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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

UNA reports successful year, despite economic downturn

by Roma Hadzewycz

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Ukrainian National Association had a very successful year, the fraternal organization's executive officers reported at the 2009 annual meeting of the UNA General Assembly, despite the economic downturn in the United States.

"We are pleased to report that it has been a record-breaking year for the UNA," President Stefan Kaczaraj announced as he began the start of this year's annual session. "Premium income has soared to a record of over \$20 million, as over 100 independent and home office agents successfully sell UNA products; total assets grew to the highest level in the UNA's history to just under \$100 million; and the surplus grew to over \$5 million, in an environment when most insurers and 83 percent of fraternal societies saw surplus erode," Mr. Kaczaraj reported. "The UNA continues to move in the right direction, with income increasing and expenses declining."

Members of the General Assembly gathered at Soyuzivka on Friday through Sunday, November 6-8, to review UNA activity as of the end of 2008 and the first three quarters of 2009. The reports covered the UNA's core business, life insurance, and its fraternal activities, including developments related to the Ukrainian Heritage Center at Soyuzivka and the UNA's two newspapers, The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda.

Reports of UNA executive officers

Reports of all UNA officers, auditors and advisors, as well as separate reports about the work of Soyuzivka and the UNA's newspapers were distributed to all participants.

Presentations by the three full-time UNA executives – the president, national secretary and treasurer dominated the sessions.

President Stefan Kaczaraj reported in detail about the improved financial condition of the organization. The year 2010 should see continued growth as a marketing consultant at the UNA Home Office has recently been hired to work on advertising, marketing and promotion of UNA products and fraternal benefits – Soyuzivka, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. An expense-cutting measure that will help to contain costs is the UNA's newspapers' upcoming switch to a new print shop that will result in a substantial savings on printing expenses – an estimated \$35,000 to \$40,000 per year.

In turn, Ms. Kozak pointed that UNA's excellent performance was primarily due to the significant increase in annuities sales with over \$20 million in new business income during the first nine months of 2009, as compared to \$11.4 million for all of 2008. "There is more good news as the strategy of having annuities lead to other sales opportunities is working," Ms. Kozak said. "Agents are now beginning to sell UNA life insurance products as well and, as a result, sales of life insurance also is exhibiting a higher rate of growth in comparison with the same period last year."

The national secretary reported that the UNA now has 169 branches organized into 23 districts across the United States and Canada. She noted also that the UNA is working on expanding benefits to its members, both in the U.S. and Canada. For example, by partnering with High Point Auto Insurance, the UNA is now offering its

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Flu continues to spread in Ukraine Over 1.2 M ill from flu, respiratory infections



Web-Portal of the Ukrainian Government

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko during a working visit on November 10 to the Vinnytsia region, where she visited local hospitals to see how they are faring in treating children and adults affected by the outbreak of influenza and acute respiratory viral infections.

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's flu epidemic spread like a wave towards the central and eastern oblasts, claiming 213 deaths nationally – a 120 percent increase from the prior week – or about 117 casualties between November 5 and 12.

More than 1.2 million Ukrainians are infected with influenza or acute respiratory virus infection (ARVI), as authorities

continued to describe it as a simultaneous occurrence of two seasonal flu strains and H1N1. Ukraine had 32 confirmed H1N1 cases by November 6, said the Health Ministry.

Despite the ongoing health threat, some Ukrainians have begun letting down their guard, with the result that children accounting for a quarter of those hospitalized with influenza and acute respiratory

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Increases in wages and pensions push Ukraine toward fiscal collapse

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Opponents of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko are pushing her government toward fiscal collapse by approving legislation that forces wage and pension increases starting November 1, at a time when the government is on the brink of insolvency.

On October 30 President Viktor Yushchenko signed legislation passed by the Verkhovna Rada to increase wages and pensions gradually during the next year. Four of the five factions supported the bill, marking the first time the Communists and the president backed the same legislation. The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc was opposed to the measure.

"It's not about keeping the economic situation stable, but whom to blame for an inev-

itable economic collapse," said Volodymyr Horbach, political analyst at the Institute for Euroatlantic Cooperation in Kyiv. "All the barriers have long been breached, and the socio-economic situation could lead to enormous inflation."

Ms. Tymoshenko said she will ignore the law because her government can't finance the increases, which could require printing as much as 100 billion additional hryvni (\$12.3 billion U.S.). In response, President Yushchenko claimed the budget indeed has the funds.

On the basis that the Constitutional Court may overturn the legislation, the prime minister asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to consider offering her government a desperately needed fourth tranche of \$3.8 billion. During a November 11 meeting with European ambassadors and European

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Roma Hadzewycz

UNA General Assembly members at the opening of their 2009 annual meeting at Soyuzivka.

ANALYSIS

Experts downplay fears over Ukraine-Russia gas crisis

by Gregory Feifer
RFE/RL

It's becoming an annual rite: with winter fast approaching, Russia is threatening to cut off natural-gas supplies to Ukraine if Kyiv doesn't pay the fees it's demanding.

