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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXXVII

No.10

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

SBU raids offices of Naftohaz demanding gas deal documents

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The war between billionaire businessman Dmytro Firtash and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko for control of Ukraine's natural gas transport system reignited on March 4 when 12 masked officers of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) armed with assault weapons stormed Naftohaz Ukrainskyi headquarters to make arrests and demand documents.

The officers arrested Taras Shepitko, accusing him of participating in the theft of 6.3 billion cubic meters of natural gas, and demanded the original copy of the January 19 natural gas agreement that Ms. Tymoshenko signed with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, which she has yet to provide to the SBU or Parliament.

While authorities allege the original was necessary to confirm the pact's conditions, Ms. Tymoshenko and her allies claim the criminal charges and subsequent search were merely a pretext to intimidate Naftohaz officials from aiding the Cabinet's attempts to eliminate the corruption related to gas transit.

"I think that very few naive politicians and journalists are left in Ukraine who would think that the special forces would act without the president's command," Ms. Tymoshenko told journalists during her March 4 visit to Paris.

"As prime minister, I will painfully rap the hands of those who encroach upon state property," she added, referring to the 11 billion cubic meters of natural gas at the heart of the current conflict.

Ukraine's most powerful politicians are fighting over control of the country's natural gas trade because it involves billions of dollars in profit, which Ms.

Tymoshenko alleges has been funneled into the private coffers of President Yushchenko and his political allies.

Party of Regions politicians Yurii Boiko and Serhii Liovochkin are also involved in siphoning money from the natural gas trade through Mr. Firtash, the prime minister alleges.

Through her agreement reached with Mr. Putin, Ms. Tymoshenko succeeded in eliminating RosUkrEnergo, the opaque intermediary established by President Yushchenko in January 2006 and controlled by Mr. Firtash that she alleges is the structure through which billions of dollars are funneled.

As for the 11 billion cubic meters currently being fought over, Mr. Firtash alleges that natural gas belongs to him, a position supported by President Yushchenko, who controls the SBU and approved of the March 3 raid.

Messrs. Boiko and Liovochkin also support returning the gas to Mr. Firtash, a position that caused a rift within the Party of Regions after its failed February attempt to dismiss Ms. Tymoshenko from her post.

Meanwhile, Ms. Tymoshenko has alleged Mr. Firtash stole that gas, which the Ukrainian government purchased from Gazprom, and it's merely her responsibility as prime minister to reclaim it for the Ukrainian people.

The conflict and ensuing chaos seemed to play right into the hands of Mr. Putin, who announced on March 5 that the Russian government would cut off natural gas supplies yet again if the Ukrainian government didn't fulfill a \$360 million obligation that was due March 7.

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Rada dismisses Ohryzko Foreign affairs minister is latest casualty of political battle

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Parliament voted on March 3 to dismiss Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko. The pro-Western diplomat became the latest casualty in the ongoing three-way battle between the Presidential Secretariat, the Cabinet of Ministers and pro-Russian opposition forces.

The Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) and 49 deputies of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) assembled 250 votes to dismiss Mr. Ohryzko, no longer willing to tolerate his pro-Washington positions and loyalty to President Viktor Yushchenko in his attacks against Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

While contempt for Mr. Ohryzko from pro-Russian forces had long been boiling, it was his recent criticism of Ms. Tymoshenko that pushed her over the edge, prompting her to sacrifice him in exchange for support in canceling pre-term elections for the Ternopil Oblast Council, where her bloc faced big losses.

"It was a so-called barter, in which the Tymoshenko Bloc helped the Party of Regions dismiss Ohryzko, and in the next vote the Party of Regions helped the Tymoshenko Bloc, which lacked enough votes, to cancel the election to the Ternopil Oblast Council," said Oleh Zarubinskyi, a national deputy with the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc, which didn't support either vote.

Borys Kolesnikov, a top PRU national deputy, claimed no trade was involved and that both votes were a coincidence of common interests.

Meanwhile, Ms. Tymoshenko claimed



Zenon Zawada

Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko was dismissed by the Verkhovna Rada on March 3.

the 49 deputies who voted to dismiss Mr. Ohryzko acted emotionally in defiance of her instructions to abstain from the vote, an assertion rejected by political observers.

"I doubt that such a large group of deputies, particularly those so closely linked to Tymoshenko, would act on emotions," said Oleksander Palii, a political expert with the Institute of Foreign Policy at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

About four hours after the vote, Ms. Tymoshenko continued to feign disappointment with her deputies, as if they truly defied her orders, telling reporters that she understood what motivated them.

"They don't agree with the foreign affairs minister sending abroad instructions which shame the prime minister, the Ukrainian government and the state," she said. "I not only understand this, but also share their indignation."

"However, today, when the political situation in the country is indefinite, and the economy is difficult, I would advise our deputies to find within themselves the strength to curb their outrage and anger, and not surrender to their emotions."

Minutes after that statement, however, Ms. Tymoshenko cleared the smoke-screen and admitted that Mr. Ohryzko was indeed a stick in her craw that she was happy to be rid of.

"As a minister, Ohryzko radically didn't suit me," she told reporters. "This is an unprofessional person, who systematically engaged in provocations against the government. But, at the same time, understanding the faction's disposition, in which all 155 individuals wanted to vote for Ohryzko's dismissal, we asked that the faction not vote."

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Yushchenko and Tymoshenko pledge reforms in letter to IMF

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko have managed to set their differences aside and agree on a reform package in an effort to save the economy from imminent collapse.

Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko agreed on March 2 on the content of a letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund signaling their readiness to take measures in the economy to qualify for the continuation of IMF financing in the framework of a \$16.4 billion stand-by loan.

Ukraine badly needs IMF money in order to avoid a default on its international obligations. The plan approved by Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko may be blocked, however, by the opposition Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), which disagrees with several key provisions of the letter.

The IMF approved the stand-by loan for Ukraine last November. Its first \$4.5 billion tranche arrived promptly for the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) to start refinancing banks, several of which were about to collapse.

Ms. Tymoshenko, however, intervened in the process. She told the NBU to coordinate refinancing with her Cabinet, suspecting that banks were using the money for currency speculation; and she orchestrated a no-confidence vote in NBU chief and Yushchenko ally Volodymyr Stelmakh (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, January 30).

Ms. Tymoshenko also refused to revise the 2009 state budget, which both Mr. Yushchenko and the IMF viewed as too optimistic. Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk, who had refused to sign the budget, resigned in protest against what he described as the domination of politics over professionalism in the government (ICTV,

February 28).

Eventually, the IMF postponed the allocation of the loan's \$1.845 billion second tranche, which Ukraine expected on February 15. The IMF mission left Kyiv.

This was the last thing that an economy teetering on the brink of collapse needed. Ukraine has been the East European country most severely affected by the crisis. The national currency lost some 50 percent of its value from September 2008 to February. In January alone, inflation reached 2.9 percent, real wages dropped 12 percent, industrial output shrank 34.1 percent, and GDP contracted by some 20 percent compared with the previous year after almost a decade of steady growth that continued until last fall.

The lack of unity between President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko had been one of the reasons

ANALYSIS

NATO-Ukraine partnership hobbled ahead of NATO's anniversary summit

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor

NATO's most ambitious, most highly developed, and for a time most promising partnership, the one with Ukraine, is sliding backward despite efforts at NATO headquarters to keep it on track. Ukrainian authorities and certain Western European governments within NATO share responsibility for the backsliding. The alliance's upcoming summit will have to book this setback among a host of others that confound NATO on its 60th anniversary.

The pre-summit meeting of 26 allied defense ministers held on February 19-20 in Krakow reviewed this troubled partnership in a revamped NATO-Ukraine Commission in the 26 + 1 format. Chaired by the proceedings, NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer gave assurances of "continue[d] support for Ukraine's [defense sector] reforms and preparations for NATO membership." The commission would monitor the implementation of Ukraine's defense sector reforms and focus on the first Annual National Program (ANP) in that regard. "We are determined to continue to develop this strategic partnership," Mr. de Hoop Scheffer assured the Ukrainian delegation (NATO release, February 20).

Others struck a different note, however. German Defense Minister Franz-Josef Jung made it clear at the Krakow ministerial meeting that Berlin did not want ANPs with membership-oriented content for Ukraine and Georgia (Financial Times

Deutschland, February 21).

France was even blunter. During NATO's recent Security Conference in Munich, French President Nicolas Sarkozy took aim at Ukraine and NATO's open door in one swipe: "If you see the light in the window, it does not mean that you must go knocking at the door" (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 11).

Such remarks undermine the credibility of the alliance's official Open Door Policy and can compromise the chances of NATO-assisted reform efforts in Ukraine. At the Krakow meeting, Ukrainian Defense Minister Yurii Yekhanurov reminded the assembled defense ministers, "It is extremely important to maintain the principle of NATO's open door, which gives individual [aspirant] countries their chance to have their security guaranteed" (RFE/RL, February 20).

Ukraine's defense and security sector reforms have been stalled since 2005 amid the Orange crisis of institutions (confounding the hopes invested in the Orange project) and seem to have run out of resources since the onset of the economic crisis in late 2008 in Ukraine. The country's defense budget has declined to 0.8 percent of GDP in 2008 and 2009, the lowest level since Ukraine became independent, according to statements by Ukrainian officials during the Krakow ministerial meeting (Interfax-Ukraine, February 20).

President Viktor Yushchenko lamented

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NATO deliberates strategic concept and relations with Russia

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor

NATO will hold its 60th anniversary summit on April 2-4 on both sides of the Franco-German border. The summit is expected to adopt a basic document on NATO's concept, to be finalized after the anniversary event and replace the existing, decade-old Strategic Concept. The alliance's secretary general, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, presented a sketch of the new concept at the meeting of allied defense ministers on February 19-20 in Krakow.

The document, not distributed publicly, identifies six salient points, with particular concentration on combating terrorism and related threats and challenges, nuclear proliferation, cyber attacks, climate change (in the context of energy-security policy), and other post-modern threats and challenges (Stratfor, "A Disappointing Summit," February 20).

Any secretary general must hew close to a common denominator among differing views within NATO on policy issues. This will undoubtedly also be the case with the Strategic Concept at the coming summit. The alliance's Western European tier seems politically and culturally wedded to perceptions of threat that took shape during the preceding decade, mostly linked with non-state, non-military actors and forces. Western European governments seem for the most part reluctant to recognize the persistence of conventional military threats and pressures from Russia on neighboring countries and to draw the policy consequences for NATO. A properly updated Strategic

Concept, however, would no longer give that type of threat the short shrift. Mr. de Hoop Scheffer's concept outline does at least identify cyber defense as a high priority for NATO, in the wake of the Russian assaults on Estonia's and Georgia's Internet systems during the 2007 political crisis and the 2008 invasion, respectively.

The Krakow ministerial meeting showed NATO policy toward Russia reverting to business as usual, soon after Russia's invasion of Georgia (with ongoing militarization of the occupied territories there), suspension of gas deliveries to Europe affecting NATO member-countries (in their dual capacity as European Union members), and eviction of the U.S.-led coalition from Kyrgyzstan's Manas air base (critical to allied operations in Afghanistan).

Nevertheless, "normalization" with Russia proceeds de facto, without that label but also without a decent interval and on Russian-defined terms. The terms basically involve acceptance of those Russian faits accomplis in the hope that Russia might ultimately deliver on some critical issue (Afghanistan, Iran, energy supplies) for which the West feels dependent on Moscow's cooperation.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates repeated in Krakow the idea that it was time to "reset the relationship with Russia and move forward." According to Mr. Gates the United States and NATO allies need Russia in too many ways to ignore it (AP, February 19, 20). He named three of

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NEWSBRIEFS

Taylor: Ukraine needs consolidation

KYIV – Ukraine needs consolidation of all branches of power to receive the second tranche of the International Monetary Fund's stand-by loan, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William B. Taylor said on March 3. "If the president, the prime minister, the NBU [National Bank of Ukraine] governor and the [Rada] speaker work jointly, if they have an agreement of opinion, all this [points of the IMF stand-by arrangement] could be fulfilled. And, after that, the IMF can really provide its assistance, as the matter concerns billions of dollars," he said at a news conference in Kyiv. Mr. Taylor also reported that he had talked to the IMF representatives both in Ukraine and in Washington. "They told me that they were kindly surprised that there was a real potential, like on Friday, on Monday and, we hope, today there will be a meeting of the president and the prime minister, representatives of the opposition, the NBU governor to discuss all issues jointly," the ambassador noted. The IMF had postponed extension of the second tranche of its loan to Ukraine (planned for February 15), having called on Ukraine's authorities to cut the deficit, enhance monetary policy and control the banking sector. On November 5, 2008, the IMF approved a two-year Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) for about \$16.4 billion (U.S.) to help Ukrainian authorities restore financial and economic stability. On November 10, 2008, the first tranche of \$4.5 billion was sent to Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Rada dismisses foreign minister

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on March 3 dismissed Volodymyr Ohryzko as foreign affairs minister. A total of 250 national deputies backed the decision; 226 votes were required for the vote to take effect. The bill to dismiss Mr. Ohryzko was initiated by the opposition Party of Regions of Ukraine and supported by the Communist Party of Ukraine and 49 members of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. (Ukrinform)

PM on Ohryzko's dismissal

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia

Tymoshenko said on March 3 that she is disappointed that some national deputies of her bloc had backed the dismissal of Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko. "I understand the motivation and indignation of some of our deputies," she commented. "Thus, they have openly expressed disagreement with the unprofessional activity of the minister, as the minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine allowed himself to send instructions abroad that disgrace the prime minister, the Ukrainian government and the state itself. I not only understand, but to some extent share their indignation here," Ms. Tymoshenko stressed. "However, with today's political turbulence and the economic slump in the country taken into account, I would advise the deputies to... not give in to emissions. There is a factional discipline and an official stand of the political force, and no one is allowed to violate it for any motives. It is necessary to have a well-balanced approach to any decision and any voting to ensure stable work of the coalition and the Parliament," she added. Forty-nine deputies of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc were among the 250 who voted on March 3 to dismiss Mr. Ohryzko. (Ukrinform)

Lytvyn Bloc against dismissal

KYIV – The Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc did not vote for the dismissal of Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko, as this will lead to another confrontation between the president and the prime minister – since Mr. Ohryzko was appointed by the president – said National Deputy Oleh Zarubinsky, a Lytvyn Bloc member. Asked by reporters whether the voting of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) for the dismissal was a surprise for the Lytvyn Bloc, Mr. Zarubinsky noted that, to some extent, it was. "Even before the voting it was clear that some processes were taking place in the Tymoshenko Bloc, as the coalition [YTB, Our Ukraine–People's Self-Defense and Lytvyn Bloc] had made a unanimous decision not to back the dismissal of Mr. Ohryzko. The minister's dismissal was initiated by the Party of Regions and the

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$55; for UNA members – \$45.

Periodicals postage paid at Parsippany, NJ 07054 and additional mailing offices. (ISSN – 0273-9348)

The Weekly: UNA:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510 Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:

The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Editors: Matthew Dubas
Zenon Zawada (Kyiv)

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

The Ukrainian Weekly, March 8, 2009, No. 10, Vol. LXXVII

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The post-Soviet generation: a roundtable with Lviv university students

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

The post-Soviet generation: This year's college freshmen, most of whom were born in 1991, represent the first generation of Ukrainians to have never known the Soviet Union. The Weekly conducted roundtable interviews with freshmen in Luhansk, Kyiv and Lviv to examine their views, acquired mostly from family, school and the mass media. This article is the second in the series.

LIV – Roman Nazarenko, born and raised in Symferopol, the capital of Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea, had numerous relatives in Halychyna who were murdered and imprisoned by the Soviets.

Returning to their native land to study at the Ukrainian Catholic University, he has a unique insight into the bookends of Ukrainian society and how starkly views of the Soviet Union can differ.

A mixed view has emerged in his own mind as a result. "It's hard to say" whether the Soviet era deserves condemnation, said Mr. Nazarenko, born four months before Ukraine declared independence. Only some Communist statues should be removed, and only the main streets renamed, he commented.

"They sharply react to even sitting down and considering whether it's needed or not," Mr. Nazarenko said of how Crimeans respond to Ukrainianization. "I think we need to sit at a roundtable and resolve such issues, because we can't leave everything as is, nor change everything. What's needed is some ...," he said before trailing off.

This year's freshmen at Ukraine's colleges and universities, most of whom were born in 1991, represent the first generation of Ukrainians who never knew the Soviet Union.

Roundtable discussions with freshmen at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, the largest private university in Ukraine, revealed that those students who are Lviv natives harbor views of the Soviet Union largely reflective of the Halychyna region, which led the Ukrainian resistance to Communism during World War II.

"There was nothing that good about the Soviet Union," said Svitlana Mykhalkiv, a Lviv native born nine months before Ukrainian independence. "There were only repressions, arrests, reprisals against nationalists, and I see nothing positive in it."

Even those Soviet achievements embraced by many Ukrainians, such as industrial development, are really examples of the system's failure, she said. "The textbooks told us heavy industry strongly

developed and the economy strongly developed, but that was only on paper," she said. "They developed, but not in a way that they were supposed to have truly developed."

For eastern Ukrainians like Mr. Nazarenko and Vladyslav Betsun, who was born in the Russian Federation, studying at UCU has opened a new perspective on both Ukraine and the Soviet Union that they might not have otherwise known had they chosen to study in their native regions.

Although an Orthodox Christian raised in Luhansk, the easternmost corner of Ukraine, the soft-spoken Mr. Betsun said he chose to study at UCU because "I like the Greek-Catholic denomination more."

Living outside Luhansk for the first time, Mr. Betsun admits that he's adjusting to the attitudes in Lviv, which "significantly differ from those there." He added, "I never heard the Ukrainian language and only started speaking the true Ukrainian language here," he said.

Whether it's their recent exposure to Lviv or something already inside of them that led them to Lviv to pursue their studies, both Mr. Nazarenko and Mr. Betsun had fairly critical views of the Soviet Union, which is unusual for eastern Ukrainians.

"I imagine these were times of a certain grayness and uniformity," said Mr. Betsun, born in May 1988. "The individual point of view was not accepted; rather, everything was done for social understanding."

Spirituality was suppressed, and Soviet authorities made sure citizens didn't know what was happening in the rest of the world, he said. "They were always told, you live well, you have all the best and everything is bad abroad, like zombies," Mr. Betsun said. "Everyone had money, but they couldn't spend it because there wasn't anything to buy. My parents had quite a negative attitude."

What Mr. Nazarenko most associated with the Soviet Union was its prohibition of freedom of thought, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and individual freedoms.

The Soviets forbid embracing one's ethnic identity, such as Ukrainian literature, orthography and writing, he said.

Like his colleague, Mr. Nazarenko stressed how many manifestations of Ukrainian spirituality were suppressed and severely punished. "People constantly lived in some danger, understanding that any wrong move today or tomorrow and your life, or the lives of those close to you, could be hanging on a thread," Mr. Nazarenko said.

Born three weeks before Ukrainian independence was gained on August 24, 1991, all Lviv native Natalia Sholovii saw of the Soviet Union was a pile of leftover



Zenon Zawada

Lviv Oblast native Halyna Halaiko (right) has heard positive things about the Soviet era, while Svitlana Mykhalkiv (left) said the Soviet Union brought almost no good for Ukraine. Both are freshmen at the Ukrainian Catholic University.

brochures and T-shirts with the hammer and sickle.

Her parents said they were married in a secret Catholic ceremony, and some couples even signed the legal documents for marriage without ever having a church ceremony.

Naturally, the UCU freshmen were familiar with the valiant efforts of Metropolitans Josyf Slipyj and Andrey Sheptytsky to preserve the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the underground and abroad.

"Thanks to them the Ukrainian Catholic Church exists to this day," said Halyna Halaiko, a freshman student from the Lviv Oblast village of Yaseniv in the Brody district.

Contrary to the confident nationalism trumpeted by her colleague, Ms. Halaiko offered a more balanced view of the Soviet era. Though her parents were critics, she heard others speak positively.

