs of Panteleimon Kulish and Antin Kobylanskyi," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 |
| February 6-7
Chicago | Enthronement of Bishop Daniel as eparch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Chicago Marriott O'Hare, 773-693-4444 | February 25
Washington | Lecture by Rakesh Sarma, "Dissatisfaction and Disillusionment in Ukraine - Findings from the 2008 IFES Public Opinion Survey," Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4000 |
| February 7
Philadelphia | Presentation of debutantes and ball, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America - Philadelphia Branch, Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellvue, 215-635-7134 | February 28
New York | Lecture by Tetiana Stepykina, "A National View of the World as a Problem of Contemporary Ukrainian Studies," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 |
| February 7
Long Island City, NY | Winter Ball, Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church, 718-932-4060 | March 2
Cambridge, MA | Lecture by Konstantin Jerusalemky, "Muscovites in Ruthenian Lands in the 16th-17th Centuries: Social Integration, Cultural Identity, Historical Memory," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 |
| February 7
New York | Lecture by Volodymyr Mezentsev, "On the 300th Anniversary of the Baturyn Tragedy: Archaeological Discoveries in Baturyn in 2008," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 | Postponed from:
February 3 | The Hnatyshyn lecture by Sen. Raynell Andreychuk has been postponed until a future date. |
| February 8
Washington | Lecture by Volodymyr Mezentsev, "Prelude to Poltava - The Latest Archaeological Discoveries at Baturyn and the 300th Anniversary of the Baturyn Tragedy," Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine, 240-205-1889 | <p><i>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. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.</i></p> | |
| February 9
Washington | Lecture by Karina Korostelina, "Defining Identities: The Role of History Education in Russia and Ukraine," Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4000 | <hr style="border: 1px solid gray;"/> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Enthronement of Bishop Daniel to take place February 6-7</h2> | |
| February 9
Cambridge, MA | Lecture by Taras Kuzio, "Politics, Elite Conflict and Gas Crises: Ukraine in the Approach to Presidential Elections," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 | <p>PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The formal enthronement of Bishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and his appointment by the Council of Bishops of the UOC of the U.S.A. as ruling hierarch of the Western Eparchy, will take place on February 6-7 at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Chicago (2238-50 W. Cortez Street, Chicago, IL 60622).
A Vespers service will be served at 7</p> | |
| February 14
Chicago | Presentation of debutantes and ball, featuring music by Good Times, Ukrainian Medical Association of North America - Chicago Branch, Palmer House, 312-282-7017 | <p>p.m. on Friday, February 6, and the enthronement will take place following divine liturgy, which will commence at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 7. An Agape Feast will take place at the Chicago O'Hare Marriott Hotel (8535 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631).
Tickets to the Agape Feast may be purchased by contacting Subdeacon John Charest, 401-744-4759.</p> | |
| February 14
Parsippány, NJ | Presentation of debutantes and ball, Ukrainian American Youth Association, featuring music by Vorony and Hrim, Sheraton Hotel, | <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">OPERA TOUR</h2> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">September 09 – 20, 2009
12 Day All Inclusive Deluxe Escorted Tour
Featuring Georg Enescu International Music Festival in Bucharest</p> <h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">MANON LESCAUT</h3> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Daniel Dessi, Soloist
Royal Philharmonic
Joshua Bell, Soloist</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">\$3700 twin \$500 sgl splmnt</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Tour Features: Trans Atlantic air via Lufthansa Airlines, transfers, Deluxe hotels, meals, sightseeing and opera/theater tickets.
Bucharest (3) + dlx bus tour of N, Romania: Bukovyna and Maramures region (4) + Budapest: Margaret Island (4) spa resort</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Registration deadline: March 01, 2009</p> <hr style="border: 1px dashed white;"/> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">This tour is organized by the Omelan Helbig Memorial Fund
All proceeds go to the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Contact: SCOPE TRAVEL INC. 101 s. Centre St. S.Orange, NJ 07079
scope@scopetravel.com 973 378 8998 www.scopetravel.com</p> </div> | |
| February 14
Perth Amboy, NJ | Valentine's Day Dance, Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 732-826-0767 | | |
| February 14
Toronto | Bandura recital with Taras Komanichenko and Yuri Fednsky, St. Vladimir Institute, 416-923-3318 | | |
| February 14
New York | Lecture by Jaroslaw Martyniuk, "The Media and Public Opinion in Ukraine," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 | | |
| February 14
Buffalo, NY | 1950s Rock & Roll Dance Party, Ukrainian Cultural Center Dnipro, 716-856-4476 | | |
| February 17
Washington | Panel discussion, "Energy Security Challenges to Europe and America in Eurasia," Jamestown Foundation, The National Press Club, 202-483-8888 | | |
| February 19
Stanford, CA | Lecture by Joseph Coleman Carter, "Crimean Chersonesos from Independence to the Present: Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Politics," Stanford University, 650-723-3562 | | |
| February 21
Pearl River, NY | 50th "Chervona Kalyna" Debutante Ball, Pearl River Hilton, 718-291-4166 | | |
| February 21
Los Angeles | Presentation of debutantes and ball, California Association to Aid Ukraine, Manhattan Beach Marriott, 800-228-9290 or 818-783-9773 | | |
| February 21
New York | Book presentation by Vitaly Chernetsky of Yuriy Andrukhovych's "Moskoviada," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 | | |
| February 21
Miami, FL | "Vyshyvani Vechornytsi" dance, Miami Educational and Cultural Group, Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary hall, 305-798-0190 | | |