The barbs are raising worries over a possible new gas crisis this winter. Moscow's shutoff last winter left millions of Europeans without heat in the bitter cold, but observers say they doubt there will be a repeat this year.

This time, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is directing some of his legendary ire at the European Union. On November 2 he said the EU should come up with at least \$1 billion to help Ukraine pay for Russian gas this year.

"Why are they being so stingy?" he said. "They have money, too. Let them open their wallets."

Europe depends on Russia for a quarter of its gas, most of which crosses Ukraine. When Moscow cut off supplies to Kyiv during a price dispute last winter, deliveries to other countries were disrupted.

Russia now says Ukraine must cough up between \$400 million and \$500 million for last month's gas bill by November 7. [Editor's note: Reuters reported on November 6 that Ukraine had paid Russia for October gas supplies on time.]

Political rivalry

In previous months, Ukraine's Naftogaz energy company relied on central bank credits to finance its payments to Moscow. Critics say the bank's practice of printing money to come up with the cash risked inflation. But when President Viktor Yushchenko, who controls the National Bank of Ukraine, put a stop to the scheme this month, Mr. Putin lashed out.

"Yushchenko is obstructing the normal cooperation," Mr. Putin said, "between [Ukraine's] central bank, which has control over gold and currency reserves, and the Ukrainian government, and is blocking the transfer of funds."

The government, and Naftohaz, are overseen by President Yushchenko's bitter rival, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Mr. Putin said it was she who warned him of Mr. Yushchenko's "obstruction" in a telephone call.

The Russian president's criticism prompted accusations in Kyiv that Moscow was meddling in Ukraine's internal affairs. Mr. Yushchenko's first deputy chief of the Presidential Secretariat, Oleksander Shlapak, hit back on October 30, saying Mr. Yushchenko had proposed only to come up with a better way to pay for Ukraine's gas. "The president was criticized because he refused to print more money," Mr. Shlapak said. "[The

government] prints money to pay for gas, and won't give it up."

Most analysts expected Kyiv to avert a standoff with Moscow this month by coming up with a way to pay its gas bill.

But there's another potential problem. Mr. Yushchenko wants to revisit Kyiv's gas contract with Russia, arguing the global financial crisis has caused Ukraine's gas demand to fall more than Kyiv is obliged to buy next year.

Ms. Tymoshenko on November 3 said both sides had worked out a preliminary new contract. But if a final deal isn't reached by the end of the year, another crisis would coincide with next year's presidential election.

Volodymyr Fesenko of Kyiv's Penta center for political studies says he's optimistic that won't happen. "I believe the majority of politicians in Ukraine and Russia aren't interested in another such crisis," he says.

"Enemy of my enemy"

The latest wrangling comes ahead of the country's presidential election in January. Ms. Tymoshenko is running against Mr. Yushchenko, her former Orange Revolution ally.

Once the subject of an arrest warrant in Russia, Ms. Tymoshenko has been forging closer ties with Moscow as her relationship with Mr. Yushchenko has deteriorated. Some believe Mr. Putin supports her candidacy against his bitter foe Mr. Yushchenko.

But Mr. Fesenko says Mr. Putin's criticism of Mr. Yushchenko probably isn't meant to influence the election. He says Russia's hard-line prime minister is interested chiefly in ensuring Kyiv comes up with the money to pay Moscow – and in blackening Ukraine's image in the West.

"If Ukraine is seen as a weak link in the supply of gas," he says, "Putin may be hinting that Europe should back [projects to develop] alternative routes."

Vladimir Pribylovsky of Moscow's Panorama political research group agrees. He says while Mr. Putin has trouble containing his intense dislike for Mr. Yushchenko, targeting him now makes little sense because Mr. Yushchenko already has "no chance" of winning January's election.

"Of course the Kremlin would like to influence the situation in Ukraine," he says, "but it hasn't yet figured out what it actually wants from Kyiv."

Mr. Pribylovsky says the Kremlin hasn't decided whether to back Ms. Tymoshenko or Russia's traditional ally, Viktor Yanukovich, leader of the pro-Moscow opposition Party of Regions of Ukraine.

The Kremlin poured millions into Mr.

(Continued on page 20)

Lytvyn: do not politicize the flu

Ukrinform

KYIV – Volodymyr Lytvyn, the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, again called on politicians to refrain from politicizing the situation with the flu epidemic. He said that instead of analyzing the situation and giving people hope, "our [politicians] are competing who will be the first to head this process."

Mr. Lytvyn also provided statistical data on previous years' death tolls from

pneumonia. The pneumonia death rate in 2005 was 6,335 per 10,000 people; 5,484 in 2006; 6,552 in 2007; and 6,465 in 2008. "Why didn't we sound the alarm at that time?" he said.