"Allegedly there was stability, people received money, they could live, and were able to buy their own home for kopeks," she said. "For example, in our time we can't buy a home for kopeks. Back then, they could trade or buy."

However, Ms. Mykhalkiv was quick to correct Ms. Halaiko's comments, pointing out that Soviet residents could gain an apartment only after waiting a certain period of time. (In fact, it was common to wait 20 to 30 years.)

"But there were drawbacks, such as



Lviv native Natalia Sholovii said Ukrainians need to look forward and leave the past behind.

dreadful lines at stores," she said, repeating what her mother had told her. "Certain items and products were unavailable, especially if they were related to clothes or everyday items. Then they gave them to your acquaintance under the counter, or through an arrangement. Now you go and

(Continued on page 18)



Vladyslav Betsun (left) of Luhansk and Roman Nazarenko (right) of Symferopol gained new perspectives on Ukraine and the Soviet era after choosing to study at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

Quotable notes

Question: Everyone is tired of endless infighting between the president and the prime minister. The country's reputation is suffering. Polls show that 80 percent of Ukrainians want Ukraine to have a single pair of strong hands. Doesn't that frighten you?

Viktor Yushchenko: No, it does not frighten me. It shows that the structure that was introduced to the Constitution is deeply irrational. The people who initiated the constitutional reforms dreamt of one thing: When the star of the third term of presidency stopped shining for them, they did everything to give the president's powers to the prime minister ... and a part of them was transferred to Parliament. There was one serious mistake made. We lost the balance of power.

A single unstable institution such as the Parliament of Ukraine cannot form stable politics and stable power. Instability cannot breed stability. But the Parliament received a mandate from the people, and today two mega-parties are polarizing it. And the institute of stability that the presidency used to represent is out of the game today.

That's why I would say that polls show us one thing. We have to seriously reconstruct political order in the country, and to find the answer we have to choose the most democratic method. I am deeply convinced that a national referendum on the Constitution can be the only compromise that suits all political powers.

— President Viktor Yushchenko in an interview conducted by Vitaly Sych and Andriy Smirnov of Korrespondent. Korrespondent magazine, the Russian-language sister publication of the Kyiv Post, interviewed the president on February 12; the interview was published in the Kyiv Post on February 25.

OBITUARY: Iwan Prynada, 59, U.S. Army veteran, SUSTA activist

by Jerry Zinycz

NORTH PORT, Fla. – Iwan Uke Prynada, 59, former U.S. Army Specialist 5 and a decorated Vietnam War veteran, was the first Ukrainian American veteran to be interred in the new Sarasota National Cemetery. The cemetery was officially opened in December 2008.

There are about 800,000 veterans residing in Florida. About 1,500 veterans are laid to rest daily in the United States, therefore, Congress extended the U.S. National Cemetery System.

Being in poor health, Mr. Prynada moved to Florida last year, hoping that the warm weather would improve his health. He was employed by U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security.

He was very active in the 15th Congressional District in New Jersey in presidential and congressional campaigns and as director of field operations for nationalities. He was a lifelong member of the Fraternal Order of Police in Washington, D.C. While in college he served as president of the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SUSTA).

Mr. Prynada showed his pride in his heritage by using "Uke" as his middle name. As far as it is known, he was the only U.S. Army soldier who insisted that his "dog tags" be stamped "UC," designating Ukrainian Catholic.

In accordance with tradition of the Ukrainian American Veterans, after the panakhyda (memorial service), UAV Post 40 members bid farewell to their deceased



Iwan Prynada in his youth.

comrade. The following day, during divine liturgy at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, UAV members provided the color guard and acted as pallbearers.

Mr. Prynada was laid to rest with full military honors by the U.S. Army and the UAV at Sarasota National Cemetery.

The marker on his grave will read: "Iwan 'Uke' Prynada; U.S. Army Spec 5, 1971-1974; Vietnam War Veteran."

Surviving are his mother, Rose Prynada of Carteret, N.J., and his sisters, Christina Prynada-Demydenko and Bohdanna Gott, a U.S. Navy Reserve Officer, both of Maryland.

Jerry Zinycz is public relations officer for Ukrainian American Veterans Post 40 of North Port, Fla.

OSCE comments on verdict in Politkovskaya murder case

Organization for Security
and Cooperation in Europe

VIENNA – The representative on freedom of the media of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Miklos Haraszti, commenting on the acquittal of those accused in the murder of Anna Politkovskaya, on February 19 expressed dismay at the failure to counter years of violence against investigative journalists in Russia.

"The Politkovskaya verdict tops the long history of inability of Russia's authorities to provide safety to embattled journalists," said Mr. Haraszti. "This amounts to a practical impunity for the murder and physical assault of those covering corruption and human rights issues."

On trial were the brothers Jabrail and Ibragim Makhmudov; Lt. Col. Pavel Ryaguzov, an acting officer with the Moscow branch of the Federal Security Service (FSB); and a former Internal

Affairs Ministry detective, Sergey Hajikurbanov. The jury found all of the accused not guilty. All four were freed in the courtroom.

"So far, no high-profile case of a murdered journalist, including Politkovskaya's, resulted in the accusation of the masterminds. In most cases, not even the perpetrators can be found or punished," said Mr. Haraszti.

"There can be no true freedom of the press as long as the brightest journalists across the country fear being killed for doing their job," he stated.

"Official silence about the acute safety crisis of Russia's journalists has to be broken," Mr. Haraszti said. "The situation can be improved only if the government addresses the problem forcefully and vocally. This needs to be done at the highest level."

Internationally known Russian investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya was shot on October 7, 2006, as she entered her Moscow apartment building.

Young journalist murdered in Moscow was Sevastopol native, USA/USA alumna

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Anastasiya Baburova, 25, an alumna of the USA/USA Program for students from Ukraine, was killed in Moscow on January 19 – murdered in broad daylight along with human rights lawyer Stanislav Markelov.

It was the latest in a series of murders in Russia in which journalists and rights activists have been targeted.

As reported in *The Economist* on February 5, "The next day, a party of Russian nationalists brought champagne to the murder scene to celebrate the 'elimination' of their enemies." The newsmagazine added that Ms. Baburova's death "was part of a continuing battle between fascists and anti-fascists in Russia, which is seldom so plainly revealed to the outside world."

Ms. Baburova was a graduate of School No. 3 in her native Sevastopol, Crimea. She attended the USA/USA Seminar 2000. Founded in 1992, USA/USA (Ukrainian Students' Association in the United States) is a program of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 organization. The mission of the USA/USA Program is to help talented young Ukrainians receive a world-class education and to use it for the betterment of Ukraine.

In her application materials to the program, Ms. Baburova showed an interest in democracy, human rights and international exchange. She wanted to combine a career in diplomacy with

one in journalism, said Dr. Bohdan A. Oryshkevich, founder of USA/USA. She had competed in the final fourth stage of the Ukrainian Economics Olympiad, had superior grades and was fluent in English.

Dr. Oryshkevich added that Ms. Baburova did not win a scholarship through his organization's program but entered the Moscow Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), which prepares students for careers in the field of diplomacy. Ultimately, however, she left the institute and aimed for a career in journalism.

She wound up working at *Novaya Gazeta*, seen as one of Russia's most openly critical newspapers. The paper, which was co-founded by Mikhail Gorbachev, has now lost four journalists in the past eight years.

The *Economist* wrote: "It is still not clear why Anastasiya Baburova was shot in the head. Was she a target – along with Stanislav Markelov, a human-rights lawyer who was shot seconds earlier? Was she an accidental victim, in the wrong place at the wrong time? Or did she try to grab and disarm the killer after he shot her companion?"

Her obituary may be read at: http://www.economist.com/obituary/display-story.cfm?story_id=13055783.

A note on the USA/USA website (www.ukrainianscholarships.org/) notes that the "USA/USA community is saddened by Anastasiya Baburova's death."

Australian UYA campground destroyed by wildfires outlines plan to rebuild

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Reports by witnesses confirm that brushfires in southeastern Australia consumed the Ukrainian Youth Association's "Oselia Karpaty" campground last month.

The devastation from the firestorm destroyed the landscape as well as the facilities that were built by UYA members more than 45 years ago. The hall has been reduced to a pile of twisted metal, the old kitchen was flattened, with the chimney still standing, and the new administration center was gutted and will need to be rebuilt.

The Karpaty grounds were purchased in 1963 by the UYA and since then have been developed into an outdoor education center for its members. Named the "Australian Carpathians," the hills are reminiscent of the Carpathian Mountains in western Ukraine.

Throughout the years, the campground has grown and developed with the addition of new facilities, built with the help of three generations of volunteers. The grounds have hosted summer camps and classes for local young people, as well as thousands from various parts of Australia and from all corners of the world.

With the passing of time, the children will once again run through the native wilderness of the Australian Karpaty, swim in the Acheron River and gather around a traditional campfire, singing songs, toasting marshmallows and watching skits put on by members. They will be able to forge lifelong

friendships, just like their parents and others from previous generations have done, noted a release by the national executive of the UYA of Australia.

A plan to rebuild has been outlined and will begin as soon as practical. While insurance will cover some of the costs, it was never imagined that a total reconstruction of the campground might ever be required.

The UYA has launched an appeal to help rebuild the Oselia Karpaty and the national executive of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) has joined in the relief effort.

For more information on donations, contact:

SUMA Yonkers Federal Credit Union, Attn: Australia Karpaty Relief Fund, 125 Corporate Blvd., Yonkers, NY 10701; Account No. 495-77, Name: UAYA Australia Karpaty Relief Fund; 914-220-4900.

Self Reliance NY Federal Credit Union, 108 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003; Account No. 4032500, Name: UAYA Australia Karpaty Relief Fund; 212-473-7310.

For wire transfers contact: Members United Corporate F.C.U., Account No. 221381715, P.O. Box 15021, Albany, NY 12212-5021; 800-342-4328; credit to Self Reliance (NY) F.C.U., Account No. 226078379; final credit to UAYA Australia Karpaty Relief Fund, Account No. 4032500.

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Rada dismisses...

(Continued from page 1)

While she continued to insist the 49 deputies couldn't hold back their emotion, political observers and opponents alike stressed that no vote involving so many lawmakers occurs without Ms. Tymoshenko's approval.

"Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko personally made the decision to dismiss Ohryzko," said Viacheslav Kyrylenko, leader of the "For Ukraine!" group of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense parliamentary faction.

"That part of Our Ukraine – People's Self Defense which belongs to the [de facto] coalition, if it truly adheres to patriotic principles, not in words but actions, today should decide to abandon the coalition," he added.

Ms. Tymoshenko had been at odds with Mr. Ohryzko ever since the Verkhovna Rada elected her prime minister in December 2007 and she immediately tapped her confidante Hryhorii Nemyria as vice prime minister for European integration.

Mr. Nemyria accompanies Ms. Tymoshenko on all her foreign visits and handles her foreign policy initiatives.

However the escalating competition between the government's two foreign policy teams, one led by Mr. Ohryzko and the other by Mr. Nemyria, reached its Rubicon during the South Ossetian war in August 2008.

After Ms. Tymoshenko refrained from condemning the Russian aggression, taking the more moderate European Union stance, the Presidential Secretariat, with Mr. Ohryzko in tow, began its attack campaign to cast Ms. Tymoshenko as a betrayer of national interests who realigned herself with the Kremlin.

As the Presidential Secretariat intensified such accusations against Ms. Tymoshenko, particularly during the natural gas negotiations with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in January, the last straw appeared to have been the Foreign Affairs Ministry's deeds following the famously emotional February 10 meeting of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC).

A circular titled "Regarding the NSDC Review of Ukraine's Energy Security," signed by Mr. Ohryzko and sent to 31 Embassies and Consulates, instructed diplomats to distribute a briefing prepared by NSDC Assistant Secretary Stepan Havrysh about the February 10 meeting to high-ranking officials and journalists.

Mr. Havrysh's briefing stated that the prime minister's allegations about the role of the NSDC in corrupt energy schemes were false, as were as her claims the NSDC was angling to return RosUkrEnergo to the natural gas market and forcing the government to denounce its gas agreement with Russia.

The circular also referred to Mr. Havrysh's statements to reporters labeling Ms. Tymoshenko an unconscionable liar who also broke the law in revealing to the press the results of the NSDC meeting, which had always been confidential and contained secret information.

Days after the circular's instructions were reported in the press, the Foreign Affairs Ministry confirmed it had followed orders from the NSDC in distributing the circular with references to the Havrysh briefing and requested diplomats to share it among high-ranking officials and media.

"It has reached the point that Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry is sending out letters which ask that the prime minister's deeds be considered mistaken and not conforming with reality," the Tymoshenko Bloc said in a March 4 statement on Mr. Ohryzko's dismissal.

"This notice carries a blatantly coarse

and provocative character. Such policies from Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry caused an understandable shock throughout the whole world," the statement noted.

Indeed the Tymoshenko Bloc's alliance with the pro-Russian forces to dismiss Mr. Ohryzko enraged those allies within Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense who agreed to form the de facto National Development, Stability and Order Coalition.

The day after the vote, former Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, a leader of the Our Ukraine faction loyal to Ms. Tymoshenko, joined Mr. Ohryzko in meeting with Tymoshenko Bloc lawmakers to demand that they return the dismissed minister to his post by canceling the parliamentary vote.

"We deeply respect Borys Ivanovych, but to issue an ultimatum – return Ohryzko or there won't be a coalition – is incorrect," said Serhii Mischenko, a YTB national deputy.

Though the Tymoshenko Bloc said the day of the vote it would consider restoring Mr. Ohryzko if he apologized for the circular distributed to diplomats, Mr. Mischenko said the former minister indicated at the meeting he didn't intend to apologize.

Among those most upset by the March 3 parliamentary session was Oleh Tiahnybok, leader of the nationalist Svoboda party that stood to make enormous gains in the pre-term Ternopil Oblast Council election that had been scheduled for March 15.

Svoboda stood to gain anywhere between 23 and 33 percent of the vote, according to various polls, and would have finished in first place ahead of the Tymoshenko Bloc, estimated to have the support of 18.5 percent of voters.

The Ternopil vote would have served as a primary election among Ukraine's pro-Western political forces leading into the January 2010 presidential election, said Yurii Syrotiuk, the press spokesman for Svoboda.

The YTB's loss in that election could have hurt Ms. Tymoshenko's standing among voters and boosted the ability of Arseniy Yatsenyuk to compete for the presidential post, Mr. Palii said.

Numerous facts point to the Tymoshenko Bloc wanting to avoid a loss in that election at all costs.

Of the 84 pre-term elections scheduled for March 15, the Tymoshenko Bloc pushed to cancel only the Ternopil Oblast Council election, the largest election slated for that date. Another Ternopil election, for the Zboriv City Council chair, is still on track.

The Tymoshenko Bloc's sudden opposition surfaced two months after 152 of the faction's 156 deputies voted to approve the same Ternopil Oblast Council pre-term election at the December 18, 2008, session of Parliament, support by a total of 370 deputies.

In hastily canceling the election only 12 days in advance, the government has wasted 10 million hrv spent months ago to hold the election.

Svoboda nationalists compared Prime Minister Tymoshenko's interference to the anti-democratic tactics employed by former Presidential Administration Chair Viktor Medvedchuk, who attempted to undermine the Mukachiv election of 2004 but never crossed the line as Ms. Tymoshenko did.

"As much as Medvedchuk wanted to cancel the election, he competed in the election, resorting to bribes and falsifications instead," Mr. Syrotiuk said. "This is the first time in Ukrainian history that pre-term elections were called and subsequently canceled in clear violation of the Ukrainian Constitution."

Only judges are allowed to cancel pre-term elections, according to the

Constitution, which clearly specifies that government organs can't interfere with elections once they are called.

"Our current government is preparing for dictatorship, because the will of the people is absolutely an empty matter," Mr. Tiahnybok commented.

Although the Constitution is clear on election rules, Ukrainian laws are contradictory on the appointment and dismissal of officials such as the foreign affairs minister.

The controversial Cabinet of Ministers law, though largely limiting the president's authority, states that the foreign affairs and defense ministers can be dismissed only at the president's request.

Meanwhile, the Constitution indicates the president's approval is required only to nominate these two ministers for appointment, not to dismiss them. Furthermore, the Constitutional Court ruled in December 2007 that Parliament can dismiss either minister without the president's approval. However that court decision was reached before the Cabinet of Ministers law went into effect last year.

Ms. Tymoshenko stands accused not only of breaking numerous Ukrainian laws as a result of the March 3 events, but her bloc's coalition agreement with Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense, which is still legally binding despite the coalition's disintegration, was violated too. The pact states that all personnel decisions, as well as the voting regimen in Parliament, must be agreed upon.

During the March 3 session, pro-Russian lawmakers criticized Mr. Ohryzko on various fronts, especially blaming him for what they characterized as Ukraine's defeat in its conflict with the Romanian government over the delimitation of Serpents Island and its surrounding waters in the Black Sea.

Defending his record at the parliamentary podium, Mr. Ohryzko assured the public that "Ukraine didn't lose a single centimeter of its territory" or access to the natural gas and oil supplies in the sea shelf.

"It's interesting that the line recognized by the court practically coincides with the line that Romania rejected in 1987 in negotiations with the Soviet Union," Mr. Ohryzko said. "As we all heard, it was declared a great victory."

That didn't satisfy Communist Petro Tsybenko, who absurdly accused Mr. Ohryzko of betraying state interests. Following his accusation, it remained unclear how a verdict by an International Court could be interpreted as a minister's betrayal of state interests.

The session turned into target practice for pro-Russian politicians, who demonstrated they won't soon forget the Foreign Affairs Ministry's support for Georgia during the South Ossetian war.

PRU National Deputy Oleksander Yefremov denounced Mr. Ohryzko for accepting on March 2 the Order of Honor from the Georgian government, which he said was "earned on the lives and blood of people," drawing a confident response from the former minister.

"I have quite a lot of orders from foreign states, but I will wear that order with enormous moral satisfaction, because we demonstrated to Georgia..." Mr. Ohryzko said before the parliamentary chair cut off his response.

Meanwhile, fellow PRU National Deputy Hanna Herman criticized Mr. Ohryzko's February 17 meeting with Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was warned that statements denigrating Ukraine and its leaders could lead to a persona non-grata declaration.

"Your reaction to his statement was issued at that very moment when the prime minister attempted to obtain credit from Russia for Ukraine," she lectured Mr. Ohryzko. "Maybe she would have obtained this credit under better conditions than those under which we requested from the International Monetary Fund on such unfavorable conditions."

A career diplomat who graduated from the international relations department at Shevchenko State University in Kyiv, Mr. Ohryzko served as a press attaché at the Soviet Foreign Ministry before becoming an advisor to the Austrian and German Embassies shortly after Ukrainian independence.

He was Ukraine's ambassador to Austria for five years before temporarily leading the Foreign Affairs Ministry following Mr. Tarasyuk's dismissal in December 2006.

President Yushchenko tapped Mr. Ohryzko to lead the Foreign Affairs Ministry when the Democratic Forces Coalition was formed in December 2007 under Ms. Tymoshenko's leadership.

During Mr. Ohryzko's brief tenure as foreign affairs minister, which began in December 2007, the ministry succeeded in arranging for a European Union Association Agreement, expected to be signed in 2009, and began working toward creating a free trade zone.

For the first time, Ukraine also began negotiations with the European Union on creating a visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens.

SBU raids...

(Continued from page 1)

While Ms. Tymoshenko held an awards ceremony on the day after the raid to honor those Naftohaz employees who were targeted by the SBU officers,

President Yushchenko indicated his seriousness in pursuing his claim on natural gas even further.

The day after the Naftohaz raid, SBU officials visited the headquarters of UkrTransHaz, the natural gas transit system of Ukraine.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

An ominous March 3

In a single parliamentary session on March 3, two precedents were set by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Party of Regions of Ukraine which threaten not only the future of Ukrainian democracy, but its viability as an independent state based on Western values.