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, February 9

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture by Taras Kuzio, adjunct professor at the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at Carleton University; and editor of Ukraine Analyst. His lecture, "Politics, Elite Conflict and Gas Crises: Ukraine in the Approach to Presidential Elections," will be held at 4 p.m. in Room S-050 (Concourse Level), CGIS Building South, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 617-495-4053 or e-mail huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Friday, February 13

NEW YORK: The Center for Traditional Music and Dance presents "The Third Eye: Festival of Retro-Futurism," an evening of musical responses to The Ukrainian Museum's exhibition "Futurism and After: David Burluk, 1882-1967," at 7 p.m. at the museum, 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues. The New York Bandura Ensemble's Mike Andrec and Julian Kytasty will join vocalist Natalka Honcharenko and special guests Gisburg and Michael Alpert in a program of new works inspired by Burluk, the Ukrainian painter renowned as the father of Futurism. Tickets are \$15. For reservations call 212-228-0110 or 212-571-1555, ext. 35.

Saturday, February 14

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) Illinois Chapter requests the honor of your company at the traditional banquet and ball with presentation of the 2009 debutantes in

the Grand Ballroom of the Palmer House Hilton Hotel. Cocktails are at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m.; evening attire is requested. Participation is limited to guests age 17 and over. Only guests with a prepaid ticket may view the presentation of debutantes. Tickets for the banquet and ball are \$150 per person; \$40 per person for the ball only. All proceeds from this year's ball will be donated to the Foundation of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America. A special room rate of \$149 has been arranged for those interested in staying at the Palmer House Hilton during the UMANA debutante ball. In order to obtain the discounted rate, reservations must be made before January 30. Please mention the "Ukrainian Medical Association" when making your reservations; telephone, 312-726-7500. For information call Katia Hrynewycz, 312-282-7017, or e-mail UMANADEB2009@aol.com.

Saturday, February 21

MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif.: The California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU) presents its 2009 Ball and Presentation of Debutantes at the Marriott Hotel, Manhattan Beach, Calif., minutes from downtown Los Angeles and LAX. Donations and proceeds from this year's ball will benefit programs to aid needy children in Ukraine. Music will be by Vechirka. The silent auction will feature Ukrainian handcrafts, Hollywood memorabilia, jewelry, fine art and more. Tickets purchased prior to February 14 are \$95 for students and \$110 for adults; after February 14 and at the door – \$125. For information contact Luba Keske, 818-884-3836 or orcaau_info@earthlink.net.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Information should be sent to: preview@ukrweekly.com or Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510. NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message. Cost is \$20 per listing.

Вечорниці "Червоної Калини"

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