He commented that, if there had been no flu epidemic in Ukraine, "it might have been invented" in connection with the upcoming presidential elections. The comments by Mr. Lytvyn, himself a presidential candidate, were reported on November 3.

NEWSBRIEFS

Fragment of Berlin Wall in Kyiv

KYIV – A portion of the Berlin Wall, which was destroyed 20 years ago, was put up in front of the German Embassy in Ukraine on November 9. German Ambassador to Ukraine Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth, who initiated the erection of this symbolic monument in Kyiv, said that "a symbol of freedom should also arrive in Kyiv," as Ukrainians are freedom-loving people. He said that the monument symbolizes the fact of overcoming a split of the European continent. "While the process of uniting Europe is continuing, our goal is to continue this process," Mr. Heimsoeth said. As reported, a number of events will be held in Ukraine as part of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. (RFE/RL)

Melange disposal project to begin

KYIV – A joint project of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Ukraine to remove more than 3,000 tons of a highly toxic rocket fuel component from Ukraine will start on November 13 with the pumping of the volatile substance into special railway tanks. With OSCE support and in close cooperation with Ukraine's Defense Ministry, the volatile rocket fuel component – known as melange – will be transported by train from a storage site near the town of Kalynivka in the Vinnytsia region to specialized chemical plants in Russia, where it will be disposed of. The first transport is part of the initial phase of the project, which is set to eliminate 3,168 tons of melange, with later stages set to dispose of all of Ukraine's stockpiles of the rocket fuel component, amounting to more than 16,000 tons. (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)

Flu, respiratory virus kill 189

KYIV – The number of deaths of flu and acute respiratory virus infection (ARVI) grew to 189 persons, including 15 persons who died over the past 24 hours, the Health Ministry said on November 11. According to the ministry, the epidemic threshold has been exceeded

in 14 regions of Ukraine. In addition, 11 regions, Crimea and Sevastopol are approaching the epidemic threshold. (Ukrinform)

Flu and ARVI cases exceed 1M

KYIV – The number of persons suffering from influenza and acute respiratory virus infection (ARVI) since the start of epidemic has reached 1.31 million as of November 9. Out of this number 52,000 were hospitalized. Since the start of the epidemic, 13,000 persons have been discharged from hospitals. These data were published by the Health Ministry on its official website. (Ukrinform)

Sixteen countries send aid

KYIV – In response to the current flu epidemic, as of November 9 Ukraine has received humanitarian aid worth over \$1.5 million (U.S.) from 16 countries of the world, said the Foreign Affairs Ministry's headquarters for prevention of the epidemic. Austria, Georgia, Israel, Estonia, China, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Poland and Hungary provided assistance at the state and governmental level, while Slovakia, the United States and Croatia did so at the departmental level. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko meets WHO experts

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on November 9 met with a group of experts from the World Health Organization (WHO). Mr. Yushchenko thanked the WHO for its prompt response to Ukraine's appeal to deploy a WHO mission to assess the epidemiological situation in Ukraine. The president pointed to lack of lab tests for the majority of Ukraine's regions. The head of the WHO Country Office, Jukka Pukkila, underlined that Ukraine's experience in combating the H1N1 flu epidemic will be useful for other countries and will help improve other countries' response to this influenza. A WHO mission arrived in Kyiv on November 2 at the invitation of the Ukrainian authorities. (Ukrinform)

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Editors: Matthew Dubas
Zenon Zawada (Kyiv)

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3041

Maria Oscislowski, advertising manager

e-mail: ukradmin@att.net

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040

fax: (973) 644-9510

e-mail: adukr@optonline.net

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042

Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions

e-mail: ukrsubscr@att.net

Party of Regions of Ukraine: Analysis of a divided party

by Taras Kuzio

The Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) has never been a political party in the Western understanding of that term. The “party” was cobbled together in 2001 after a merger of five smaller virtual parties. These were all small parties that had either failed to win popular support in the 1998 elections or had been created afterwards. Two of them, the Solidarity party, then led by the chairman of the ruling board of the National Bank of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, and the Beautiful Ukraine party, then led by Leonid Chernovetskyi (today the mayor of Kyiv), eventually became supporters of Viktor Yushchenko and his Our Ukraine bloc.

The Party of Regions became a major political force because of two factors. Firstly, it received massive financial support from local oligarchs, such as Rinat Akhmetov, listed as Europe’s and Eurasia’s wealthiest individual in 2008, according to *Korrespondent* magazine. Secondly, the party successfully united Donetsk and eastern Ukrainian business elites into a monolithic party.

In the era of Leonid Kuchma, the Party of Regions had to compete with other pro-regime centrist parties, an outcome of the president’s divide-and-rule policies among Ukrainian elites. Between the election of Mr. Yushchenko as president in January 2005 and the March 2006 parliamentary elections, the PRU consolidated its power in Ukraine and de facto marginalised other centrist parties.

The Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv “parties of power” (Labor Ukraine and the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (United) [SDPU], respectively) disintegrated or became marginalized after failing to enter Parliament in 2006. The SDPU had successfully entered the Parliaments elected in 1998 and 2002, but lost support after Mr. Yushchenko’s election because of its association with the widely unpopular Viktor Medvedchuk, head of the presidential administration in 2002-2004.

The former pro-regime People’s Democratic Party (PDP), headed by Valerii Pustovoitenko, and the Agrarian Party, headed by Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, never had regional business bases. The PDP followed the SDPU and became marginalized, while the Agrarian Party renamed itself as the People’s Party and entered Parliament in 2007 within the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc. In December 2008, the Lytvyn Bloc joined the democratic (Orange) coalition.

The Party of Regions has evolved – especially since 2004 – into an anti-Orange popular front. The PRU is an all-embracing umbrella bringing together regional separatists and pan-Slavic extremists, former Communist voters, co-opted corrupt trade unionists, former or existing members of organized crime, billionaire oligarchs, bona fide businessmen, discredited former Kuchma supporters and regional corrupt officials. Donetsk is the only region of Ukraine where local business, political, state, and criminal elite’s have successfully fused into a political machine and is the party’s main stronghold.

The PRU has always been more united by what it opposes than what it supports; such a disparate group of seven divergent interests could never form a coherent policy platform. The party’s negative platform of hostility to the Orange Revolution has driven Mr. Yanukovich to seek revenge for what he still considers his legal election on November 21, 2004.

The PRU is fractured in four ways by populists, organized crime, separatists and pro-Russian extremists.

Businessmen versus populists

Many business supporters of the party

are opposed to the populist policies pursued by its leader. Mr. Yanukovich’s populist campaign to increase the minimum wage and social payments repeats his populist election campaign in 2004 when he was prime minister and doubled pensions on the eve of the first round of the elections on October 31, 2004.

The business daily newspaper *Delo* (September 24) discussed the growing rebellion within the PRU by businessmen who were national deputies. The owner of the large Motor-Sich plant, Viacheslav Bohuslayev, has been one of the most vocal in opposing Mr. Yanukovich’s populism because he believed it would lead to “the suffocating of their businesses.” Another PRU deputy, Yuri Boiko, head of the Federation of Employers, asked the prime minister to postpone any increase in the minimum wage in the interests of “balanced economic and regulatory policies.”

Organised crime

On September 11 a shoot-out in Kyiv between two Caucasian organized crime gangs was traced back to PRU National Deputy Elbrus Tedejev. A Mercedes car was seen driving away from the scene – where one person was killed and a second was seriously injured – with parliamentary number plates of Mr. Tedejev. He claimed at first that his cousin and colleagues were practicing “sports” (shooting) in the park where the shoot-out took place and claimed that he did not have a cousin called Robert Tedejev.

Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko ordered the arrest of Robert Tedejev and declared at a press conference that PRU Deputy Elbrus Tedejev belonged to the Caucasian organized crime group Savloky. Elbrus Tedejev replied that the minister was a “chronic liar” and that he did not have any cousin named Robert. Unfortunately for the PRU deputy, *Ukrayinska Pravda* (September 25) published the transcript of Robert Tedejev’s interrogation where he confirmed that Elbrus Tedejev was in fact his cousin.

Minister Lutsenko also revealed that Elbrus Tedejev had been on an organized crime wanted list that was compiled by the Ministry of Internal Affairs directorate on organized crime until 2001, but that he was then suspiciously removed from the list. It was not important, Mr. Lutsenko said, if the two are cousins or not. What was relevant, however, was that Robert Tedejev used a car with registered parliamentary license plates belonging to the deputy to escape from a shoot-out. The chauffeur in the getaway car, Oleh Kryvobok, told the Internal Affairs Ministry that the national deputy regularly loaned his Mercedes to his cousin Robert. The interrogation documents drawn up by the Ministry of Internal Affairs after the shoot-out with the signatures of the cousin and chauffeur were reprinted by *Ukrayinska Pravda* (September 25).

Regional separatists

Pro-Russian regional separatists and nationalists, often linked to organized crime, have become increasingly active in the Party of Regions in Crimea and Odesa. In September 2008, the Crimean Parliament, dominated by the PRU, voted in favor of recognizing the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The only two other entities who have followed done so are Nicaragua and the Palestinian Hamas terrorist organization.

Crimean PRU leader Vasyl Kyseliov was expelled from the party on September 15 after he was accused of damaging “the reputation of the party.” Oleksii Boyarchuk, head of the Yalta city branch of the PRU, was appointed the acting head of the Crimean branch. Mr. Kyseliov long had a personal conflict with Crimean

Parliamentary Chairman Anatoliy Grytsenko, and after Mr. Kyseliov’s expulsion he argued that he had been removed after seeking to block high-level corruption in land organized by the Crimean parliamentary leadership. “These people (i.e., Mr. Grytsenko and company) have damaged to such a degree the image of Crimeans, Crimea and the image of the party, that it is too much to explain,” (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, September 16).