The dismissal of Volodymyr Ohryzko from his post as foreign affairs minister is a disturbing indication of the expanded influence Russia has gained in Ukrainian politics since the South Ossetian war. The Russians called the bluff of the U.S. government and NATO, which demonstrated that Georgia and Ukraine just aren't worth it, and subsequently restored their status in Ukraine as the main foreign partner to reckon with – a reality Ms. Tymoshenko has adjusted to with remarkable nimbleness.

Mr. Ohryzko's dismissal arrived just two weeks after he warned Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin that he could be asked to leave if he continued to denigrate President Viktor Yushchenko and the Ukrainian people. In a developed, European country, Mr. Ohryzko would be a national hero for standing up to a rude bully. In Ukraine, a post-genocidal state that hasn't been allowed to recover its national identity, Mr. Ohryzko was criticized far more than praised.

Among the top reasons that Ms. Tymoshenko approved of Mr. Ohryzko's ouster was his role in undermining her position and image abroad in the ongoing conflict over natural gas with President Yushchenko and his allies, including Mr. RosUkrEnergo himself, Dmytro Firtash. Earning points with the Russian government, as well as eastern and southern Ukrainian voters ahead of the January presidential election, proved an appetizing side item as well. (Within an hour of Mr. Ohryzko's dismissal, a joyful Mr. Chernomyrdin was already swaggering, telling reporters, "Let them think first, then speak, and not flap their tongues.")

Mr. Ohryzko was as good as foreign ministers get, accomplishing quite a bit amidst the turbulence within the Ukrainian government. During his brief tenure, Ukraine secured a European Union Association Agreement, which will be signed in 2009, and for the first time began talks on a visa-free regime for its citizens traveling to Europe.

In dealing with Ms. Tymoshenko, Mr. Ohryzko was caught between a rock and a hard place. When she became prime minister in December 2007, she immediately appointed her foreign affairs guru Hryhorii Nemyria as vice prime minister for European integration. Essentially, Mr. Nemyria's been serving as Ms. Tymoshenko's personal counterweight to Mr. Ohryzko. And, in such a scenario, Mr. Ohryzko had little choice but to serve the president's interests in the nasty conflict that emerged.

Unfortunately, a seasoned diplomat with enormous potential became a wasted pawn in a destructive game. Rather than trying to appease the Verkhovna Rada, whose contempt for the Ukrainian president was only further aroused by Ms. Tymoshenko, the Presidential Secretariat should simply allow Volodymyr Khandohii to remain serving as the acting minister of foreign affairs.

The destructive game got more ruinous when the next vote following Mr. Ohryzko's ouster involved the Party of Regions supporting the Tymoshenko Bloc in canceling the Ternopil Oblast Council pre-term election scheduled for March 15 – this after the YTB voted overwhelmingly in favor of this very election back in December.

It's no coincidence that out of 84 pre-term elections scheduled nationally for March 15, the Tymoshenko Bloc singled out the Ternopil election, where polls indicated the Svoboda nationalist party would finish in first place and take control of the oblast council. Canceling an election 12 days before it's to be held – out of fear of losing seats – demonstrates outrageous contempt for the most basic democratic principles.

It's an unprecedented gambit in Ukrainian history that deserves swift condemnation from international election monitors and an appropriate ruling from Ukraine's appellate courts, which ought to restore the election.

The decision to cancel the election after more than 7 million hrv have been spent and hundreds of thousands of ballots have already been printed reveals a despotic tendency within Ms. Tymoshenko. The prime minister must not forget that millions of Ukrainians supported the Orange Revolution to get rid of despots and authoritarians, not bring new ones into power.

March
8
2006

Turning the pages back...

Three years ago, on March 8, 2006, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation HR 1053 – with 417 votes in favor, two against and three abstaining – to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and establish normal trade relations between Ukraine and the United States. (The Jackson-Vanik

Amendment was enacted in 1974 in reaction to the severe restrictions the Soviet Union had placed on its citizens, most notably those of Jewish descent. For more than a decade, Ukraine had been granted annual waivers of Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions.)

The bill, sponsored by Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.) and 61 co-sponsors, received no votes from Virgil H. Goode (R-Va.) and Gene Taylor (D-Miss.); answering present, but not voting were Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.) and Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio).

The Senate passed a similar bill in November 2005, and President George W. Bush signed the bill into law on March 23, 2006.

The bill was drafted in recognition of the progress that Ukraine had made in building a democracy and a market economy. This was in addition to the U.S. granting Ukraine market economy status on February 17, 2006, and the WTO bilateral protocol signed on March 6, 2006.

In promoting his bill on the floor of the House, Rep. Gerlach stated that HR 1053 "is another important step for Ukraine as it becomes a partner in the global economy."

"The message we are sending by making this relationship permanent is priceless to the people of Ukraine. It strongly reaffirms our long-term partnership and support as Ukraine continues down the path of reform and democracy," he added.

"President [Viktor] Yushchenko has continuously called for this action that we take today

(Continued on page 8)

NEWS AND VIEWS

Ukraine: a post-genocidal society

by Iryna Shtogrin
RFE/RL

Distrust of government and future uncertainty are just two of the most conspicuous features of the post-genocidal syndrome that psychologists have identified in modern Ukrainians some 75 years after the Famine of 1932-1933.

On a more intimate level, Famine survivors still value every breadcrumb, and their descendants greet guests with tables overloaded with a variety of dishes. In one form or another, Ukrainians will universally impress on each other the importance of "having something to eat."

Doctors describe a number of symptoms of the post-genocidal syndrome that are not directly unconnected to the trauma, but which can still seriously undermine the sufferer's health. Victims feel pain in places that are not supposed to hurt and experience nightmares and hidden anxieties that steal their ability to laugh and enjoy life.

Taras Vozniak, the editor of Yi magazine, has described the experience as "such a trauma that, for people who survived, it is very difficult to remember what happened." He compares it to the effects of rape: "[Victims] don't want to testify, or to remember. They want to erase the tragedy from their memory."

Having survived a famine that was brought about by the policies of the Soviet government, Ukrainians now question the very notion of government. They have, if not fear, then a feeling of permanent uncertainty about the future. With each shift in political direction or change of political leaders, Ukrainians rush to buy the necessary essentials – just in case.

The memory of their ancestors – who were robbed of food by their own people on orders from the Kremlin – forces many Ukrainians always to keep something for a "black day" and never truly reveal themselves fully, even to close acquaintances.

That same instinct compels Ukrainians to stockpile food and to invite anyone who stops by their home to sit down for a meal. Ukrainians tend to rely on themselves, living by their wits and soothing themselves with the eternal saying, "God willing."

Academician Myroslav Popovych survived the Holodomor and believes that other survivors can never really forget. He said, "conditions then were such that all people who belong to that generation carry this taint." But he also asserted that "personality always wins out in the end – I wouldn't say that I have become more obedient or completely focused on earthly problems."

But the most important thing that Ukrainians carry from those terrible times is a complete revulsion toward totalitarian regimes.

"Ukrainians still lack a political culture because of their history, but we have a huge drive toward liberty," Dr. Popovych noted. "I don't know whether you can call this 'famine memory,' but it is certainly a total aversion to totalitarian mentality."

Ukrainian society is highly individualistic, partly because its history has incorporated the terrible experience of death and survival of famine. Old notions such as "my home is my castle" and "I'm my own boss" have hampered the formation

of civil society and a genuine national elite in Ukraine.

At the same time, this attitude turns the average Ukrainian into a libertarian. They view even the slightest attempt by politicians to elevate themselves with sarcasm, and they sense the slightest false note in officials' speeches about their "love of the people" and their promises to solve the problems of average citizens.

One must remember that, aside from the natural psychological reaction to survived horrors, Ukrainians for decades were not allowed to speak about the Famine – it could have cost them not only their liberty but also their lives.

Former dissident and political prisoner Yevhen Sverstiuk recalls seeing fear in countrymen's eyes when he asked them about the 1932-1933 Famine even after perestroika. People asked whether they would be executed. Many said they still feared being punished for speaking out. That was despite the fact that they'd been invited by the village council to speak on the subject, and the entire project soliciting their views had been authorized by the regional government.

A philosopher, Mr. Sverstiuk believes that the time has come when Ukrainians can cry over their painful experiences. They can process the past by talking about the Famine, identifying all the villages where people died, naming all of the victims and taking steps toward closure.

After crying out about their trauma, people should wipe their tears and get to work, said Sverstiuk. Otherwise, they risk the danger of becoming spiritual beggars. The world values the brave. By telling the truth and overcoming their fear, Ukrainians overcome their inferiority complexes.

Writer Ivan Dzyuba calls the Famine a blow to Ukraine's future. And the only way to fight back is to free oneself of this heavy burden of genetic memory by revealing the entire truth.

The late American researcher James E. Mace began the process by defining Ukraine as a post-genocidal society. Dr. Mace believed Ukraine would be incapable of further development until the entire truth of the Famine was told.

That idea has been confirmed by the experiences of other nations that suffered similar traumas, defeats and the burden of penance. Society returns to successful development through awareness and acceptance of its national memory and history.

The best that the current government in Kyiv can do to commemorate those killed by the Famine is to create the conditions so that all Ukrainians could feel certain and security. Little is required in order to achieve this – just respect for human rights, abiding by the rule of law and hard work.

Iryna Shtogrin is a correspondent with RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service. The views expressed in this commentary are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of RFE/RL.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ignatieff, racism in Canada

Dear Editor:

Michael Ignatieff's removal of Borys Wrzesnewskyj from his shadow Cabinet puts Canada's ugly underbelly of racism at the center stage of world revulsion. Despite all the rhetoric of a multi-ethnic democracy, despite all the laws and constitutional provisions against racism, the leader of Canada's second largest party has been allowed to let his personal bigotry overcome better judgment. For those who doubt Mr. Ignatieff is racist, try my simple test: Take out the name "Ukraine" and insert another country – Italy, France, Israel – if it sounds racist for one, it's racist for all.

It is important for Canadians to declare such behavior anathema and remove Mr. Ignatieff as Liberal Party misleader.

I urge Ukrainians to protest directly to Canadian prosecutors demanding prosecution under Canada's anti-racism statutes. If you're near a Canadian Consulate or trade mission, go there, picket, hand out flyers and leave letters of protest. Make sure everyone understands that racism is alive in Canada, encouraged by the leader of its second largest party and accepted by the leaders of its ruling government.

In the interim, we should boycott Canadian goods the same way we boycotted goods from South Africa and other racist states. No more Canadian bacon, no more Bombardier planes or trains, no more maple leaves. As long as Canada tolerates racism, we will not tolerate Canada.

Peter Borisov
Los Angeles

The letter-writer is president of the Hollywood Trident Foundation.

The core beliefs of Barack Obama

Dear Editor:

Having read Andrew Fedynsky's recent column (February 8), I must say that it is a mystery to me why any Ukrainian American would have voted for Barack Obama. His core beliefs are the very antithesis of what we as Ukrainian Americans nurture in our souls – a Christian respect for human life, a need for self-reliance and self-determination, and a deep commitment to a strong foreign policy.

It is a surprise to see photos of people expressing grief over the Holodomor that contain some of the same people who endorsed a man for president who voted for partial birth abortion. Why would Mr. Obama be concerned about genocide when he condones infanticide?

What happened to our self-reliance as immigrants that some would vote for a man who will take this country on a march to socialism? Could it be that the root cause is personal "realpolitik"? After all, it is in the interest of many people to increase government spending because they benefit

from it. Ukrainians are no exception.

University faculties already live in a mini-socialist state; union members want their outlandish benefits; and seniors want their pensions. Those who desire free healthcare overlook the consequences – poorer treatment, overcrowded hospitals and long waiting lists. Government largesse is tempting, but it would eventually destroy this country. Obama supporters should be reminded that socialism is in conflict with the human spirit and the tragic history of Soviet Ukraine proves it.

President Obama's foreign policy is not good for Ukraine. His overtures to Iran are frightening. Russia will be part of any negotiation with Iran, and Russia wants control of Ukraine and Georgia. Mr. Obama's reaction to Russia's invasion of Georgia was telling. He called for "restraint on both sides," whereas Sen. John McCain condemned Russia immediately. The Bush administration was supportive of Ukraine and Georgia.

Mr. Obama is planning to "reset the button" on foreign policy. He is rethinking the missile defense program to please Russia. As a result, Eastern Europe would be more vulnerable to Russian threats. Mr. Obama's statements on the Iraq war expose him as a defeatist and an opportunist. We won the Iraq war despite Mr. Obama and Joe Biden.

It was amusing to read Mr. Fedynsky's column describing his ecstasy at this historical inauguration. It was unfortunate that it had to include criticism of President George W. Bush. Mr. Fedynsky will have some difficult years ahead excusing and obfuscating for Mr. Obama. How pathetic that Mr. Fedynsky had to instruct Al Gore regarding the Holodomor. Mr. Gore was a senator when two Republican presidents signed proclamations to commemorate the Ukrainian Famine. It was in his interest to care only when he visited Ukraine. Mr. Fedynsky states that Mr. Bush ignored this part of Ukrainian history. I can send him photos of President Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney laying ceremonial gifts at the Holodomor memorial during their April 2008 visit in support of Ukraine's effort to join NATO. I have yet to see any indication Mr. Obama will be similarly supportive of Ukraine.

Lydia Kossak Kernitsky
Colts Neck, N.J.

We welcome your opinion

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

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.

Double Exposure

by Khristina Lew

Two colors

The woman calling from Barcelona, Spain, wanted to thank the family of Kvitka Cisyk for Kvitka's beautiful Ukrainian songs. She noted that the recording of those songs in America so many years ago kept Ukrainian song alive when it was silenced in Ukraine. She spoke of missing her native Lviv Oblast, and how now, after several years in Spain, she cannot return to her homeland – how she belongs either in Spain or in Ukraine.

Kvitka's choice of songs for her two albums, "Kvitka Songs of Ukraine" (1980) and "Kvitka Two Colors" (1989), had a way of capturing the sense of anguish that comes from being separated from home, and her affecting voice conveyed that sense long after the last note had faded.

Kvitka was my first cousin, and this month marks the 11th anniversary of her death at the age of 44.

Her music, although definitive of Ukrainian folk in the West, was not well known in Ukraine. In the 1990s you could find third-generation cassettes of her albums in certain types of homes, and occasionally you would hear her on the radio. She traveled to Ukraine only once, in 1983, and never fulfilled her dream of performing concerts in the birthplace of her parents.

Nowadays you can pick up a Kvitka CD on Independence Square in Kyiv's center.

It was in Kyiv that the Ukrainian-born producer Alexander Guttmacher first heard Kvitka, while riding in a taxicab. He was captivated, and subsequently dismayed to learn that she had passed away a few years earlier.

Back in the United States, where he lives, he set about learning as much as he could about Kvitka. His study of Kvitka resulted in the first of several evenings in her memory, called "Unforgettable Kvitka." The first evening was held in Brooklyn, N.Y., in January 2008, in the building that houses Davidzon Radio, an A.M. radio station that caters to recent immigrants from Ukraine.

Mr. Guttmacher is an accomplished pianist, and the evening featured the telling of Kvitka's life story by Svitlana Makhno, a member of New York's Dumka Choir, interspersed with musical interpretations of her songs. Mr. Guttmacher always chooses a violinist –

to represent Kvitka's first love and the instrument that made her father a virtuoso in Lviv and the U.S. – to perform, as well as other musicians and singers.

All the performers are recent immigrants from Ukraine, and at the first evening in Brooklyn over a year ago, the entire audience was recent immigrants who knew very little about Kvitka.

Subsequent evenings were held in Lindenhurst, N.Y., Philadelphia and New York City. The "Unforgettable Kvitka" evening in New York was held at the Ukrainian Museum, and was attended by Kvitka's husband, Ed Rakowicz, and their son, Eddie Rakowicz, who turned 18 last October.

All the evenings are sponsored by the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council. "It is important to us to bring the new Ukrainian immigrants in Brooklyn and New York's environs into the established Ukrainian diaspora community," said Ihor Gawdiak, president of the UACC. "We've been working with Sasha Guttmacher on a number of initiatives. He fell in love with Kvitka, and since we all love Kvitka's artistry, we thought it was a good idea to revive her memory in the U.S. and promote her in Ukraine."

That collaboration resulted in an October 20, 2008, "Unforgettable Kvitka" evening in Kyiv, at the Ukraine House, attended by First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko and Vasyl Vovkun, Ukraine's minister of culture and tourism.

Ukraine's legendary Nina Matvienko and her daughter Antonina, opera diva Maria Stefiuk, pop singer Maria Burmaka, VV front man Oleh Skrypka and virtuoso violinist Serhiy Okhrymchuk performed for free in the standing-room-only hall, which included diplomats, government officials, fellow musicians and Westerners who had grown up listening to Kvitka's music.

Nina Matvienko said backstage that Kvitka encapsulated all that was beautiful about Ukrainian song. "Monuments should be placed in Kvitka's honor for keeping Ukrainian music alive," said Ms. Matvienko. "I realized that I was nothing when my own daughter chose to sing Kvitka's songs before she would sing my own," she added ruefully.

Even Mrs. Yushchenko conceded the

(Continued on page 20)



Nina Matvienko honors Kvitka Cisyk at Ukraine House in Kyiv.

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Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

and certainly the timing is appropriate because in several weeks Ukraine will elect a new [Verkhovna] Rada. This sends a signal that Ukraine now has the full and equal respect of the government of the people of the United States," Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) noted.

"Congress should demonstrate support for Ukraine and permanent normal trade relations (PNTR)" with that country, Rep. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) stated.

As part of the political process, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation initiated the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition. Separately, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and its Washington bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service, had advocated the repeal of Jackson-Vanik restrictions for several years.

"We [the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus together with the Ukrainian community] have been working on this legislation

for years... This bill will spark further reforms in Ukraine," noted Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), co-chair of the caucus.

His fellow co-chair, Rep. Weldon, added that the Jackson-Vanik Amendment has been "the No. 1 priority for the U.S. Congress-Ukrainian Parliament [Rada] exchange program for years."

Another voice heard by members of Congress was that of the American Jewish Committee. David A Harris, executive director of the AJC, called the passage of legislation graduating Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment a "landmark measure" that "is a sound U.S. endorsement of democratic trends in Ukraine."

In August 2005 the AJC had sent a letter to all members of Congress urging the graduation of Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

Source: "House overwhelmingly OKs bill to graduate Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 12, 2006.

Registration being accepted for Ukrainian Days in D.C.

by Michael Sawkiw

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – Ukrainian Days, to be held in Washington, on March 25-26, are intended to promote the concerns of the Ukrainian American community, as well as to establish better relations with elected representatives in Congress.

During the two-day event, participants of Ukrainian Days will meet with their respective members of the House of Representatives and Senate in order to communicate to them issues that concern the Ukrainian American community and establish closer communications with their offices.

On Wednesday, March 25, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) will organize a briefing session at 10:30 a.m. at the Heritage Foundation by U.S. government officials from the State Department and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

Of particular interest will be a discussion about topics of concern to the community, including: increased U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine; energy security for Ukraine; NATO enlargement; continued advocacy of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933; as well as, the overall context of U.S.-Ukraine relations. Briefing papers will be supplied to all the participants of Ukrainian Days by UNIS.

Later that evening Ukrainian Days participants are invited to a congressional reception in the U.S. Senate hosted by the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC). The reception will celebrate the 10th and fifth anniversaries, respectively, of the first two rounds of NATO enlargement, as well as a policy dialogue regarding the upcoming NATO summit and the alliance's 60th anniversary. Invited speakers and guests include U.S. government officials, former secretaries of state and members of Congress.

On Thursday, March 26, participants of Ukrainian Days will participate in a breakfast meeting in the Rayburn House Office Building with members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (CUC), an officially registered group within the U.S. House of Representatives that is interested in enhancing relations between Ukraine and the United States.

In the evening of March 26 a reception will be held at the Embassy of Ukraine, where Ukrainian Days participants will have a chance to meet Ukrainian diplomats and discuss their ideas regarding U.S.-Ukraine relations.

A Ukrainian Days registration fee of \$75 will cover expenses associated with the event. For further information, including hotel accommodations and Ukrainian Days registration forms, readers may contact the Ukrainian National Information Service at 202-547-0018 or unis@ucca.org.