Mr. Kyseliov accused Mr. Yanukovich of destroying the PRU in the Crimea by supporting Mr. Kyseliov’s opponents, many of whom were placing the Crimean branch under the control of organized crime. Mr. Kyseliov also rejected claims that this was a personal conflict between him and Crimean Parliamentary Chairman Grytsenko.

Mr. Kyseliov’s supporters have been purged from leadership positions in Crimea – a step that led to a decline in the number of deputies in the For Yanukovich parliamentary coalition. Other groups that have left the For Yanukovich majority included the Natalia Vitrenko Bloc People’s Opposition (associated with the extreme left Progressive Socialist Party), the Communist Party, the Ne Tak bloc (Not This Way) associated with the SDPU and a small pro-Russian Tatar group (Kurultai-Rukh). Tatars in the Crimea are

traditionally anti-Russian and supportive of national democratic political forces.

In his conflict with Mr. Grytsenko, Mr. Kyseliov was supported by extreme-left and pro-Russian nationalist groups that had entered the Crimean Parliament and local Crimean councils within the For Yanukovich Bloc. The PRU’s central leadership supported Mr. Grytsenko’s side in the conflict.

Vasyl Dzharta, senior PRU national deputy with responsibility for Crimea, admitted that the party had lost support after it had aligned with extreme left and pro-Russian nationalist groups, including the Russian bloc and the Russian Community. Both Russian nationalist groups obtained a third of the candidates put forward by the For Yanukovich bloc to the Crimean Parliament. They also obtained a large presence in Crimean local councils through their membership in that bloc. Russian nationalist groups have stated their unwillingness to support Mr. Yanukovich in the presidential elections because of his backing of Crimean Parliament Chair Grytsenko in his conflict with Mr. Kyseliov.

Mr. Yanukovich sought to paper over the splits in the Crimean party by blaming Ms. Tymoshenko and his presidential opponents for provoking conflicts from the

(Continued on page 18)

Flu, plagues, biological weapons – and elections – in Ukraine

by Tammy Lynch

Jamestown Blog on Russia and Eurasia
November 6

Listening to Ukraine’s President Viktor Yushchenko, we might be tempted to conclude that Ukraine is doomed. Certain to collapse under the weight of an overwhelming tripartite plague of viral pathogens.

“People are dying,” Mr. Yushchenko told television viewers. “The epidemic is killing doctors. This is absolutely unprecedented and inconceivable in the 21st century.”

Moreover, “Unlike similar epidemics in other countries, three pathogens of viral infections came to Ukraine at the same time: two of them are seasonal flu and the third is H1N1. According to virologists, such a combination of infections due to mutation may produce a new, even more aggressive virus.”

The epidemic he spoke of is the H1N1 virus, which is blamed, sadly, for the deaths [as of the writing of this article, November 6] of approximately 90 people in Ukraine over the last several weeks. These deaths should not be minimized or dismissed. But, Mr. Yushchenko’s statement is high on panic-inducing hyperbole and low on facts.

Every year in Ukraine people die from the seasonal flu. Yesterday, the government claimed that the number of deaths from flu this year is actually 10 percent below last year. Since we don’t have access to documents, it’s impossible to know if this claim is accurate. But, it’s possible.

The World Health Organization recognizes a “big event” in Ukraine, but also suggests a “moderate impact.” According to Bloomberg, at the moment, infection rates seem to be in line with the United Kingdom, which has seen a .03 percent death rate after infection from H1N1 with 137 deaths in two months.

It is possible that infection and death rates will continue to rise exponentially, particularly given Ukraine’s horribly

equipped and poorly maintained health facilities.

But statements like those from Mr. Yushchenko and other officials have not been helpful. The president seems determined to create panic. Because of these statements, many Ukrainians suggest that the country is actually facing an outbreak of a more virulent illness, such as pneumonic plague. Several bloggers even suggested that a pharmaceutical company had accidentally released a biological weapon. (See this Google search link for the myriad stories on this.)

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko certainly didn’t help matters by announcing a “quarantine” of nine regions, limiting travel, banning all public gatherings and attempting to take control of pharmaceutical pricing. Such a strong reaction suggests a very strong virus. But while Mr. Yushchenko is sewing uncertainty, Ms. Tymoshenko is trying to show iron.

Unfortunately, this iron came after the illness had already hit. The government appears to have done little preparation to battle the flu.

Regardless, Mr. Yushchenko, Ms. Tymoshenko and all candidates in the election have seized on the H1N1 virus. Opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich criticized the government for its lack of preparedness, Mr. Yushchenko suggested that public officials should be held criminally responsible for not stopping the flu’s spread, and Ms. Tymoshenko has used the epidemic to cancel all election gatherings for three weeks.

All three candidates also have set the foundation for future use of the flu if necessary. Could Mr. Yushchenko hope to create enough panic to find support for a state of emergency, thus cancelling the election? Could Ms. Tymoshenko use the epidemic both to limit her opponents’ campaigning and to consolidate control over power entities? Could Mr. Yanukovich lead a revolt against both leaders?

It’s going to be a very long election season.

Canadian groups appeal for medical aid to Ukraine

TORONTO – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF) on November 4 launched an appeal to the government of Canada, all provinces and territories, and Canadians to help the people of Ukraine deal with a serious outbreak of pandemic flu ravaging the country.

In response to an urgent plea from the government of Ukraine, this Canadian appeal calls for donations of specialized medical supplies to support sick and critically ill Ukrainians across their country. Supplies needed include: antibiotics, sanitizers, masks, syringes, ventilators and basic medical products to assist sick and critically ill Ukrainians. Over 250,000 flu cases have been reported, with over 1,100 children hospitalized in the last several days.

“The rapid escalation of the disease has the making of what could be a public health catastrophe,” stated Bob Onyschuk, chairman of the Canada Ukraine Foundation. “The government of Ukraine has closed all schools and implemented a quarantine in nine oblasts and has issued

a call for urgently needed medical supplies.”

The appeal is being coordinated with the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada, which will ensure rapid distribution of the supplies and support within Ukraine.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost loved ones. We cannot stand by and watch this pandemic ravage Ukraine. As Canadians we have an obligation to reach out and help,” stated Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Paul Grod. “We ask that the government of Canada and the provinces and territories designate a portion of foreign assistance funding toward immediate humanitarian medical aid to help Ukraine fight this pandemic. As well, we urge Canadians to generously donate money that can be used to buy medical supplies as soon as possible.”

Details on what is needed and how readers can donate or help are available at www.ucc.ca or www.cufoundation.ca. For further information readers may contact Lesia Demkowicz at ucc@ucc.ca or 204-942-4627.

Philadelphia Archeparchy, rights committee join forces to assist Ukraine in fighting flu

PHILADELPHIA – An emergency meeting was held on November 5 at the Chancery of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia with Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka and members of the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee.

The meeting was held in response to the appeal sent by President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine for immediate help to alleviate the drastic situation in Ukraine with the spread of the H1N1 virus and seasonal influenza in Ukraine.

At the start of the meeting Metropolitan Soroka said, “We have to respond because we are one family ... a family looks out for each other in hard times and celebrates the good times.”

Various avenues of action were discussed and the attendees decided that the plan of action would be twofold. The first phase would be the collection of funds

for immediate delivery to Ukraine for the purchase of necessary supplies. The metropolitan will be in Ukraine at the end of November and will personally deliver the funds. The second phase of the action will be the collection of supplies.

Funds may be sent to: Philadelphia Archeparchy, 827 N. Franklin St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19123 or deposited in collection baskets in churches in envelopes marked “N1H1 swine flu.”

The Ukrainian Human Rights Committee has opened a special account, No. 50921, at the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union to collect funds for the battle against the swine flue.

Present at the meeting with Metropolitan Soroka were the dean of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy, the Rev. Ivan Demkiw, Ulana Mazurkevich, Chrystia Senyk, Orysia Hewka, Oksana Woroch and Yara Snylyk.

U.S.-Ukraine cooperation under way to combat H1N1

U.S. Embassy

KYIV – In an effort to stop the global spread of pandemic 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, the United States is planning to donate 10 percent of U.S. domestic H1N1 vaccine supply, as it becomes available, to a WHO-led H1N1 vaccine initiative. The U.S. donation to the World Health Organization, equivalent to 25 million doses of vaccine, would be valued commercially at approximately \$10 million.

As part of the first phase of this initiative, Ukraine is scheduled to receive 930,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine in early December. Planning to complement this donation with a broad range of interventions to support the safe delivery and deployment of the vaccines, the U.S. government will be working closely with the government of Ukraine in the days ahead to identify needs and agree on a package of immunization-related commodity and technical support that can be implemented rapidly to support H1N1 immunization.

As required and requested by the government of Ukraine, the U.S. government is prepared to make available immunization ancillary materials such as syringes, needles and vaccine safety disposal boxes, to provide technical support for

immunization planning as well as for logistics and assistance to transport the vaccine, to train vaccinators and other professionals, and to prepare communications materials in support of the immunization campaign.

The U.S. recognizes that improved access to the H1N1 vaccine will limit the spread of the virus and help save lives, and stands ready to provide robust and timely support to the government of Ukraine to address this global health threat.

The U.S. is also prepared to assist Ukraine during this outbreak through the Biological Threat Reduction Program, which works with the Ministry of Health, the State Committee for Veterinary Medicine and the Academy of Agrarian Sciences to help combat specific threats to public health such as H1N1.