"Read, learn, study, my brothers" campaign launched in Canada

OTTAWA – With the assistance of Members of Parliament James Bezan, Judy Wasylycia-Leis and Borys Wrzesnewskyj, the Ukrainian Canadian community has posted thousands of postcards across Canada inviting people to make use of their public and university libraries on March 9, the 195th birthday of Taras Shevchenko.

Known as "the bard of Ukraine," Taras Shevchenko's poetry has inspired Ukrainians over many generations. In one of his most famous poems, he called upon his fellow Ukrainians to learn from others while not forgetting their own.

Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association Chair Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk commented: "We believe public libraries

provide an essential service in every community right across Canada. By encouraging people to make use of libraries, we hope to ensure the ongoing vitality of these centers of learning. And, by asking Canadians of Ukrainian heritage to go to a library on March 9, the 195th anniversary of Shevchenko's birth, we also want to make sure that books on Ukraine and Ukrainian Canadian themes are taken out and read. We want to underscore the contribution Ukrainians have made to Canada while also recalling the long struggle Ukrainians waged to secure their independence so that they can now enjoy human rights and civil liberties of the sort that we in Canada sometimes taken for granted."



The front of a postcard honoring Taras Shevchenko and urging people across Canada to make use of their public and university libraries.

To subscribe to The Ukrainian Weekly, call 973-292-9800, ext. 3042



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HURI conference breaks new ground in Holodomor studies

by Peter T. Woloschuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) held its international conference, “The Great Famine in Ukraine: The Holodomor and Its Consequences, 1933 to the Present,” on November 17-18, 2008. The concept and organization of the conference were described in the article “International Conference at Harvard to Analyze Ongoing Impact of Holodomor” (The Ukrainian Weekly, November 9, 2008). The event drew 30 of the world’s most noted experts on the Holodomor and an audience of nearly 120 scholars, students, diplomats and community representatives.

The scholars began their discussions with the premise that the Holodomor was one of the defining events of 20th century European history. The participants spent two days sharing information on their latest research, analyzing the ongoing impact of this cataclysmic tragedy on Ukraine, on Europe, and on both the 20th and 21st centuries.

They stressed the crucial impact that the release of archival documents dealing with the Famine after the fall of the Soviet Union in Ukraine and the Russian Federation has had on Holodomor studies and emphasized the fact that this recently released material makes it impossible to deny or ignore the scope of the tragedy. Finally, they also outlined the main areas for ongoing research and stressed that this undertaking is vital for an understanding of contemporary Ukraine and contemporary Europe.

The conference was one of a half dozen HURI-sponsored events commemorating the 75th anniversary, which included a symposium in the fall of 2007; the performance of selections from an opera about the Holodomor by Virko Baley, the publication of a monograph of the research papers presented at HURI’s 70th anniversary Holodomor conference; the New England premiere screening of the documentary film, “The Living” (Zhyvi) on the survivors of the Famine today; and the commissioning of noted historian Anne Applebaum, author of “Gulag: A History,” to write a book on the Holodomor that will take into account the new sources that have become available since the collapse of the Soviet Union and will address current scholarly debates about the Holodomor concerning genocide, intentionality and statistics.

In assessing the work of the two days, Andrea Graziosi, professor of contemporary history at the University of Naples, “Federico II,” in Italy, and co-organizer with HURI Associate Director Lubomyr Hajda of the conference, emphasized that, “Over the past two decades scholars have basically come to an understanding of the mechanisms behind the 1931-1934 famine and the political decisions made by Stalin and the Soviet leadership that transformed the resulting famine in Ukraine and the Kuban into the 1932-1933 Holodomor.”

“Ukraine, thus, suffered a terrible trauma, that was soon repeated by a series of other tragic blows,” Prof. Graziosi pointed out. “[Ukraine’s] contemporary history is in many ways the result of these combined traumas, and an understanding of their impact over both society, in its many components, and individuals (mentalities, etc.) is essential to grasp her 20th century history. The HURI conference gathered the best specialists on the Holodomor from Ukraine, Russia, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the United States. Together, we tried to move the agenda of Holodomor studies to an entirely new stage.”

“Our goal was to shift the focus of research from what happened ‘then,’ to what happened ‘after then’; that is to reconstruct the Holodomor’s impacts in subsequent years and decades,” Prof. Graziosi continued. “This has become possible because, in recent years, scholars – many of



The participants of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute’s conference on the Holodomor: (standing from left) Lubomyr Hajda, Heorhii Kasianov, Brian Boeck, Roman Szporluk, Yuri Shapoval, Liudmyla Hrynevych, Michael Flier, Hennadii Boriak, Roman Wysocki, Felix Wemheuer, Serhii Plokhii, Karel Berkhoff, Halyna Hryn, Valerii Vasylyev, George Grabowicz, (seated) Oleh Wolowyna, Yuri Shevchuk, Oleg Khlevniuk, Andrea Graziosi, Nicolas Werth, Hiroaki Kuromiya, Anne Applebaum and Roman Serbyn

whom attended this conference – were able to put together a reliable and strong reconstruction of the events leading to the Holodomor, its developments, its relationships with the overall Soviet picture and other national and regional tragedies, and its tragic balance.”

“Following James Mace’s intuition on the necessity of looking at Ukrainian history as the history of a ‘post-genocidal’ society,” Prof. Graziosi pointed out, “the time has now come to look at the Holodomor’s consequences on subsequent Ukrainian and Soviet history for the past 75 years.”

“Participants analyzed these consequences on three different levels,” Prof. Graziosi said: “First, short-term, namely the years immediately following 1933, with special attention devoted to rural and urban developments, the relations[hip] between the Holodomor and the persecution of Ukrainian culture and intellectuals, and the impact the tragedy had in neighboring countries, especially those with large Ukrainian populations such as Poland; second, middle-term, 1939-1953, when other human catastrophes – war, Nazi occupation and the Shoah, the 1946-1947 hunger and the post-war Stalinist repression – added their weight to that of the Holodomor, forming in many people’s minds the image of an uninterrupted ‘time of suffering,’ extending from 1929 to 1953; third long-term, that is 1953 to the present, with the focus on the hidden consciousness of the Holodomor and its legacy among Soviet Ukrainian leaders and intellectuals, as well as on the role played by the Holodomor first in the crisis of Soviet Ukraine and then in national state-building after 1991.”

Prof. Graziosi said, “A special session was devoted to the demographic impact of the Holodomor over the years, up to the present, and its connection with the other demographic catastrophes that hit Ukraine after 1933 (again war, Nazi occupation and the Shoah, and the 1946-1947 Famine, as well as the reversion of life expectancy positive trends after 1965, and the later dramatic drop in the birth rate).” He explained that, “As a result, Ukraine, having suffered all of these tragedies, is the only European nation that has endured an almost halving of its actual contemporary population in comparison to what this population would have been if the country had had a history like that of Italy or France.”

“Each session [at the conference] was the occasion for very lively debate, in which

many of the almost 120 people who attended the conference – among whom were many professors from Harvard as well as from many other universities – participated,” added Prof. Graziosi.

“The concluding roundtable pointed at some of the Holodomor’s peculiarities – such as the fact that its victims were almost entirely peasants – at its relations with Soviet and German history, and, again, at the role the Holodomor is playing in contemporary Ukraine.”

“It seems fair to conclude,” Prof. Graziosi stated, “that the conference fulfilled its tasks, opening new research directions and outlining some of the most important paths that scholars will be following for the foreseeable future. The publication of its proceedings will thus be a crucial contribution to Holodomor studies and their future developments.”

Karel Berkhoff, associate professor at the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam, Holland, commented: “The Holodomor Conference offered scholars and laypeople alike an outstanding survey of today’s knowledge and understanding of Ukraine’s Great Famine. It also gave the people who investigate it, and, unfortunately, they are still small in number, an excellent opportunity not only to present their findings, but also to meet, inspire and assist each other over the course of these two days.”

Oleg Khlevniuk, senior research fellow at the State Archive of the Russian Federation in Moscow, observed: “It was an important conference. It deepened our understanding of the consequences of the Holodomor, and added a new dimension in the historiography of the Great Famine. As for future projects, it seems to me, a comparative analysis of the Holodomor will be very important.”

The conference was opened by Michael S. Flier, Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian Philology and director of Harvard’s Ukrainian Research Institute. He welcomed all the participants and reminded them that the Ukrainian Holodomor “was one of the greatest human tragedies of all times.”

He then gave a brief overview of the historiography of the Holodomor, emphasizing the Soviet cover-up and ongoing denial; the efforts of the post-World War II Ukrainian diaspora and the testimony of eyewitnesses and survivors who made it to the West; the concrete steps taken by HURI connected

with the 50th anniversary commemorations, including the work of Robert Conquest, James Mace and Adam Ulam which led to the publication of “The Harvest of Sorrow” in 1986 by Oxford University Press and other works; the memorial exhibition of Holodomor materials in Harvard’s Widener Library (1984-1986) and the subsequent publication of a major catalogue of the exhibit; and, finally, HURI’s International Symposium on the Ukrainian Terror Famine held on the occasion of its 70th anniversary.

Prof. Flier concluded by saying that the goal of the conference was to examine the Holodomor “viewed as a historical event intrinsically and comparatively; to contextualize the Holodomor, and to consider its consequences in the short term, midterm and long term.”

Prof. Graziosi, as the author of the concept, spoke next and reminded the assembled scholars that they were meeting in a scientific spirit and that the ongoing discovery of documents and other tangible evidence has led to a growing consensus on the intentionality and sheer magnitude of the Holodomor, underscoring that this is a clear proof of scholarship. He said that scholars now had two options in dealing with the assembled evidence: to do interpretive work on the material at hand or to investigate the ongoing consequences on Ukraine, on Russia and on Europe as a whole.

“Ukraine has suffered several traumas of great magnitude which have worked their way into the very psyche of her people,” Prof. Graziosi said, “and concrete studies of this impact will help the country in its efforts to reclaim its history and identity, and in its future growth and development.”

Ukraine’s consul general in New York City, Mykola Kyrychenko, extended greetings and briefly addressed the attendees. “The Holodomor was one of the worst catastrophes in human history. It was planned by Stalin and the Soviet government as a systematic extermination of the Ukrainian nation. The Holodomor was nothing less than genocide,” he said. He then went on to outline the steps that President Viktor Yushchenko and the Ukrainian government had taken to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the forced starvation of Ukrainians and gave an overview of their efforts to have the international community officially recognize the Holodomor as genocide.

(Continued on page 10)

HURI conference...

(Continued from page 9)
Background, dynamics

The first session of the conference, chaired by George G. Grabowicz, Dmytro Čyzevs'kyj Professor of Ukrainian Literature, Harvard University, focused on the background to the Holodomor and the dynamics of the tragedy.

Liudmyla Hrynevych (senior research fellow, Institute of History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) presented her research on the span of time leading up to and including the Famine of 1932-1933 in a talk titled "The Holodomor in Time and Place: A Chronology," emphasizing how an examination of the little known famine of 1928-1929 brings a deeper understanding of the Holodomor. She pointed out that although the two catastrophes were different in impact and scope, there were a number of similarities, particularly in the way that Soviet government officials treated the famines in Ukraine and manipulated media to suppress any news of the events as far as possible and to discredit those reports that managed to surface.

The government did acknowledge the fact that crop failures occurred in 1928-1929 but minimized their impact. The official line was that there were food shortages in the steppe regions of Ukraine but nowhere else. Although aid was given to victims of the famine in other parts of the Soviet Union, Ukrainians were forced to fend for themselves and aid offered by Germany and other European countries for Ukraine was refused. At the time Germany was the Soviet Union's primary market and regular deliveries of foodstuffs and precious metals were not only maintained during the period of famine but were actually increased.

In 1928 6,000 Ukrainian workers were summoned to Moscow to be engaged in the government's propaganda efforts in Ukraine to crush all opposition and in 1929 leading Ukrainian writers were summoned for the same purpose. In spite of these efforts, it was clear that Ukrainians were not happy with the Soviet government, that their opposition increased, particularly in the beginning of the effort to collectivize agricultural production and even Pravda obliquely commented on ongoing Ukrainian recalcitrance.

Hennadii Yefimenko (senior research fellow, Institute of History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) explored the nationalities question, which in his opinion is inseparable from the economic and agricultural policies of the Kremlin at the time. He said that "the attack on and destruction of Ukrainian nationalism in 1933 was the logical continuation of Stalin's policies which moved away from Lenin's practices."

"Stalin had great experience with the nationality question, having served as the director of the Commissariat for Nationalities in the Russian Federal Soviet Socialist Republic from 1918 to 1923," he said. "He was suspicious of Ukrainians and

he brilliantly tried to blame the Famine on nationalist factors in Ukraine in an effort to consolidate its imperial power. One of his greatest fears was the loss of Ukraine because it would mean the end of the Soviet Union and he used 'preventive repression' to hold onto the country."

Stalin and the Kremlin came to view Russian culture, modernization and state control as the guarantors of the new imperial state and forced the Soviet Ukrainian government to attack Ukrainian nationalism, which was equated with bourgeois reactionism. In the entire Soviet Union, Ukrainians were the only ones who were forced to do so.

"The use of Famine was just one tool used by the Soviet government to break the Ukrainian identity," Mr. Yefimenko concluded. "Attacks on national communism, culture, an independent economy and even distinctive school textbooks coincided with this effort."

Brian Boeck (assistant professor of history, DePaul University) presented a case study of Soviet nationality policy in the region of Kuban, an area with a significant Ukrainian population in the southern part of the Russian Federation. In the Kuban, archival material is just now being explored, scholarly publications are still lacking, and research is uneven at best. However, the speaker sifted through available information to paint a grim picture of the Famine's impact in that region and to demonstrate how the Ukrainian character drew the particular attention of the Soviet regime.

He emphasized the fact that the Kuban was the only other region in the Soviet Union that received the same treatment as Ukraine. "Villages were blacklisted, the borders were sealed, and all foodstuffs were confiscated," he said. At the same time the Ukrainian language was banned from the schools, Ukrainian language books and newspapers disappeared, and manifestations of Ukrainian culture were forbidden."

"Although the official number of known deaths is still ridiculously low," Prof. Boeck said, "it is clear that the Kuban was singled out for brutal treatment because of its Ukrainian character and it should be pointed out that, as a result of the Holodomor and the various repressions, that distinctiveness all but disappeared."

The discussant for the session Nicolas Werth (National Center for Scientific Research, Paris), pointed out that the process of the historiographical study of the Famine shows how and why Stalin's tyrannical brutality worked. He stressed that much work still needed to be done with local archives and at the local level to show how Ukraine and the Kuban were treated differently than the rest of the USSR and said that as this work is done a truer understanding of the magnitude of the calamity would be possible. He also emphasized that of the 5,000 anti-government uprisings that occurred in the year before the Famine, more than half occurred in Ukraine.



Prof. Michael S. Flier

The afternoon

The second session, chaired by Terry Martin (George F. Baker III Professor of Russian Studies, Harvard), concerned the immediate aftermath of the Famine and the period up to the beginning of World War II.

Yuri Shapoval (head of the Department of Ethnopolitics, Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) discussed the repressions carried out by the GPU (secret police) in Ukraine in 1933-1934 and how the Great Famine was linked to this activity. He presented a chronology of the known measures taken by Moscow to force Ukrainian compliance with the new Soviet reality, particularly in the areas of industrialization and collectivization.

The goal of Soviet officials was to crush whatever opposition there was to Soviet power in Ukraine, and this was carried out by the GPU; first, by arresting those accused of resisting the government seizure of grain and other foodstuffs; second, by carrying out the seizures; and third, by arresting those accused of dissatisfaction with the regime's procurement policies and of broader acts of counterinsurgency. In this way, grain procurement policy led directly to the widespread repression of nationalist sentiments in Ukraine.

However, Dr. Shapoval pointed out that resistance was fierce and quoted Ukrainian Communist Party Secretary Stanislav Kosior as saying that "even famine had not taught the Ukrainian peasants good sense." He also pointed out that ultimately the Famine did break the back of Ukrainian resistance and that the Soviet government moved in 1934-1935 to destroy the vestiges of the earlier Ukrainianization policy.

Next, Stanislav Kulchytskyi (deputy director, Institute of History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) described the aftereffects of the Famine in the villages of Ukraine, and pointed out right from the start that Soviet authorities wanted the same complete control over agricultural production that it had attained over industrial production. They tried cooperatives, they tried artels, they tried collectivization, and they even exiled more than 2 million more productive farmers from Ukraine – this was the so-called dekulakization (or dekulakization policy) – and the harder they tried, the more agricultural production fell.

Ultimately, they had to retreat and compromise and the small private plots that the government was forced to tolerate were the most productive section of the agrarian economy. Basically, the Famine destroyed agricultural production in Ukraine, the most fertile region of Europe, and by the 1950s and 1960s the Soviet government had to resort to the expedient of importing grain in order to feed its population.

Dr. Kulchytskyi also pointed out that the Famine policy was adopted after the government had already been forced to back down and that there were political as well as economic reasons for its imposition.

Hiroaki Kuromiya (professor of history, Indiana University) reported on what happened in Ukraine's cities. He discussed the imposition of the internal passport system, emphasizing the fact that it re-enslaved the peasants in the countryside and gave the government the tool to wage its campaign of terror in the late 1930s against the urban population. He stressed that the outcome of the Famine included institutionalization of an inequality between the cities and the countryside; the introduction of ration cards, but only for city residents; and the rise of the nomenklatura.

Prof. Kuromiya took a broad approach focusing on high-level diplomatic documents concerning Ukraine. He pointed out that Stalin was afraid of Japan in the Far East, particularly as it moved into Manchuria. In his opinion, Stalin's signing of a non-aggression pact with Poland in 1932 and his outreach to Germany and Finland lessened his fear and paranoia of external interference, and opened the door for his actions against Ukraine, since he knew that Poland would not interfere.

Finally, Alexander Babyonyshev (pseudonym Sergei Maksudov; associate, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University) looked at the impact of the Famine on the individual in Ukraine. Collectivization destroyed the peasants' ties to the land and their core principles of self-worth and pride of ownership – in effect, their spirits were broken. He looked at the rise of crime in the countryside and pointed out the utter hopelessness of the situation because the perpetrators of the crime remained in power and even made mentioning the Famine a capital offense.

A summary and discussion of the session was provided by Oleg Khlevniuk (State Archive of the Russian Federation). He stressed the fact that it was important to look both at the political and international factors that motivated Stalin in his decisions to take action against Ukraine. He emphasized the fact that the Bolsheviks always regarded the peasantry as ultraconservative and the main counterrevolutionary force.

Collectivization and the Famine were the price that the peasantry paid for wringing the concession of private plots from the state, and these two realities shaped the future evolution of the peasantry and the destruction of human individuality. He pointed out that in the 20 years after the Famine more than 50 million people were convicted of major crimes in the Soviet Union and more than 20 million were sent to penal camps or faced firing squads.

Finally, Dr. Khlevniuk stressed that the Famine was responsible for the lowering of expectations and that in the late 1930s and 1940s no one complained about their rations even though it was clear that people were perpetually hungry and did not have the strength to fulfill their quotas.

Next week: More on the sessions of the Harvard conference on the Holodomor.



Dr. Yuri Shapoval



Prof. Andrea Graziosi

THE MUSIC SCENE: A feast of authentic kobzar music

by Bohdan Klid

EDMONTON, Alberta – Taras Kompanichenko and Jurij Fedynskyj, two musicians who are at the forefront of the kobzar (itinerant bard) tradition, recently treated audiences in western Canada and Toronto to a sumptuous banquet of largely medieval and early modern repertoire from Ukraine's forgotten, destroyed and nearly lost musical heritage.

The two kobzars appeared in concert and at other venues in Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg and Toronto from February 1-15, singing and playing for the most part previously unheard religious, historical and lyrical songs before enraptured audiences.

The performances of the two kobzars were truly memorable. Not only was the repertoire new and interesting, but its presentation was masterfully performed on instruments rarely seen or heard in North America.

For the most part, Mr. Kompanichenko played on the Veresai 12-string kobza (a traditional Ukrainian stringed instrument of the lute family) and on occasion the kolisna lira (hurdy-gurdy).

Mr. Fedynskyj played on the kobzar bandura, Veresai kobza, drum, and bassola, mainly in accompanying roles.

Many of the songs sung were performed as duets, with Mr. Kompanichenko singing the lead and Mr. Fedynskyj the harmony. In their duets, Mr. Kompanichenko's voice was pleasing to the ear and strong, while Mr. Fedynskyj's added harmony, balance and depth to the sound.

While most in the Ukrainian diaspora are familiar with the bandura and its sounds, and the way songs are sung by our bandura ensembles and individual performers, those who had a chance to hear these two musicians sing and play on the kobza are struck by some notable differences. The major ones are that in style and sound their performances have much in common with minstrel-like singing and playing in the European early-modern tradition.

Their performances were also more intimate, and at times this writer felt as if he were not in an audience but in a small group or circle of friends. I also felt as if we were going back in time to a world of minstrels performing in castles, church squares and fairs before groups of churchmen, knights, Kozak noblemen and military leaders.

The repertoire that the two performed before Canadian audiences consisted largely of religious psalms and chants, some dating back to Rus'-Ukraine, and historical ballads and epic songs, mostly

from the 16th through 18th centuries. Particularly noteworthy was the fact that the lyrics to some of the songs were written by leading Church figures and notables of the early modern period. Of the many elegant and striking numbers, especially memorable were "S namy Boh" (God is with us), a monody from medieval times; the duma on the period of the Ruin, which is attributed to Hetman Ivan Mazepa; "Oйна Hori Vohon Horyt" (A fire burns on the hill), a suite dedicated to Ukraine's fallen heroes; and "Pyite Brattia, Popyite" (Drink, My Brothers, Drink) a 17th century banquet song.

Eleven of the songs sung by the two kobzari, including those mentioned above, are to appear on a soon-to-be released CD in Ukraine of the six-man ensemble Chorea Kozacky (Kozak Dance), to which both Mr. Kompanichenko and Mr. Fedynskyj belong.

The kobzars' schedule in Canada was packed with appearances. Their first was a concert in Edmonton sponsored by the Ukrainian National Federation on February 1. Several appearances followed at the University of Alberta, most in conjunction with International Week, including performing at the finale concert. Particularly memorable were the mini-concerts hosted by the Folkways Alive/Ethnomusicology Center and the Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore.

The two also visited students in two of Prof. Natalia Pylypiuk's classes: Ukrainian Literature for Children and the Ukrainian Speaking World. In addition, they performed at Grant MacEwan College, five times before students of Edmonton's bilingual Ukrainian-English school program and also managed to pay a visit to Ivan Franko School of Ukrainian Studies students on the morning of their departure from Edmonton.

After leaving Edmonton on February 7 the kobzari appeared at a private gathering in Banff before a concert in Calgary on February 8 sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC). Afterwards, they performed in Regina on February 10, sponsored by the UCC, before leaving for Winnipeg on February 11. The next day they appeared before music students at Sisler High School and that evening at a

concert sponsored by the UCC, the Rozmai Ukrainian Dance Company and the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies at the University of Manitoba. On February 13 the two performed at St Andrew's College at the University of Manitoba. Before leaving for Toronto they also briefly visited the archives and library of the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center (Oseredok), where they had a chance to glance at the Oleksander Koshetz collection.

In Toronto, the two appeared at concerts organized by musicologist and renowned bandura player Victor Mishalow on February 14 and 15. Following this, Mr. Kompanichenko returned to Kyiv while Mr. Fedynskyj



Yurij Fedynskyj

went to visit his family in North Carolina.

While many of the appearances of the two kobzars at the schools and universities were circumscribed by the tight schedule, their afternoon and evening concerts were generally free from scheduling constraints. The two performers gave generously of their time, and audiences received them enthusiastically. Because many of the songs were unknown, they required an introduction by the kobzars. This was done in Ukrainian by Mr. Kompanichenko and in English by Mr. Fedynskyj. Explanations about the instruments were also helpful.

This was Mr. Kompanichenko's and Mr. Fedynskyj's first North American

appearance together. Both perform regularly throughout Ukraine, in solo appearances, playing together, and in the Chorea Kozacky.

Mr. Kompanichenko was a student of Mykola Budnyk and Heorhii Tkachenko, the fathers of the Ukrainian traditional instrument revival. He researches and performs the full kobzar repertoire of epic songs and has studied Ukraine's music history, focusing on the traditions of the early church, post-Renaissance culture, including the Kozak Baroque, as well as Romanticism and the early 20th-century.

Many of the lyrics to the songs performed by the two kobzars were identified by Mr. Kompanichenko in archives and old collections, which are not widely known. Music to some of the lyrics was well-known or reconstructed. However, Mr. Kompanichenko has also written music to some of the texts, interpreting the spirit of the times when they were authored. His works have appeared on many CDs released in Ukraine, most on compilation CDs. A solo disk titled "Kobzarsko-Lirnytska Tradytsiya" (The kobza- and hurdy-gurdy-playing tradition), containing a selection of traditional kobzar repertoire performed by Mr. Kompanichenko, was issued in 2002.

Mr. Fedynskyj was born in the United States and studied bandura initially under Julian Kytasty, who plays and researches traditional Ukrainian music in the U.S. For the past eight years he has lived in Kyiv, studying the traditions of the kobzari. In Ukraine, he was involved in the creation of ethno-music projects such as the group Karpatyany, who study the music of the Carpathian region, and is a

(Continued on page 20)



Taras Kompanichenko

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Art works by Chrystyna Kinal exhibited in Washington

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – “We looked in the camera lens and saw our future.”

That is how artist Chrystyna Kinal begins to describe “Family Portrait,” one of her works featured at an art exhibit here at the Chevy Chase Community Center.

Sponsored by the Chevy Chase Citizens Association and the Washington Department of Parks and Recreation, the exhibit also includes the works of two other Washington-area artists – Beth Cartland and Mariah Josephy.

The four large faces that dominate the portrait were adapted from a small black-and-white photo portrait of her Ukrainian refugee family taken in Munich in 1949, on the eve of their departure to the United States. The two large faces above are her parents and the two young girls below with large ribbons in their hair are little Chrystyna and her sister.

Being one of the subjects in the photo as well as the artist of its conversion, Chrystyna Kinal views the piece this way:

“The young hopeful couple with their two beautiful little girls as they appear in the original photo morphed into a somewhat macabre staring portrait of individuals isolated in their individual personal grief and suffering,” she said. “Little did we know what was in store for us,” she said, adding: “But, little does anyone know what’s in store for them in the future... Life.”

In her case, life, indeed, was written with a capital “L.” It would include an arts degree from Barabard College, a Master’s degree in arts and fine arts education from Columbia University, the

chairmanship of the art department at Luther Rice College in Alexandria, and heading the arts program at the Brent Elementary School for gifted and talented children in Washington.

She has also found time to raise a family and work as an artist over the past 30 years – maintaining a home studio, exhibiting extensively in the Washington area and working with such area artists groups as Gallery West, the Printmakers Gallery and Percy Martin’s WD Workshop, among others.

In 1986 her husband’s professional assignment took the family for 13 years to London, where Ms. Kinal continued her artistic career, exhibiting her work and traveling in Europe. She also headed the artists’ section of the Ukrainian Catholic University, a leading Ukrainian academic/cultural institution in London, akin to what the Ukrainian Institute of America is in New York City.

Returning to the United States, Ms. Kinal re-established her artistic presence in the Washington area. Most recently, this included becoming the director of The Washington Group’s Cultural Fund, which presents concerts, art exhibits, book presentations, lectures and other Ukrainian-centered cultural events.

Her works are in private collections throughout the United States, in Great Britain, France, Uzbekistan and India. Two of her prints featured in the 1980 Washington Women’s Art Center annual calendar are in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress.

Her five works at the Chevy Chase exhibit are acrylic, collage and mixed media. In addition to “Family Portrait,” they include the following with Ms. Kinal’s personal explanations:

“Abundance” – inspired by Indian



Yaro Bihun

Eugenia and Charles Osgood listen to artist Chrystyna Kinal describing the genesis of one of her paintings, “Family Portrait,” during the reception at the opening of an art exhibit at the Chevy Chase Community Center in Washington. The original photo portrait on which the work was based can be seen, partially obscured, on the chair below.

women, from the artist’s visit last year to India, where she visited her daughter, a U.S. Foreign Service officer;

“Ionesco’s Chairs” – inspired by his play staged here a few years ago;

“Therese’s Tresses/After the Opera” – inspired by the opulence of her daughter-in-law’s auburn hair;

“Metropolis Memories” – inspired by

the images, sounds and memories of the major cities in her life: New York, London and Paris.

The exhibition at the Chevy Chase Community Center (5601 Connecticut Ave. N.W.), which opened February 13, can be viewed until March 21 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

BOOK REVIEW: Past meets present in ‘My Grandfather’s Mill’

“My Grandfather’s Mill; Journey to Freedom,” by Andrew Melnyk. Xlibris. 398 pp., \$19.99 U.S./\$24.99 Canadian; hard-cover, \$29.99 U.S./\$34.99 Canadian.

by Alex Chumak

It seems that Andrew Melnyk has it all. As a high school principal in Ontario, he had phenomenal success in preventing young people from dropping out from school. As a father, his two sons have achieved tremendous success – one son is a doctor, while the other is the head of the history department in a secondary school. His relationship with his wife reads like a love-story – they have been married since 1969.

These appear to be ingredients of a successful man – a good marriage, exemplary children and a challenging career.

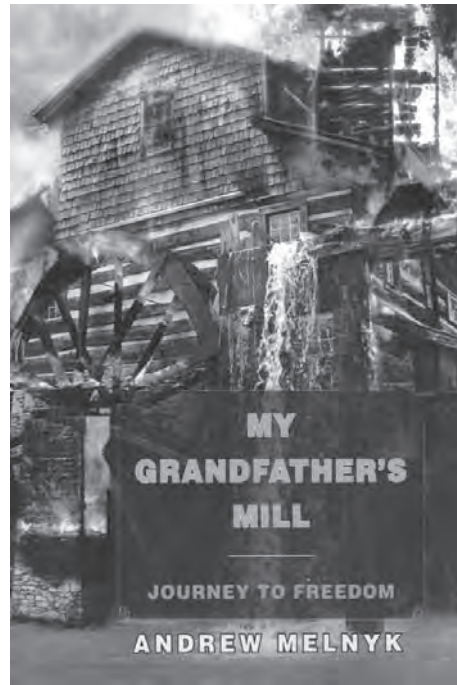
However, there was something missing in his life. Mr. Melnyk struggled to define it, but each time he came close it became elusive. Elusive until 1993, when a group of teachers from the Toronto area invited him to accompany them to Ukraine to teach prospective school principals how to administer schools.

Mr. Melnyk then found what was eluding him – the search for his and his wife’s roots. This was the motivation for him to write a personal history – “My Grandfather’s Mill.”

What appears to be a personal account is in fact a history of Ukraine, Canada, the U.S. and Europe interwoven with personal observations. The author has succeeded in contributing to the history of Ukrainians in North America, albeit on a personal basis. His ability to juxtapose historical events with personal experiences is exceptional.

The reader is taken on quite a journey: escaping Nazism and Communism; surviving the ravages of world wars; life in displaced persons camps; the impact of the

Alex Chumak is a former school trustee and a lecturer at Ryerson University.



Holodomor and survival under totalitarian regimes. Mr. Melnyk’s family, coupled with accounts from his wife’s relatives, all give personal eyewitness descriptions of survival, escape and eventual return to an independent Ukraine to assess these occurrences on their present-day lives. Contrasting the past with the present is the basis of this book.

“My Grandfather’s Mill” is a fascinating read – it puts into perspective what many families have experienced. On the one hand Mr. Melnyk’s book is an original, on the other, every Ukrainian who emigrated to Canada or the U.S. can claim some sense of ownership. In short, it is a universal story.

Each of the book’s 20 chapters examines the family trek in historical detail. Part 1 deals with Mr. Melnyk’s and his wife’s family trees and family constellations. In Part 2 the reader’s eyes are opened to “the war to

(Continued on page 19)

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ice sculptors from Ukraine compete in Canadian festivals

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – February is the month of winter festivals in Canada, when artists from many countries take part in ice and snow sculpture competitions. For the first time, sculptors from Ukraine competed in three international ice sculpting competitions (in Quebec City on February 1-9, in Ottawa on February 6-8 and in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, on February 19-22).

The Ukrainian contingent included Orest Dzyndra from Lviv, Serhiy Kliapetura from Kamianets-Podilskyi and Petro Romaniuk from Kyiv, who competed as a team in the Quebec City competition. Myroslav Dedyshyn, also from Lviv, took part in the Ottawa solo ice sculpting contest.

The Quebec City festival is the largest winter carnival in the world, with three sculpting competitions. The Ukrainian team took part in the international contest which had 11 teams, each from a different country. It was Mr. Romaniuk, who often works in Estonia, who found out about the Quebec City competition and, encouraged by his Estonian colleagues, formed a Ukrainian team and applied. The team submitted its project – “Vertep” – to the festival; the project was accepted and an invitation was issued.

In the snow sculpture competition, each team is given a huge block of pressed snow out of which it hacks out its design. Only spades and axes are allowed; no mechanical or electric equipment can be used. The Ukrainian project turned out to be 4 x 6.4 meters large and took the team four days and one night to complete. It featured six traditional vertep personages – a goat (symbol of prosperity), death, angel, king, shepherd and a Jewish moneylender. The composition was beautifully arranged and brought together by putting the personages in a boat – not a traditional element, but one signifying transporting a Ukrainian vertep to Canada. It won first prize – best in the show – as selected by the visiting public.

It was unfortunate that the sculptors were not more judicious in their selection of the moneylender character for their presentation of the vertep. Taken out of the context of traditional folk theater, meant to amuse and entertain, it was interpreted by several viewers as stereotyping. A complaint was made to the festival organizers, who apologized and said that they had not realized the significance of the figure. The incident was reported in two newspapers.

Although this controversy took place

after the end of the competition and the presentation of the first prize, it created a cloud over the achievement of the Ukrainian team.

The invitation to the Ottawa competition was issued by organizers thanks to the fact that Ukraine’s ambassador to Canada had seen such a competition the previous year and wanted a Ukrainian presence. Myroslav Dedyshyn’s ice sculpture “Angel,” was carved out of eight blocks of ice each 1 x .5 x .25 meters in size. He worked solo, with help only in lifting the blocks. The use of electrical saws and mechanical lifting equipment was allowed and the sculpture had to be completed within 28 hours, spread over three days.

The ice sculptures were evaluated by judges on the basis of the initial impression of the work, technical skill, complexity and design, as well as the successful embodiment of a creative idea. Out of a possible 100 points, Mr. Dedyshyn’s “Angel” received 90.2 points and won second place in the competition.

It is worth noting that the trip was financed by the artists themselves and was organized through personal contacts. Some establishments in Ukraine assisted the artists in their preparations. A Lviv ice cream company, which has a -45° freezer, gave them blocks of snow to practice their designs. The art center Dzyga in Lviv made space available and fed them while they worked on their models. In Canada, the group’s itinerary was organized by the Embassy of Ukraine, while the Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto communities (as well as James Slobodian of Rouyn-Noranda) helped with their month-long stay.

The artists were in Toronto from February 9 to 16 and, although they did not have any sculpting events planned, they gave presentations about their work at the University of Toronto and the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation gallery.

Mr. Dedyshyn said that being in Canada and being able to see the ice and snow sculpture work here (none of the artists had ever been to North America) was the most useful part of the adventure. Seeing experienced sculptors and well-established competitions with interesting compositions and the sculptural possibilities of snow and ice was a discovery the sculptors would be able to use in the future.

(Other sculptures by the artists can be seen on the website www.orestdzyndra.com.ua).



Ice sculptors (from left) Myroslav Dedyshyn, Serhiy Kliapetura, Orest Dzyndra, Petro Romaniuk.



Sculptor Myroslav Dedyshyn with his prize.



The snow sculpture “Vertep.”



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Communist Party. (Ukrinform)

President to pick new candidate

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko will decide on a candidate for the foreign affairs minister's post within the time period specified by the Constitution, the president's press secretary, Iryna Vanykova, said on March 3. She noted that the Verkhovna Rada resolution on the dismissal of Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko was untimely and groundless. "It is absolutely unreasonable amid the aggravation of the economic downturn in the country to weaken the country's foreign policy direction and create new sources of tension. With these decisions the Parliament shatters Ukraine's domestic policy balance, provoking another struggle over positions instead of effective work. With its votes the Tymoshenko Bloc faction has violated agreements on coordinated actions reached during the latest meeting involving the president, the prime minister, the Verkhovna Rada speaker and the NBU [National Bank of Ukraine] governor," she noted. (Ukrinform)

Kravchuk: Yushchenko should resign

KYIV – The first president of independent Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, called on President Viktor Yushchenko to resign. Speaking on the Ukraine TV channel on February 25, he said: "Real patriotism on the part of the president is to deeply analyze the situation and his own stand, and make a relevant decision. You should tell yourself: Viktor Andriyovych, I have done everything I could and I can't do anything else." Mr. Kravchuk considers Mr. Yushchenko unable to restore an efficient system of power in the country. "You, Viktor Andriyovych, are today unable to improve the situation, to create together with the Parliament an efficient system of power," he said. Mr. Kravchuk said he believes that authority in the country has been destroyed and that it is impossible to overcome the crisis without an effective involvement of the authorities. According to him, Mr. Yushchenko focused major attention on how to hold on to power and for that purpose he is even ready to make use of the global financial downturn. He also expressed his opinion that Mr. Yushchenko deliberately escalates the economic situation in the country to place all responsibility on the Cabinet of Ministers. He believes that Mr. Yushchenko's resignation could prevent a lot of problems, appease society and restore hope for a real way out of the crisis. Pre-term presidential elections, Mr. Kravchuk said, would help the country overcome the crisis. Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn said he believes Mr. Kravchuk's appeal to Mr. Yushchenko will exacerbate the political confrontation in Ukraine. Speaking on Channel 5 TV, he said, "There will be no early presidential elections and no implementation of the appeal made by Kravchuk. Though, I don't rule out snap presidential elections, they will depend not on the appeals of separate politicians, groups of politicians or political parties, but will depend on further developments." He added that the situation might get out of control and that authorities might have to agree on early presidential and parliamentary elections. (Ukrinform)

Kyiv claims right to Soviet property

KYIV – According to Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Russia is ignoring Ukraine's rights to the foreign property of the former USSR. Ukraine's share of the foreign assets and liabilities of the former USSR is over 16 percent, MFA spokesman Vasyl Kyrlych,

said on March 2, commenting on the statement made by the Russian president's chief property manager, Vladimir Kozhyn, who said that Ukraine unreasonably claims ownership of the former USSR's assets abroad. According to Mr. Kyrlych, one of the first international multilateral treaties concluded by Ukraine with the Commonwealth of Independent States was an agreement on legal succession relative to the government debt and assets of the former USSR dated December 4, 1991. The MFA press secretary recalled that a number of agreements and treaties to that effect had been concluded, and they clearly and definitely confirmed Ukraine's right to the mentioned share of this property. In 1994 Ukraine and Russia signed an agreement on regulating the issues of succession of the foreign debt and assets of the former USSR, but the document was not ratified by the Ukrainian Parliament. Mr. Kyrlych also noted that this is linked to the fact that Russia, contrary to the commitments undertaken, has not provided Ukraine with data on the size of Soviet gold and Forex reserves, the Diamond Fund, foreign property and bank accounts. "Thus, the statements on all foreign property of the former USSR allegedly belonging only to Russia are far removed from the truth and indicate an attempt to ignore Ukraine's property rights, including for foreign property of the former USSR," Mr. Kyrlych noted. Mr. Kozhyn had earlier claimed that Russia was not going to step back in a dispute with Ukraine regarding the USSR's foreign debt. Russia is a successor of the USSR and suggested a so-called "zero option" that everyone has agreed with, he noted. "Russia undertook all the debts of all former Soviet republics and all foreign debts went to Russia. Everyone has agreed on that – except for Ukraine," Mr. Kozhyn stated. (Ukrinform)

Naftohaz to pay for deliveries

KYIV – The national joint stock company Naftohaz Ukrainy promised on March 3 that it will pay for the natural gas supplies delivered in February before the end of the week, and Russia's Gazprom promised not to impose fines or cut deliveries. The agreement was reached by phone between Naftohaz head Oleh Dubyna and Gazprom head Alexey Miller, the ICTV Ukrainian television channel reported. It was reported that Gazprom could cut by a quarter the supply of natural gas to Ukrainian consumers. The Russian monopoly said that Kyiv owes \$1.5 billion (U.S.) for gas. (Ukrinform)

Yanchuk film wins at festival

KYIV – Ukrainian film director Oles Yanchuk won the Henri-Langlois Prize (first prize for a European film) for his film about the Holodomor titled "Famine-33" at the Vincennes Cinema Festival in France on February 3. Mr. Yanchuk spoke at a press conference in Kyiv on February 17 and noted that his film is the first feature film about the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. He added that the film is used as part of the school curriculum in Ukraine and that it will be translated into several languages, including Russian. (UNIAN)

40,000 deaths due to alcoholism

KYIV – Each year more than 40,000 Ukrainians die because of alcoholism – the cause of death for nearly one-third of Ukrainian males each year – according to the Ukrainian Health Council and the World Health Organization. Ukrainian doctors treat some 700,000 alcohol-dependent patients. Dr. Tetiana Shmihirovska, who runs a private clinic

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

in Lviv, told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service that villagers are most at risk because nearly all households make their own alcohol, which often leads to poisoning. (RFE/RL)

2,000-3,000 emigrate to the U.S.