Under this program, the U.S. has continued to work closely with its counterparts at Ukraine’s Central Sanitary Epidemiological Station (CSES) during the current H1N1 outbreak and has offered both technical and material assistance. For example, the U.S. is offering Ukraine’s CSES both equipment and test supplies to improve their diagnostic capabilities and ability to react to the current situation.

UUARC sends humanitarian aid to Ukraine to combat H1N1 virus

PHILADELPHIA – One million flu masks and over 12,500 bottles of hand sanitizer were purchased by the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Inc. (UUARC) on November 3, and flown to Ukraine.

On Friday, November 6, and Sunday, November 8, AeroSvit Ukrainian Airlines’ regular non-stop flight VV132 left New York City with a total weight of 7.5 tons of humanitarian assistance.

AeroSvit, through the efforts of Vlada Austin, initiated a free cargo transportation program to accommodate the urgent need to fight the flu epidemic in Ukraine. The relief consignment arrived on Saturday, November 7, and Monday, November 9, in Kyiv.

The shipments were received by the Kyiv representative of UUARC, Vira

Prynko, at Boryspil Airport in Kyiv and picked up by the representatives of the Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv Oblast State Administrations.

The masks and hand sanitizers will go through customs in their respective oblasts. Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts each received 300,000 masks, and the Lviv Oblast received 400,000 masks; the hand sanitizers were distributed to the three oblasts.

Many people and organizations contributed to the quick community response. Shipment arrangements and coordination with government authorities in Ukraine were made by Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago, (Consul Konstantyn Kudryk and Deputy Consul Vladislav

(Continued on page 22)



Members of the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee at an audience with Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka: (seated, from left) Ulana Mazurkevich, Orysia Hewka, Yara Snylyk (standing) Oksana Woroch, Metropolitan Soroka, the Rev. Ivan Demkiw and Chrystyna Senyk.

UCCA seeks volunteers to be election observers

NEW YORK – the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is seeking individuals interested in volunteering as international election observers for the January 17, 2010, presidential elections.

As in previous years, the UCCA will be actively participating in Ukraine’s electoral process by organizing a delegation of international election observers.

The UCCA will provide all volunteers with official accreditation from Ukraine’s Central Election Commission, extensive training to familiarize observers with all the laws and regulations related to the election process, as well as in-country travel and lodging coordination. However, all expenses related to travel, food and lodging must be borne by the volunteers themselves.

To become a member of the UCCA’s International Observer Mission volunteers must hold citizenship in a country other than Ukraine, and be willing to dedicate roughly one week to the program, as observer teams will be deployed to various regions throughout Ukraine in order to cover as many oblasts as possible. Interested individuals are asked to contact the UCCA National Office either by e-mail at observers@ucca.org or by telephone at 212-228-6840.

The UCCA has been organizing delegations of international election observers to monitor Ukraine’s presidential and parliamentary elections since 1994. In 2004 the UCCA’s delegation, which numbered over 2,400 individuals, was the largest delegation ever registered by Ukraine’s Central Election Commission.

UNA reports...

(Continued from page 1)

members in New Jersey low-cost auto insurance; there are plans to offer similar programs to members in other states.

Ms. Lisovich focused on the UNA's financial performance, specifically the investment portfolio and asset growth. She noted that while most insurance companies suffered investment losses during 2008, the UNA showed healthy growth in investment income. The UNA's conservative investment policy helped protect the portfolio during the global financial crisis.

It is worth noting, she said, that there have been no purchases of common or preferred stock during the last seven years and the UNA has had no mortgage foreclosures during this crisis. The UNA, in fact, was one of a select group of insurers that recorded an increase in investment income in 2008 when the markets crashed and financial turmoil reigned.

This year the portfolio is again performing extremely well, as investment income for the first nine months of 2009 of \$3.6 million is outpacing that for the same period in 2008, when it stood at \$2.9 million. The UNA's total admitted assets reached a historic milestone, rising to \$98.8 million as of September 30, 2009, in comparison with \$76.8 million as of yearend 2008.

Ms. Lisovich also noted that the Ukrainian National Foundation's Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka was very successful in 2009, with an attendance of 7,000, according to the State Police. Last year's festival, in comparison, brought in between 3,000 and 4,000 visitors. She underscored that one-third of those who came to the 2009 festival had never before been to Soyuzivka.

Ms. Lisovich also gave a presentation comparing the UNA's status to that of other American fraternal organizations.

A brief report was given to the General Assembly also by the manager of Soyuzivka, Nestor Paslawsky, who spoke about the 2009 summer season and cited a 25 percent increase in the number of children and teenagers who participated in various camps held at the Ukrainian Heritage Center.

Committee reports

On Friday evening and Saturday morning, the General Assembly's Financial, Fraternal/Organizing, Soyuzivka, Canada and Publications committees held their separate meetings. All reported back to the full General Assembly on Saturday afternoon.

The Financial Committee discussed the proposed budget for 2010, which foresees a 12 percent rise in premium income to \$36.45 million and a modest profit, with annuity sales continuing to be the prime engine of growth and investment income continuing to grow at about 6 percent.