KYIV – The U.S. Embassy issues 2,000 to 3,000 immigration visas for Ukrainian citizens annually, said John Armstrong, U.S. deputy consul general to Ukraine. According to the diplomat, “a major part of immigration visas are issued based on family ties, and less based on jobs.” Mr. Armstrong noted that immigration visas were issued to many PC programmers, who are much sought after in the United States. (Ukrinform)

Kyiv 13th in office real estate price

KYIV – Kyiv ranked the 13th in the rating of cities with the most expensive office real estate in the world, the Delo newspaper reported in late February. Cushman & Wakefield published an annual rating of cities with the highest rent price for office premises. The Ukrainian capital rose by three positions over last year and ranked 13th with a rent price per square meter of 686 euros per year. Despite the sharp drop in prices on the real estate market in late 2008, office rent in Kyiv rose in price by 14 percent during 2008. (Ukrinform)

Tarasjuk on Eastern Partnership

KYIV – Ukraine backs the idea of the Eastern Partnership, but this should not replace its major goal of joining the European Union, Borys Tarasjuk, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee for European Integration, told the press on February 26, commenting on the outcome of the meeting of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee in Brussels on February 25. According to Mr. Tarasjuk, the meeting participants also discussed the prospect of signing an association agreement. “We drew a line in defining the title of this instrument at the Paris summit, we now have to draw a line under its essence,” he noted. Mr. Tarasjuk also said that the Eastern Partnership policy should get the necessary financing, adding that currently this funding is insufficient as 300 million euros are earmarked until 2013 for all six countries in the program. Referring to visa issues, the national deputy underscored that Ukraine is ready to work hard and back the efforts of the European Commission to achieve a common goal: the introduction of a visa-free regime for Ukrainians as early as 2012 (by the date of Ukraine's and Poland's hosting of the UEFA 2012 soccer championship). (Ukrinform)

Zlenko: no alternative to EU

KYIV – The Eastern Partnership initiative should not be considered by the European community as an alternative to the enlargement of the European Union, nor should it weaken Ukraine's relations with the EU, said Ukraine's former Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko. Addressing delegates to the third Europe-Ukraine International Forum on February 27, he said Ukraine should take part in the Eastern Partnership to the extent that it corresponds to the policy of European integration and contributes to domestic reforms. At the same time, he said, “The Eastern Partnership must take into account the factors of principles like differentiation and joint responsibility.” He explained that the point is there should not be one standard approach to all six member-countries of this initiative, since they have “different potentials and different levels of European integration.” Mr.

Zlenko emphasized that the program participants must find extra sources of revenues for implementation of the Eastern Partnership initiative, because “\$15 million (U.S.) a year for each country is obviously insufficient.” He emphasized that the Eastern Partnership must be transparent and guarantee the top level of political association, as well as progress of relations in key areas: political, economic, security and humanitarian. “When implementation of the Eastern Partnership begins, we will be able to conclude that the European policy on Eastern European countries brought about certain political changes, so that the EU would directly influence developments in the region,” Mr. Zlenko underscored. (Ukrinform)

Great Britain to help Ukraine join EU

KYIV – Great Britain is willing to help Ukraine attain European Union membership, John Grogan, head of the Ukraine-Great Britain Interparliamentary Group, told the Europe-Ukraine International Forum on February 26. He said that membership perspectives must be provided to Ukraine in the nearest future. The British MP also noted that his country welcomes the decision to admit Ukraine to the European Economic Committee. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine's importance to Europe

KYIV – Ukraine's membership in the European Union is important not only for Kyiv, but also for Europe, the head of the Ukraine-EU delegation and member of the European Parliament, Adrian Severin, said at the third Europe-Ukraine International Forum in Kyiv on February 26. “Ukraine's membership is important for the European Union, first and foremost, from the view of collective security. Secondly, integration will help EU states find a common way out of crisis,” he said. Mr. Severin also said that further steps of Ukraine's integration with the European community should be determined at the forum. (Ukrinform)

GUAM headquarters opened in Kyiv

KYIV – Azerbaijan's Foreign Affairs Minister Elmar Mammadyarov noted on February 27 at the opening ceremony in Kyiv of the headquarters of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (ODED), which functions under the aegis of GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova), that thanks to the unveiling of the headquarters, young democratic states will be able to successfully accomplish tasks. In particular, this concerns settlement of frozen conflicts in Georgia (Abkhazia, South Ossetia), Azerbaijan (Nagorno Karabakh) and Moldova (Transnistria). He expressed hope that GUAM would work fruitfully to ensure the safety of energy supplies. According to Grigol Vashadze, foreign affairs minister of Georgia, who currently holds the GUAM presidency, the ODED has achieved significant results over the past few years, including the creation of a free trade zone and a firm legislative basis that helps tackle many issues, both economic and in the area of culture/tourism. (Ukrinform)

Presidents commemorate victims

KYIV – Presidents Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine and Lech Kaczynski of Poland commemorated the victims of the village of Huta Pieniacka, located in the Brody area of the Lviv Oblast, which was burned by German forces 65 years ago. The two leaders laid wreaths at the local monument on February 28. Mr. Kaczynski said that there had been many grand events in the joint history of Ukrainians and Poles. “But today, we talk about the same difficult moments for both nations, and it is good that we can talk about this now, because a real friendship between

nations comes from this,” he said. He added that the crime committed in Huta Pieniacka had destroyed trust between Ukrainians and Poles for tens of years, as there were accusations that the Poles of Huta Pieniacka had been killed by Ukrainian nationalists. Mr. Yushchenko, in turn, said that both nations had a difficult past. “I want to say that, despite all the difficulties in our past, I am deeply convinced that Ukrainians have offered Poles their hand of friendship and mutual understanding forever,” he said. On February 28, 1944, German secret police divisions destroyed the village of Huta Pieniacka and killed several hundred Poles who lived there. According to some Ukrainian historians, referring to Polish documents, German forces destroyed the village after six to eight German policemen were killed in a fight against “Polish and Bolshevik divisions” on February 23, 1944. On February 27 the German forces entered the village and burnt 172 residential houses, killing 500 to 1,000 people. (Ukrinform, Radio Liberty)

Ivasiuk named Hero of Ukraine

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on March 2 bestowed on the late composer Volodymyr Ivasiuk the title of the Hero of Ukraine. Ivasiuk (March 4, 1949 - May 1979) was a beloved Ukrainian composer and poet, one of the founders of Ukrainian pop music, author of 107 songs, 53 instrumental music pieces and the music to several plays. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Ivasiuk's tragic death – an unsolved murder that took place sometime between April 24, 1979, when he disappeared, and May 18, 1979, when his mutilated body was found hanging from a tree in a restricted forest near Lviv. His death was officially ruled a suicide. Ukrainians, however, saw the hand of the KGB. (Ukrinform, Radio Liberty)

Sholem Aleichem Museum in Kyiv

KYIV – A museum dedicated to Sholem Aleichem was opened in a department of Kyiv's History Museum on March 2, according to the press service of the Kyiv City State Administration. Sholem Aleichem (Sholem Naumovich Rabinovich, 1859-1916) is a famous Jewish writer born in the family of a merchant in Pereyaslav (currently Pereyaslav-Khmelnytskyi, Kyiv Oblast). His career as a writer started in the late 1870s when some of his articles written in the Hebrew language were published in magazines

and newspapers. He wrote 10 novels, 20 plays, as well as hundreds of short novels and stories. In 1978 the manor museum of Sholem Aleichem was opened in Pereyaslav-Khmelnytskyi on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of his birthday. In 1997 a monument to the writer was opened in Kyiv, while in 1999 the Cabinet of Ministers decided to open a museum in his honor in Kyiv. (Ukrinform)

Bank sells controlling stake to state

KYIV – Shareholders of one of Ukraine's largest banks, Rodovid Bank, have made a decision to transfer to state ownership no less than 50 percent plus one share of its property assets. In addition, shareholders expect that the state will buy out the bank's additional issue stocks in exchange for government stocks. The decisions were made on February 26 at the bank's extraordinary general shareholders meeting. According to Rodovid Bank's representatives, the state will obtain a controlling stake, however the current investor of the bank (Istil Group) will have a blocking stake with the right of redemption. “This will be co-existence of the state and the private investor, and control diversification from both sides. Upon the expiration of time needed to restore the bank's financial position, the state share will be bought out,” the bank underlined. (Ukrinform)

S&P lowers ratings on cities, Crimea

KYIV – Standard & Poor's Ratings Services on February 26 lowered its long-term issuer credit ratings for the Ukrainian cities of Kyiv, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Luhansk and Odesa, and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to CCC+ from B and removed them from CreditWatch following the downgrade of the sovereign rating on Ukraine. The outlooks on all seven local and regional governments (LRGs), which were negative before the CreditWatch placement, remain negative. The ratings had been placed on CreditWatch with negative implications on February 16. S&P says future rating actions regarding Ukraine could bring some differentiation in future rating actions on Ukrainian LRGs to reflect their various credit features. On February 25, Standard & Poor's cut Ukraine's long- and short-term foreign currency sovereign credit ratings to CCC+/C from B/B, and its local currency ratings to B-/C from B+/B. (Ukrinform)



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Gala Celebration of Spring to be held at The Ukrainian Museum

by Marta Baczynsky

NEW YORK – On the evening of Saturday, March 21, the lights in The Ukrainian Museum in New York City will sparkle invitingly, welcoming guests to a party – a Gala Celebration of Spring.

The event promises to be a glittering, exciting affair within the framework of a cocktail party during which guests will enjoy musical performances while sipping wine and champagne, sampling hors d'oeuvres, or teasing their palates with delectable desserts from a Viennese table.

The highlight of the gala will be an art auction – the works generously donated by artists, as well as families and friends of artists. The auction will be unique due to the fact that it will be held in the museum's galleries, allowing the overall art experience to be an important component of the entire event.

The museum's two current exhibitions – the exuberant works of Futurist David Burliuk in the show "Futurism and After: David Burliuk, 1882-1967" and the rich artistic legacy of Mychajlo Moroz in the show titled "A Generous Vision: A Major Gift of Works by Mychajlo Moroz" – will provide an elegant setting for the evening.

Making sure that everyone has an enjoyable time will be master of ceremonies Marc Chuma.

"The time of nature's renewal is a wonderful occasion for friends of the museum to gather in celebration. We especially welcome the younger generation whose achievements and commitment to their Ukrainian heritage is admirable and augurs well for the future of our institution," said Dr. Jaroslaw Leshko, president of the museum's board of trustees.

The event is organized by board members Oksana Trytjak and her co-chair Olha

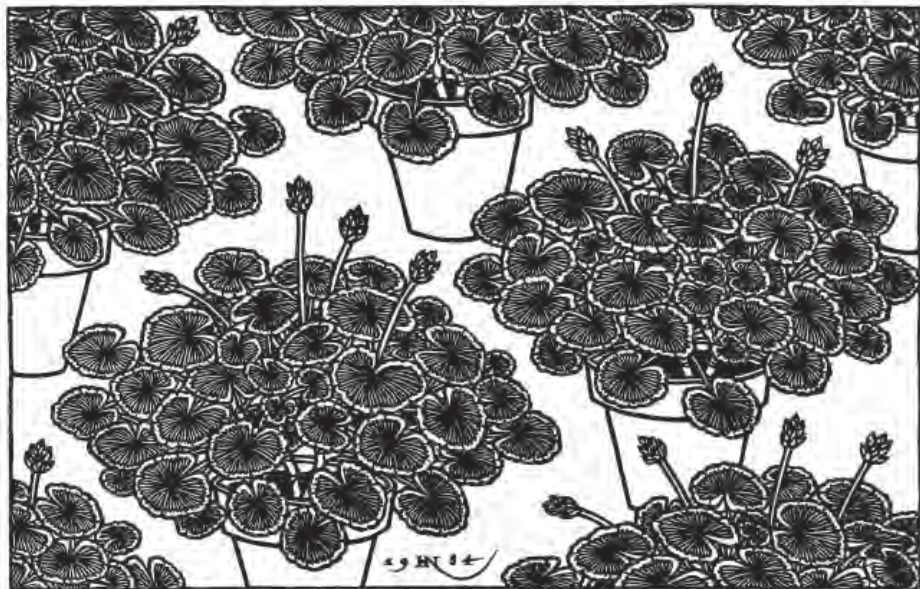
Stawnychy, with the help and support of members of the Special Events Committee on the board of trustees, as well as volunteers.

Ms. Trytjak explained: "This event is being held to give our friends and supporters a chance to enjoy the museum in a social environment outside of its regularly scheduled programming. We want people to come and see how great the Museum is and to make it their home. Through this exciting outreach to our community we look to connect with new friends, new supporters, especially with people in the younger generation because, after all, they will be the inheritors of this extraordinary institution."

The musical program to be presented at the Gala Celebration of Spring will no doubt satisfy jazz aficionados as well as devotees of gentle music for the soul. The organizers of the event booked the Askold Buk Trio, a prominent jazz group to provide fiery and captivating rhythms. Askold Buk is a highly acclaimed guitarist, whose compositions and performances have been heard on ABC Primetime and the Emmy-winning PBS series "Frontline." His music has been part of many independent films and TV commercials and his CD "Volcano" has been part of over 20 national and international jazz and smooth jazz playlists.

On the other end of the musical spectrum, violinist Marian Pidvirny will provide gentle, romantic tones and what he calls "gypsy" music. Hailing from Ukraine, the artist is often featured at the Soyzivka resort during the summer months.

During the event an enormous amount of excitement will most certainly be generated by the art auction. Among the artists whose works will be up for bidding are: Dr. Alexander Motyl, Zenon Onyshkevych, Arcadia Olenska Petryshyn, Lidia Piasetsky,



Jacques Hnizdovsky's "Geranium" (1984, woodcut, 9 by 14 1/8 inches).

Natalia Pohrebinska, Roma Rainey, Christina Saj, George Thaddeus Saj, Tamara Skrypka, Valeriy Skrypka, Ilona Sochynsky and Marta Hirniak Voyevodka.

Francis Archipenko Gray donated a print of the renowned sculptor Alexander Archipenko, while Mary Burliuk, the granddaughter of David Burliuk, gave a watercolor painted by the famous Futurist. The museum also received three woodcuts by Jacques Hnizdovsky from Stephanie Hnizdovsky and daughter Mira, and an Ivan Marchuk painting from Oksana and Oleh Lopatynsky.

And, if all these exciting works of art were not enough, the not-to-be outdone Ukrainian airline AeroSvit has donated two tickets to Ukraine to be bid on and purchased by a lucky individual.

Prof. Leshko expressed his gratitude to all the above benefactors of the event for their largesse and support of this endeavor. The proceeds from the gala and the auction will benefit the museum's ongoing operations and special projects.

The organizers engaged master chef Andrij Sonevytsky (of Soyuzivka fame) and the company Sin Catering to provide a sumptuous buffet. In addition, there will be a Viennese table with delectable Ukrainian torts. These melt-in-your-mouth delights will be provided by museum friends – artists in their own right who continue the time-honored tradition of Ukrainian pastry art. The team of volunteers in this project is headed by Yaroslawa Luchechko, former chair of the Special Events Committee on the board of trustees. The season-appropriate design on the invitation for the event was the work of artist Sofika Zielyk.

According to the museum's director, Maria Shust, the Gala Celebration of Spring event offers a great opportunity for interaction with the community. "The Ukrainian Museum was built by the Ukrainian com-

munity, and it is part of the life of the community. Events such as these are our way of embracing our friends and supporters. We hope to see many new faces among our guests at this event so that we can show them that the museum is a great place for them and their families to enjoy and also to appreciate their heritage and take pride in their Ukrainian roots."

The Ukrainian Museum was founded in 1976 by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. In 2005, through the efforts and generosity of the Ukrainian community, the Museum began operations in a new, spacious and elegant facility at 222 E. Sixth St. in New York City. The Museum is a not-for-profit institution of Ukrainian culture and history, devoted to providing information, through exhibitions and education about the Ukrainian experience past and present.

For information about The Ukrainian Museum and the Gala Celebration of Spring event call 212-228-0110; e-mail info@ukrainianmuseum.org; on log on to www.ukrainianmuseum.org.



David Burliuk's "Santa Monica" (not dated, watercolor, 10.5 by 15 inches).



George Thaddeus Saj's "Fat Cat" (2008, painted wood, 11 by 10 inches).

Askold Melnyczuk reading at the New School

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The post-Soviet...

(Continued from page 3)

buy whatever you can afford. But once it wasn't like that."

While it wasn't at all a priority among freshmen in Luhansk, being able to freely speak the Ukrainian language and practice the culture is among the top reasons why UCU students believe gaining independence was so important.

In the view of Ms. Mykhalkiv, an admirer of Ukrainian nationalists, only true Ukrainians speak the Ukrainian language wherever they may live.

Others said Ukrainians should at least know the Ukrainian language, but not necessarily speak it as a measure of patriotism.

"I believe that if you're a true patriot, then even if you speak Russian but want to be a patriot, then you can learn the language," Ms. Sholovii said. "You live in Ukraine all the same."

The Soviet occupation created a rift between eastern and western Ukraine, the students acknowledged. Eastern Ukrainians have a tendency to demonize western Ukrainians, said Ms. Halaiko, who was born in November 1988.

"If you visit some eastern Ukrainian city and acknowledge you're from Lviv, they will say immediately that you're a 'Banderite,'" she said. "They believe that only maniacs walk around here. That's the type of view that formed in the east about us westerners."

In his native Crimea, the Soviet forces are even venerated as heroes who rescued them from the westerners, Mr. Nazarenko said. Many Crimeans who have lived in Ukraine their entire lives and had their nationality listed as Ukrainian nevertheless consider themselves Russian.

"It's one country, but the views are entirely different," he said. "The Soviet Union is among the main reasons for that."

Ms. Halaiko's grandparents were Lemkos who were deported to the village of Yaseniv in the Brody district during Akcja Wisla of 1947.

However, she said she doesn't know much of that history, what region they were from, how they were deported and who was responsible. Her grandfather makes the trek to Lemkivschyna for an annual meeting, she said. "I simply know that he was resettled," she said. "He speaks very little at all about that time."

Ms. Sholovii's grandmother, an ethnic Ukrainian, also was deported to Ukraine during Akcja Wisla from territory that is now Polish. She also doesn't know much about what happened or where she lived.

To address such historical injustices, the Ukrainian government must take more steps to remedy its Soviet past, in the view of Ms. Mykhalkiv. The Soviet Union ought to be officially condemned, and the government should finally recognize the Ukrainian Insurgent Army of World War II as a force that fought for independence.

Ms. Mykhalkiv's fellow Halychany didn't share her fervor. In fact, Ms. Halaiko and Ms. Sholovii wanted Ukrainian leaders to let bygones rest and move forward.

"Ukraine is not in such an advantageous position now – quite the opposite, and peaceful relations need to be established at present," Ms. Sholovii said. "If we want a good future for our nation, then we simply need to somehow live with what we have at present and not remind ourselves about what was then. What was then is already in history, and you can't do anything about it."

Leave history alone and re-start from scratch, she said.

"I believe that, for me, being a Ukrainian is simply doing everything positive that I can for the future of my nation, and not remembering anything bad and not condemning the past," said Ms. Sholovii, striking a confident tone.

Though largely critical of the Soviet

Union, the eastern Ukrainians were more able to acknowledge its advantages. There was stability that is presently lacking, Mr. Betsun said; citizens felt more equal then, Mr. Nazarenko said.

"Undoubtedly, there were higher and lower strata, but I think currently the rift between the two classes is a bit too large," added Mr. Nazarenko.

Members of the post-Soviet generation of eastern Ukrainians seemingly gained most of their knowledge of the Soviet Union from family and mass media, since students almost unanimously said they received very little information in school.

Echoing his Luhansk peers, Mr. Betsun said he studied "almost nothing" of the Soviet Union in school, focusing mainly on Ukrainian and global history.

Meanwhile, the Lviv students said they studied it rather extensively in school from unrevised texts. In her history book, published in 1995, Ms. Mykhalkiv said the Soviet Union was portrayed positively and falsely.

The Holodomor of 1932-1933 was the result of a poor harvest, after which peasants "had to give something to the collective farms" since much grain from Ukraine had to be exported, her textbook said. The famine of 1946-1947 occurred because of poor growing conditions and droughts, resulting in a poor harvest.

"Nothing, not a word mentioned that it was manufactured, that they weren't famines, but holodomors," Ms. Mykhalkiv said.

Meanwhile, her textbook devoted a half-page to the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, "almost nothing at all," in her view.

The Lviv students were well aware of the three artificial famines, but no one knew of the purges that began in 1937.

They knew Vasyl Stus was a dissident writer who died in a Soviet prison, allegedly by suicide, and they knew that Vyacheslav Chornovil was a leader of the Ukrainian independence movement who died in a car wreck, allegedly an accident.

In Ukraine's next election, Ms. Mykhalkiv said she would cast her vote for the nationalist Svoboda party because its leader, Oleh Tyahnybok, "defends nationalist rights, and fights for the rebirth of Ukrainian culture and the rebirth of the Ukrainian state."

Mr. Nazarenko said he supports President Viktor Yushchenko, Mr. Betsun said he figures the Green Party is the best option at this point, while the others see no viable political force.

"I don't see Ukraine's future with any party," Ms. Halaiko said.

Regardless of the disappointing politicians, Ms. Sholovii said she sees a future for herself in Ukraine. "I believe that if a person tries, if she wants to achieve success, if she sets a goal for herself and if she will truly be persevering, then she can achieve her goals," she said.

Though Mr. Betsun said he had grown up in Luhansk being told that he had to leave Ukraine in order to prosper, his few months at UCU have already made him think more positively about his native land.

Negativity toward Ukraine "was very apparent in the east," he said. "There's a difference. When I graduate, I hope there will be some prospects here in the west."

Ms. Halaiko said she's "happy to have been born in Ukraine, considering its great history, which we can take pride in. Surely, not every country has such a history."

She said she hopes Ukraine will continue to develop toward the European standard, "and I hope I will also contribute my work toward this, and everything in my power."

At the same time, she acknowledged Ukraine has a long way to go. Having visited Poland, she noticed a world of difference in merely crossing the border. "I immediately felt that I was back in Ukraine – every one of our bumps and potholes," Ms. Halaiko said. "There's garbage everywhere here, but everything is clean there."

"I heard from a lot of people that Lviv is a big trash can," added Ms. Sholovii. "Wherever you go in Ukraine, garbage is everywhere."

That's another burden Ukrainians have to bear from the Soviets, which murdered 80 percent of the nation's intelligentsia, Ms. Mykhalkiv said.

Such remarks reflect the tendency of Halychyna residents to blame everything that is wrong on the Soviets, disregarding the fact that Ukrainians have had 17 years to get their house in order.

In fact, while remaining saddled with Soviet burdens, Ms. Mykhalkiv noted that Ukrainians allowed the one good thing they inherited from the Soviet Union to slip through their fingers – its nuclear weapons. "I don't know why they did that, but that was all that Ukraine lost," she said. "Nothing else was lost, and we only gained."

Influencing Ms. Mykhalkiv's categorical condemnation of everything Soviet is the large acreage owned by her grandparents that was promptly confiscated by invading Bolsheviks and incorporated into collective farms.

However, her confident rhetoric wavered when she was asked whether Ukrainians achieved the hopes they had when declaring independence.

"It can be said that the victories weren't too significant, but the main thing is that our people remained on their land," Ms. Mykhalkiv said, apparently overlooking Ukraine's population loss of 5 million people since independence.

"With time, economic development began ... well, maybe it wasn't all immediate ...," she said, slipping into an unsure tone as if trying to convince herself. "But gradually these dreams are becoming vindicated."

Indeed many are dissatisfied with Ukraine's politics and economics, Ms. Halaiko said. The intelligentsia that is supposed to lead the nation is fleeing abroad because wages are low, utility bills are high and starting a family is simply unaffordable.

Nevertheless, members of the post-Soviet generation at UCU remain hopeful that they may be able to accomplish what their parents' generation can't seem to do – take Ukraine to its next level of development.

"Maybe in 15, 20 or 30 years the generations will shift with some fresh ideas," Mr. Nazarenko said. "Very many people are in government who support the Soviet Union, view it positively and say it needs to be returned because those were the good days. Maybe they're the ones who are braking development."

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to our children Julia, Mirosława and Darko
with their families for a pleasant surprise
that they had prepared in celebration
of our 50th wedding anniversary.

Parents Daria and Emilian Berdej

Yushchenko...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukraine became one of the weakest links of the global economy in the face of the crisis. It is hard to see how Ukraine can survive without more international assistance, but complications with the IMF have been a very bad signal for all prospective lenders and investors.

The IMF has been reluctant to resume funding in the absence of coordinated efforts inside the country, so it came up with a condition that Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko should sign a letter of intent pledging such cooperation. Mr. Yushchenko initially refused to sign any letters jointly with Ms. Tymoshenko, insisting that she should unconditionally cut the budget deficit from 3 percent to 1 percent as requested by the IMF (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 23); but the IMF made it clear that a joint letter was an important condition for resuming cooperation.

At the same time, the IMF agreed that the budget deficit could be higher than 1 percent if Ukraine managed to borrow more abroad. The IMF also said that the NBU's efforts to stabilize the banking sector should not be hampered by political interference (www.imf.org, February 27).

Mr. Yushchenko announced on February 27 that he had agreed on the following joint steps with Ms. Tymoshenko and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn: to draft a declaration pledging readiness to tackle the economic crisis jointly; to agree on a joint position on cooperation with the IMF; and to come up with a joint anti-crisis plan (UNIAN, February 27). Ms. Tymoshenko agreed not to insist on Mr. Stelmakh's dismissal (Ekonomicheskoe Izvestia, March 2).

Details of the agreement were finalized on March 2. Both sides made further concessions. Mr. Yushchenko agreed that the

budget would be revised in April and May rather than immediately. Ms. Tymoshenko agreed to increase the price of gas for the public. She had opposed the step, apparently fearing it would make her less popular as a presidential candidate in 2010. They also agreed to promise the IMF to launch a pension reform, finance the budget deficit from external sources and higher taxes rather than by money emission, and to stabilize the national currency without significant intervention from the NBU so that the Forex reserve would not be depleted (Segodnya, March 3).

"Ukraine will without a doubt procure the second tranche from the IMF," Prime Minister Tymoshenko said, summing up the agreements. IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn told President Yushchenko by phone that the chances for securing the second tranche would now be high (UNIAN, March 2).

Even if Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yushchenko have resolved all their differences, the action plan promised to the IMF may be blocked in Parliament, where the coalition that backs Ms. Tymoshenko does not control a majority. Disagreements have emerged even within the coalition as Mr. Lytvyn, whose party is the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc's junior partner, has been reluctant to sign the letter to the IMF. The opposition vehemently objects to the plan. The Communists are against any accords with the IMF in principle, and the PRU indicated that it would oppose higher taxes, a higher gas price, and a pension reform that would raise the pension age from the current age 60 for men and age 55 for women (Ukrayinska Pravda, March 2).

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Sheptytsky Institute Study Days scheduled for July 2-4 in Ottawa

OTTAWA – World-renowned liturgist, the Rev. Robert Taft SJ, will head the list of plenary speakers at this year's Sheptytsky Institute Study Days in Ottawa on July 2-4.

After last year's successful conference, the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies (MASI) of St. Paul University immediately turned to the Rev. Taft to be one of three speakers to address the entire assembly. The Rev. Taft has taught at Rome's Pontifical Oriental Institute since the 1970s and is the author of almost 20 books and more than 600 scholarly articles.

The other two plenary speakers will be the Rev. John Behr, academic dean at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in New York and author of the ground-breaking "The Way to Nicaea," and Martha Shepherd of Madonna House, the famed community founded by Catherine Doherty. They will speak on July 3 and 4, respectively.

The theme for this year's Study Days is "Eastern Christian Spirituality." The Rev. Taft will treat liturgical spirituality. The Rev. Behr will discuss spirituality from the perspective of the Cross. Ms. Shepherd will deal with the liberating power of silence.

The Study Days are intended for a broad audience. Last year they drew more than 200 participants from as far away as California and Ukraine. Especially popular is the youth program, coordinated by

Lisa Hladio of Pennsylvania. It enables parents to participate in the Study Days while their children engage in learning games and crafts. This year will also include the popular cantor training program lead by Melita Mudri-Zubacz of Winnipeg and the Rev. Roman Galadza of Brampton, Ontario.

The conference is described as "an Eastern Christian feast for the mind and heart." It is devoted to studying how the Eastern Christian lifestyle – Gospel-centered and life-affirming – can thrive in the modern West. Each day begins with matins, followed by the divine liturgy. The plenary address is followed by breakout sessions, seminars and workshops, and the day ends with vespers.

Many of the out-of-town participants reside at the new St. Paul University residence. Within walking distance of Parliament Hill, the residence provides very affordable rates for the entire family. Meal plans are available in the university cafeteria for both residents and other participants.

The Study Days can be followed by two-weeks of university classes (July 6-18) for which six university credits can be earned. The two courses being taught this year are "Introduction to Eastern Christian Spirituality" by the Rev. Maxym Lysack, and "General Introduction to the Eastern Churches" by the Rev. Andrew Onuferko.

For more information readers may log onto www.ustpaul.ca/sheptytsky.

Past meets...

(Continued from page 12)

end all wars" and how Mr. Melnyk's and his wife's families survived.

In "War Between Wars," Part 3 of the book, Mr. Melnyk describes the Holodomor and how it has been repressed and denied in Ukraine. It is ironic that educators from Ontario had to instruct Ukrainian teachers about the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine. Mr. Melnyk paints vivid pictures in his memoirs of how this was accomplished.

Most of us can relate to Part 4 – "The Second World War" and its impact on Ukraine and its population. Indeed, it is a sad, horrendous and traumatic account of persecutions, mass murders and other crimes against humanity. Mr. Melnyk accurately depicts this period as he describes the Nazi and Communist domination of Ukraine and its deplorable treatment of Ukrainians.

The remaining sections of "My Grandfather's Mill" describe how the Melnyks and the Tatomys escaped the reign of terror. Their detailed escape is the stuff of

movies filled with danger, suspense and almost incredible close brushes with death. Their subsequent life in displaced persons camps is described in detail.

The final part of the book is the integration of the Melnyk family to the North American way of life, and the love story of how Andrew Melnyk met his wife. Mr. Melnyk and his wife, Chrystyna Tatomyr, coincidentally experienced similar histories before meeting and settling down.

"My Grandfather's Mill" (subtitled "Journey to Freedom") is a testimonial to all Ukrainian families who shared similar experiences. Mr. Melnyk has succeeded not only in finding his roots but in personalizing history of make it a living memory.

Book excerpts can be viewed at www.andrewmelnyk.com

To order "My Grandfather's Mill" call 888-795-4274 ext. 7876 or log on to www.Xlibris.com. (The book is also available at www.amazon.com, www.barnesandnoble.com and www.borders.com.)

The author may be contacted at amelnyk@hotmail.com.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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NATO-Ukraine...

(Continued from page 2)

this situation, without suggesting remedies, in remarks broadcast on Air Defense Forces Day (ICTV, February 20). Even Ukraine's sole airborne brigade has had its gas supply cut off because of debts and is now using wood stoves (TV Ukrayina, February 20).

"The crisis has hit Ukraine very hard, the times are dire," Mr. de Hoop Scheffer acknowledged. But even this situation would not justify delays in the financing of military reforms. Maintaining its bloated, obsolete military forces would ultimately cost Ukraine much more than reforming the forces. Ukraine's Defense Ministry is trying to preserve the existing level of troop contributions to NATO-led peacekeeping missions in Kosovo and several African countries. The ministry intends, however, to reduce considerably the number of in-country troop exercises and air force flights in 2009 (Interfax-Ukraine, February 20).

Ukraine remains the only NATO partner that has consistently participated in all of the alliance's operations and missions over the years, with indispensable contributions in some cases. Meanwhile, an absolute majority of Ukraine's population does not want the country to join NATO as a member. Such a disjunction is unique to Ukraine and the NATO-Ukraine relationship.

For another unique discrepancy, NATO shows far greater interest in political relations with Russia than with Ukraine, even as Russia obstructs while Ukraine materially supports NATO's goals and policies.

At the Krakow ministerial meeting, Mr. Yekhanurov assured NATO that "Ukraine's chosen course to join the Euro-Atlantic community is beyond question" (UNIAN, February 20). As a

Yushchenko loyalist, however, Mr. Yekhanurov cannot speak for the majority of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's government, let alone a majority of the Parliament.

Ms. Tymoshenko is now distancing herself from the goal of membership in NATO. In her speech at NATO's Security Conference in Munich she cited Russia's opposition to that goal and the split in Ukrainian public opinion regarding NATO. On that basis she argued that Ukraine's best option would be to join some kind of all-European collective security system in which Russia would also be a full participant (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 11). As she prepares to enter the presidential election campaign later this year, Ms. Tymoshenko is clearly and inevitably backtracking on her earlier support for Ukrainian membership in NATO.

In this situation it may not be surprising that Kyiv has been slow to develop the Annual National Plan for 2009. The Krakow ministerial meeting "tried to stimulate the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and other relevant authorities to proceed with drafting and completing the ANP" (press release, February 20). U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates suggested to the Ukrainian government to reach an internal consensus about the next steps in this regard (RFE/RL, February 20).

Recouping at least some of the earlier momentum in NATO-Ukraine relations does not seem possible before NATO reaches internal consensus on the scope and pace of Ukrainian ANPs and before Ukraine's presidential elections, that is to say, probably not for another year.

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NATO deliberates...

(Continued from page 2)

the alleged needs for Russian help: eliminating nuclear missile threats from Iran, ensuring continued U.S. and allied access to the Manas base (i.e., reversing the Kyrgyz eviction), and providing overland transit via Russia for U.S. and NATO supplies to their forces in Afghanistan.

Irrespective of their degree of validity, those considerations at least purport to reflect some strategic requirements.

By contrast, Western European normalization of relations with Russia proceeds as the default option, innocent of strategy, whether by drift or on the basis of bilateral economic and political relations between individual governments and Russia. As a net result, Moscow can well conclude that the onus of "resetting" weighs on the West; that "moving forward" means no consequences for Russian military and energy warfare operations, recent or future ones; and that a constant U.S. and NATO quest for Russian strategic "help" (never yet delivered) places leverage in Russia's hands against Western interests.

Polish Defense Minister Bohdan Klich cautioned the allied ministers that reverting to business as usual was risky in the absence of a basis for trusting Russia: "The alliance treated Russia as a kind of special partner, intensifying dialogue with it and establishing a special framework for cooperation. That trust has nevertheless been broken," Mr. Klich observed (Nasz Dziennik, February 18).

With Russia's invasion of Georgia demonstrating that military aggression remains a possibility, a large group of NATO countries (mainly, but not only, new members)

want the upcoming summit to signal a rebalancing of priorities and resources. This could be seen clearly in the position of their delegations at the Krakow ministerial meeting. Without prejudice to continuing expeditionary missions, these countries expect NATO's upcoming summit, strategic concept and planning to reflect NATO's core mission of defending the alliance's territory.

During the Krakow meeting, Messrs. Gates and Klich signed a bilateral agreement on U.S. assistance to the development of Polish special operations troops. One hundred Polish special troops currently serve in Afghanistan. The Polish contingent there totals 1,600 and will be maintained at its present strength despite the financial crisis (PAP, February 20, 21).

Meanwhile, the comprehensive U.S.-Polish military assistance agreement remains in abeyance, although Poland has already agreed to host the U.S. anti-missile shield on Polish territory. The two agreements are linked to each other, but the new U.S. administration is reconsidering the missile shield project inherited from the Bush administration.

In Krakow Gates sidestepped questions about the implementation of these agreements, pending a decision on the missile shield in Washington, which may take time and become negotiable with Russia. For its part Warsaw continues to rely on what Mr. Klich called the "solemn U.S. commitment" to deliver the military assistance package to Poland.

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A feast...

(Continued from page 11)

member of the early music ensemble Chorea Kozackyy.

Mr. Fedynsky also documents museum collections of Ukrainian folk and elite instruments, and makes reconstructions of these instruments. His early performances on the bandura, along with those of Mr. Kytasty and Michael Andrec, can be found on the CD "Experimental Bandura Trio," issued in 2000. His performances as a member of the group Karpatiany can be found on three compilation CDs released in Ukraine. Earlier this year he released the solo CD "Try Braty Ridnenki" (Three Dear Brothers).

Messrs. Kompanichenko and Fedynskyj have done much through their study and research to reconstruct and recreate the largely forgotten, lost and partially destroyed repertoire of Ukraine's kobzari. Through their activities, especially through

their performances, they are part of a group of musicians who preserve and transmit this tradition to contemporaries and future generations. Both belong to the Kyiv Kobzar Guild, information on which can be obtained at the Website: <http://www.ceh.ua/>.

The visit of the two kobzars to Canada was organized by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta with the financial support of two units within the department of modern languages and cultural studies: the Ukrainian Culture, Language and Literature Program, and the Kule Center for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore. CIUS also received financial support from the Folkways Alive/Ethnomusicology Center and the University of Alberta International's Global Education Program. Community support was received from the Alberta Foundation for Ukrainian Education Society and the Ukrainian Canadian Benevolent Society of Edmonton.

Two colors

(Continued from page 7)

important role Kvitka played in her life: "the president and I fell in love listening to the music of Kvitka," she said.

The tribute was supported by the UACC and the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation, whose supervisory board is chaired by Mrs. Yushchenko. It was sponsored by AlexArt house, the Odesa Seaport and Ford. It was also sponsored by Avon, which supports the fight against breast cancer, the disease that took Kvitka's life. A portion of the concert's proceeds was donated to Avon's women's health initiative in Ukraine.

Mr. Guttmacher continues to work tirelessly to introduce Kvitka's brand of music to Ukraine. He and Minister Vovkun are planning a Ukrainian music festival in Kvitka's name, which he says will be held in every country where Ukrainians live. The first festival will be held in Kyiv in 2010.

He also plans to produce a film about Kvitka's life story.

And, next month, on April 4, he will unveil a plaque on the street where Kvitka's mother, Ivanna Cisyk, lived in Lviv: "Hlyboka," or Deep Street.

On that day, were she still with us, Kvitka would have celebrated her 56th birthday.

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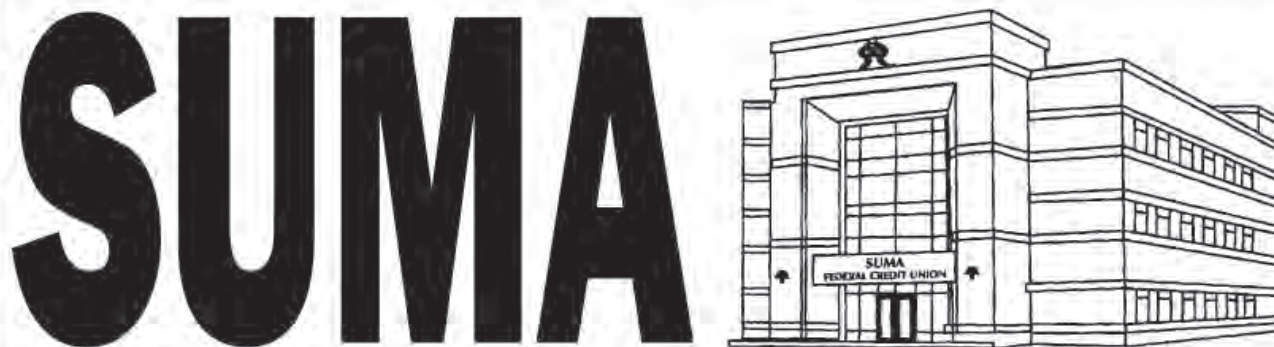
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OUT AND ABOUT

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| March 12
Stanford, CA | Lecture by Karl Qualis, "Sevastopol: The Making of a Russian City in Ukraine," Stanford University, 650-723-3562 | Scranton, PA | Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, 570-759-2824 |
| March 13
Toronto | "Tango in Red," music by Pavel Markelov and Maria Dolnycky, Canadian Ukrainian Art Foundation Gallery, 416-766-6802 | March 22
Hillside, NJ | Pysanka Writing Workshop, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, 908-289-0127 or www.byzantines.net/immaculateconception |
| March 14
Whippany, NJ | St. Patrick's Day and Comedy Night, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, heirloomAD@gmail.com | March 24
Red Bank, NJ | Ukrainian Village Folk Dance Party, featuring Tamara Chernyakhovska, United Methodist Church, 732-530-1107 or 732-747-4831 |
| March 14
Clifton, NJ | Film screening, "Between Hitler and Stalin," Ukrainian American Veterans - Post 17, Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 512-887-5613 | March 28
Lehighton, PA | Pyskanka Workshop, Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center at Manor College, Ukrainian Homestead, 215-235-309 or 610-377-4621 |
| March 14
Kenmore, NY | Pysanka workshop, Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 97, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, konowka@roadrunner.com | March 28
New York | Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble 30th anniversary concert, New York University's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, with guest artist Vasyl Popadiuk, Eliteplo@hotmail.com or 718-435-0190 |
| March 16
Cambridge, MA | Lecture by Volodymyr Kulyk, "Language Policy and Linguistic Attitudes in Ukraine," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 | March 29
Washington | 26th annual Pysanka Workshop and Bazaar, Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine, 202-526-3737 |
| March 19
Washington | Concert with violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv and pianist Marianna Humetska, The Washington Group Cultural Fund, Embassy of Ukraine, 202-364-3888 | March 29
Toronto | Duo concert, violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv and pianist Marianna Humetska, Glenn Gould Studio, 416-240-8403 or 416-762-7988 |
| March 20
Whippany, NJ | Varenyky dinner, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-713-6956 or 973-479-8715 | March 30
Cambridge, MA | Lecture by Moshe Taube, "Jewish-Christian Cultural Contacts in Late Medieval Kyiv," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 |
| March 20-21, 27-28
Cleveland, OH | Pysanka Workshop, Ukrainian Museum-Archives, 440-289-9600 or nina_kostrzyk@yahoo.com | | |
| March 21
Baltimore, MD | Klitschko-Gomez fight broadcast, Ukrainian American Sports Club Dnipro, ukisteve@aol.com | | |
| March 22 | Ukrainian Cultural Exhibit and Craft Sale, North | | |

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.



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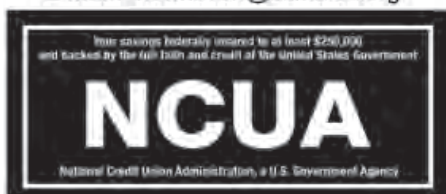
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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

D.C. Plast members share Bethlehem Peace Light

by the Akuly

WASHINGTON – In December 2008, the Akuly joined Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization members in Ukraine, as well as scouts around the world by carrying the Bethlehem Peace Light, (Vyfleyemskyi Vohon Myru), to the Ukrainian community in the D.C. area.

The flame originates in Bethlehem from the birthplace of Christ, and is transported to Vienna by Austrian Airlines. There it is distributed among the population and to scouting organizations throughout Europe. Austrian Airlines transported the flame to New York City, from where it was shared with various scout groups. The Akuly obtained the flame from the Boy Scouts of America as St. Anastasius Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., on December 13, 2008, and transported it to the D.C. area, keeping the flame constantly burning using oil lanterns until January 12.

While Plast members in Ukraine distributed the flame throughout Ukraine, the Akuly brought this symbol of peace, love, reconciliation and charity to the local Ukrainian community.

During the Washington program honoring St. Nicholas at Ridna Shkola, Stefan (Gogo) Szyszka and the Akuly introduced the Bethlehem Peace Light to the students in the presence of St. Nicholas, linking the flame's symbolism of charity with their fund-raising drive for Ukrainian orphans.

Back in November 2008, the Akuly had launched a three-month fund-raiser with the goal of raising at least \$ 2,510 in support of Ukrainian orphans. The Akuly solicited donations from the local community for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Orphanage Project, which has adopted three orphanages in Ukraine that house children with physical and

The Akuly are Matey Diachok, Stefan (Gogo) Szyszka, Zenon Nakonechny-Smith, Andre (Tiko) Wowk and Dmytro Deychakiwsky. The sixth member of their "hurtok," Pavlo Fedynsky is spending a year in Moscow, and remains in digital and spiritual contact with his fellow scouts. The Akuly are members of the 45th Plast unit named in honor of Prince Volodymyr the Great.

mental birth defects, and the Orphans Aid Society, which provides material and moral support for Ukrainian orphans.

On December 24, 2008, Zenon Nakonechny-Smith and Dmytro Deychakiwsky took the flame to the National Capital Region headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the National Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and then visited the U.S. Capitol and the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon.

The Akuly also passed the flame to the Embassy of Ukraine. Viktor Voloshyn, third secretary and cultural attaché, a great friend and supporter of Washington Plast, accepted the light. Finally, that evening Zenon and Dmytro brought the Bethlehem Peace Light to the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, and lit from the flame all of the candles in the Church in time for Christmas services. The flame was received by the Revs. Nestor Iwasiw and Wasyl Kharuk.

On January 6 Matey Diachok brought the flame to Christmas Eve services (according to the Julian calendar) at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, where it was received by the Rev. Volodymyr Steliac and Protodeacon Sviatoslav Nowytski. Matey also lit from the flame the candles throughout the church. The parishioners were very curious about the flame and its origins and generously contributed toward the orphan fundraiser.

On January 7 Andre and Adrian Wowk passed the flame to the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, lighting the candles on the tetrapod. In the spirit of unity, the flame was accepted by Bishop Hlib Lonchyna, who was visiting from Lviv, and the Rev. Taras Lonchyna. The bishop related how the Vyfleyemskyi Vohon Myru had passed through Ukraine. Adding his personal blessing, Bishop Hlib reminded those present to live by the spiritual principles that the light symbolizes. The parishioners were then able to light candles from the flame to bring peace to their hearts, as well as the hearts of their family and friends.

On January 10 Stefan Szyszka and the Akuly brought the light to the traditional Plast "Svichechka," where members and families of all



At the orphanage fund-raiser of the Akuly.

the Washington Plast members lit candles from the flame and wished each other blessings and a happy New Year, and sang traditional "koliady" (carols).

On January 11 the flame was again brought to the Prosfora of Holy Family Parish and St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary, where rector Fr. Robert Hitchens and the seminarians distributed the Vohon to all present.

Despite the difficult economic times, the Akuly appreciate the generosity of the Ukrainian community. They surpassed their goal

and actually raised a total of \$3,291 in support of Ukrainian orphans. During this time, the Akuly maintained contact with Plastuny in Ukraine, particularly with Dmytro Kolesnyk, Plast leader in Kramatorsk, Donetsk Oblast, posting their activities on websites relating to the distribution of the Vohon throughout Ukraine. By this undertaking, the Akuly, guided by the symbolism of the Vohon and the principles of the Plastoviy zakon, were able to reach out to those Ukrainian orphans, in the spirit of Christian love and charity.

Ascent dedicated to the Holodomor



WASHINGTON – A small group of Plast Ukrainian scouts – members of the Akuly troop of Washington – climbed to the 3,291-foot summit of Old Rag Mountain in Virginia, dedicating their 2,510-foot ascent to the victims of the Holodomor. Their trek took place on October 19, 2008, during the year that Ukrainians worldwide commemorated the solemn 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. Seen at the summit (from left) are: Dmytro Deychakiwsky, Petro Chopivsky, Mykola Shevchik and Stefan Szyszka.

Seattle Plast youths pay a visit to glassblowing studio

by Julia Ellings

SEATTLE – On a typically wet, overcast Northwest winter afternoon, the older youth troop (“yunatstvo”) of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in Seattle visited the Seattle Glass Blowing Studio. Tucked away in a small, one-story building in downtown Seattle, the studio houses a glassblowing workshop, glass art exhibits, a gift shop and café.

After holding a troop meeting in the café, our leaders, Renata and Mykola Konrad, Timish Hnateyko and Lida Mykytyn-Voronka, introduced us to our docents.

Julia Ellings, 14, is a member of the “hurtok” Laiky of the Plast group in Seattle. She is an eighth-grader at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue, Wash.

We learned that glassblowing became more popular in America starting in the 1960s. Individual artists broke away from large glass factories to pursue their own artistic ideas and to develop new techniques for glass blowing. The Pacific Northwest became famous for glass blowing because it was the home of the Pilchuck Studio and the well-known Museum of Glass in Tacoma.

Many of us were already familiar with the internationally known glass artist from the Pacific Northwest, Dale Chihuly. We’ve seen his work in airports, concert halls and homes throughout this area. On the day of our visit to the studio we got to learn how these incredible art works were made.

The docents took us into the hot



Seattle Plast members observe a glassblowing demonstration.

studio to demonstrate the dangerous and exhausting process of turning hot liquid into beautiful glass. Each of us was able to embellish glass

medallions with stamps before we went home to plan our next event, “Andriyivskiy Vechir” (St. Andrew’s Eve).

A book donation to Philly library

by Paul Tershakovec

PHILADELPHIA – On Tuesday evening, December 9, 2008, Plast Philadelphia’s 1st Unit presented the book “Ukrayinska Mifolohia” (Ukrainian Mythology) by Valerij Vojtovycz to the library at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) in Jenkintown, Pa.

Accepting on behalf of the Board of Directors of the library, at whose meeting the presentation was made, was chairman Roman Procyk. Dr. Procyk warmly thanked the Plast Scouts for their good deeds and noted his particular delight in receiving the book since he too had been a member of the 1st Unit in his youth. Dr. Procyk commended the boys for their service to the community in making this gift.

Representing the unit were members Stefan Lesiuk, Paul Tershakovec, Danylo Chabursky

Paul Tershakovec is a member of Plast’s 1st Unit in Philadelphia.

and Borys Chabursky, as well as counselors Bohdan Pechenyak and Mykola Zwarych.

Earlier that fall, members of this unit had been preparing for Plast’s academic competition “Orlykiada,” which took place November 7-9, 2008, at Soyuzivka. The year’s topic was Ukrainian mythology. Despite the variety of fine books available at the UECC library, there was no text that provided the amount of detail required for good preparation for the Orlykiada. A targeted Google search identified the book “Ukrayinska Mifolohia” printed in 2005 by Lybid publishers of Kyiv, and the unit purchased it.

After many, many hours of study and preparation, the boys competed in Orlykiada and were very pleased to earn second place overall. In order for all members of the community be able to use this fine book, the unit decided to present it as a gift to the UECC library.



From left are: druh Bohdan Pechenyak, Dr. Roman Procyk, Stefan Lesiuk, Danylo Chabursky, Paul Tershakovec, Borys Chabursky, Mykola Zwarych.

Please send in your UKELODEON submissions to staff@ukrweekly.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Mishanyna

This month’s Mishanyna focuses on the presidents and prime ministers of Ukraine since the re-establishment of its independence in 1991. Find the last names of three presidents (two of whom were also prime ministers) and 12 prime ministers (two of whom served two terms) hidden in the Mishanyna grid.

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Leonid KRAVCHUK | Yukhym ZVIAHILSKYI | Valerii PUSTOVOITENKO |
| Leonid KUCHMA | Vitalii MASOL | Anatolii KINAKH |
| Viktor YUSHCHENKO | Yevhen MARCHUK | Viktor YANUKOVYCH |
| Vitold FOKIN | Pavlo LAZARENKO | Yulia TYMOSHENKO |
| Valentyn SYMONENKO | Vasyl DURDYNETS | Yurii YEKHANUROV |

Z	Y	A	N	U	K	U	F	I	R	T	K	A	L	N
V	Y	Y	A	N	U	K	O	V	Y	C	H	N	A	R
I	U	H	C	V	A	R	K	R	A	V	C	H	U	K
A	S	H	O	K	O	K	I	N	A	K	H	A	V	L
H	T	R	A	U	M	A	N	O	L	O	T	N	O	Z
I	E	O	Z	H	K	I	N	A	K	U	T	K	R	A
L	N	K	U	C	H	M	A	N	U	U	N	L	U	P
S	Y	N	Y	R	A	N	E	S	C	E	O	A	N	A
K	D	E	R	A	L	N	I	A	H	I	T	Z	A	P
Y	R	H	O	M	O	D	I	S	M	A	N	A	H	A
I	U	C	H	M	A	L	O	D	I	A	N	R	K	N
O	D	H	Y	U	A	M	I	V	A	R	K	E	E	C
D	I	S	Y	M	Y	S	L	E	N	K	O	N	Y	H
O	P	U	S	T	O	V	O	I	T	E	N	K	O	U
P	R	Y	F	O	K	Y	N	L	A	Z	A	O	T	R



THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM
invites its members
and the Ukrainian community
to a

GALA CELEBRATION OF SPRING

Saturday, March 21, 2009, 8:00 p.m.

The Ukrainian Museum
222 East 6th Street
New York, NY 10003
212-228-0110

\$125 per person

CELEBRATE SPRING WITH FRIENDS!

Master of Ceremonies – Marc Chuma
Gala Cocktail Party – Chef Andriy Sonevytsky
Musical entertainment: Askold Buk Trio - jazz
Marian Pidvirny - violin
Wine/champagne, hors d'oeuvres, Viennese table

AUCTION

Generously donated works of the following artists will be auctioned to benefit the work of the Ukrainian Museum:

Alexander Archipenko, David Burliuk,
Marta Hirniak-Voyevodka, Jacques Hnizdovsky,
Ivan Marchuk, Alex Motyl, Zenon Onyshkewych,
Arcadia Olenska-Petryshyn, Lidia Piasecky, Natalia
Pohrebinska, Romana Rainey, Christina Saj, George Saj,
Tamara Skrypka, Valeriy Skrypka, Ilona Sochynsky.

In addition, two airline tickets to Ukraine
kindly donated by Aerosvit will be auctioned.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
RSVP by March 13, 2009 – Tel. 212-228-0110
Hope to see you at the celebration!



SUMMER LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL PROGRAM IN KYIV, UKRAINE (continuation registration)

“Educational Courses in Ukraine for Ukrainian-American Youth”

Registration has begun for the summer program
“KMA 2009”
At the National University
Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
Course term July 24-August 28, 2009



Program includes four
weeks at the Kyiv-Mohyla
Academy,
one week in Western Ukraine
(Trans Carpathian Region)

For senior class pupils of
Ukrainian schools
and members of Ukrainian-
American youth organiza-
tions.

Size of group limited to 20
students, 2/3 adult group
leaders.
More information on website:
<http://www.sdinstitute.org>
Or by phone:
1(718) 372-0235

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 14

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) invites all to a conference dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of independence of Carpatho-Ukraine. After an introduction by Dr. Orest Popovych, the president of NTSh, the following talks will be presented: Petro Chasto, (editor of Svoboda) on “The Phenomenon of Zakarpattia (Transcarpathia): Ancient Rus’ in Contemporary Ukraine”; Serhiy Panko, candidate of philological sciences (NTSh - New York) on “Carpatho-Ukraine on the pages of the newspaper ‘Proboyem’ in the years 1933-1943”; Dr. Taras Hunczak, professor emeritus of history at Rutgers University and the director of the NTSh History and Philosophy Section, on “Carpatho-Ukraine in the Context of European Politics in the 1930s.” The program will take place at the society’s building, 634 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 4 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130. Please note the unusual starting time of 4 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, March 14 -15

NEWARK, N.J.: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church will hold its Pre-Cana Conference at 719 Sanford Ave., Newark, NJ 07106. St. John’s Pre-Cana offers presentations by the pastor, a psychologist, a physician, an attorney, a financier and others. Participating couples engage in group discussions and activities for enhanced mutual understanding, and a healthy perspective of married life. The program is offered to couples getting married in Ukrainian Catholic churches in New Jersey but all are welcome. For further information or to register call the parish office at 973-371-1356.

Sunday, March 15

NEW YORK: Ukrainian National Women’s League of America Branch 64 invites the public to “Harbingers of Spring,” a program featuring the bird cult in Ukrainian spring tradition as represented through bread-baking, pysanky and song. Jaroslawa Gerulak and Natalia Sonevytsky will provide commentary illustrated by a slide presentation. Ritual songs and acts will be performed by members of UNWLA Branch 64 and Branch 83. The program will take place at 2 p.m.

at the UNWLA Art Gallery, 203 Second Ave. (fourth floor), New York, NY 10003. Donation: \$5. The “Bird Kingdom” exhibit, featuring ritual creations by “Workshop - 64” and folk artist Maria Pryimachenko (reproductions) will also be on view. For more information, call 212-260-4490, e-mail ukrartlitclub@yahoo.com or log on to <http://www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub>; <http://www.unwla.org>.

Monday, March 16

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture by Volodymyr Kulyk, senior research fellow at the Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; and fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. His lecture, “Language Policy and Linguistic Attitudes in Ukraine,” 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.

Wednesday, March 25

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University invites all to enjoy rare footage – a screen adaptation of the Ukrainian opera classic by Semen Hulak-Artemovsky “Zaporozhets Beyond the Danube” (Zaporozhets za Dunaem), 1938. Made with funds raised by Ukrainian immigrants in North America at a time when Ukraine, its people and culture were under massive attack by Bolshevik henchmen, this film-opera is a celebration of Ukrainian song, humor and vitality. Produced by Vasyl Avramenko and directed by Edgar Ulmer, it features such iconic Ukrainian arias as the comical “Oi Odarko, Hodi Bude!” (Hey Odarka, Enough Already) and the majestic “Vladyko Neba i Zemli” (Lord of Heaven and Earth). The screening begins at 7:30 p.m. at 703 Hamilton Hall, Columbia University. The film will be shown in its original Ukrainian-language version with English subtitles. Yuri Shevchuk will introduce the film and mediate the post-screening discussion. The event is free and open to the public. For information call 212-854-4697 or e-mail sy2165@columbia.edu.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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.**

Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!



As in the past,
The Ukrainian Weekly
will publish a special section
devoted to the Ukrainian
community’s debutantes.
The 2009 debutante ball section
will be published on April 5.
The deadline for submission of
stories and photos is March 15.