The Fraternal and Organizing Committee made a number of recommendations related to marketing the UNA's products and programs at Soyuzivka, advertising the UNA's scholarship program, and promoting the UNA's newspapers by giving complimentary one-month subscriptions to potential UNA members and potential subscribers. The committee also suggested that UNA membership pins be brought back into use and that UNA district committees should make efforts to become more active in organizing local events and in promoting the UNA.

The Soyuzivka Committee discussed several fund-raising alternatives for the Ukrainian Heritage Center, spoke about the need to create a "Friends of Soyuzivka" committee of major donors, made suggestions for the 2010 Ukrainian Cultural Festival and noted that efforts should continue to resurrect the Ukrainian Cultural Courses. In addition, the committee pointed to the need to promote donations to the Ukrainian National Foundation, the UNA's charitable arm.

The Canada Committee discussed the UNA's next steps in Canada and how to mitigate the risk associated with foreign exchange. Beginning in 2009, Canadian policyholders will be given an option to convert Canadian policies to U.S. dollars. The committee also suggested that the UNA look into expanding membership benefits for UNA members in Canada.

Last to report was the Publications Committee, which noted the major donations received during the year under review from the Heritage Foundation of 1st Security Savings Bank, Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union and an anonymous donor toward the digital archives project of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, and stated that fund-raising for the project should continue. Online subscriptions to the UNA's newspapers should be implemented as soon as possible, the committee said, adding that free online subscriptions to The Ukrainian Weekly should be made available to 18- to 20-year-olds via notifications through youth and student organizations, schools of Ukrainian studies and universities. The committee also repeated its previous recommendation that an endowment fund be created for the UNA's newspapers.

Present at the annual meeting, in addition to the three full-time executive officers, were: First Vice-President Zenon Holubec, Director for Canada Myron Groch, Auditor Eugene Serba, Advisors Gloria Horbaty, Nicholas Fil, Eugene Oscislawski, Olya Czerkas, Al Kachkowski, Lubov Streletsky and Stephanie Hawryluk; Honorary Members Taras Szmagala Sr. and Ulana Diachuk (who recently accepted that position); as well as the editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda, Roma



President Stefan Kaczaraj and Treasurer Roma Lisovich during the business sessions.

Hadzewycz.

The annual meeting was opened, in accordance with UNA tradition, with a brief outdoor ceremony at Soyuzivka's monument to Taras Shevchenko. Afterwards, President Kaczaraj convened the meeting and Vice-President Holubec delivered the invocation.

A moment of silence was observed in tribute to the dedicated UNA activists who

had passed away in the period since the 2008 annual meeting: Auditor Vasyl Luchkiw (also a former advisor, New York District Committee chair and secretary of Branch 16); and Branch Secretaries Walter Krywulycz (266), Mary Pelechaty (165), Maria Zobniw (271), Julian Kotlar (42), Michajlo Martynenko (245) and Bohdan Lawryniw (456).



National Secretary Christine Kozak addresses the annual meeting as First Vice-President Zenon Holubec looks on.

Remembering Taras Shpikula



November 19th is the 35th anniversary of the passing of Taras Shpikula. Born in Kopychyntsi (near Ternopil), Ukraine in 1904, he immigrated to the United States in 1922 and settled in Chicago.

As a long-time dedicated UNA member, Taras was elected Supreme Advisor in 1933, a post held until 1973. As Secretary of UNA Branch 221 in Chicago, he organized thousands of members into one of the largest branches of the UNA. He was President of the UNA Home in Chicago, led the UNA District Committee, and also started UNA Youth Branch 22 and Branch 131. After World War II, he was instrumental in the resettlement of many Ukrainian refugees in the United States through the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee and was actively involved with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus (4th degree).

Taras Shpikula was a true Ukrainian patriot and community leader who devoted himself to Ukrainian causes helping many of his countrymen. He will always be remembered by his wife Mary, sons Taras and Myron, daughter Donna and friends in the Ukrainian community.



Newly appointed Advisor Stephanie Hawrylyk (who was appointed to fill the slot vacated by Advisor Eugene Serba when he was named to the Auditing Committee) and Advisor Nicholas Fil.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The moment of truth

Ukraine's moment of truth is nearing. For the last five years, Ukraine's so-called leaders have waged perpetual war, undermining each other and bringing shame and disgrace to the government in their fanatical drives to acquire more money and power. Incredibly enough, the arrival of an influenza epidemic that has killed 213 Ukrainians, coupled with a government on the brink of financial insolvency, has only served to encourage their psychopathic infighting.

With the hryvnia having lost more than 60 percent of its value since last year, the Party of Regions teamed with President Viktor Yushchenko to pass utterly irresponsible legislation raising wages and pensions. This was the last thing Ukraine needed at a time that its government needs funds to combat the influenza epidemic. The president wants to spend between 5 billion and 8 billion hrv to raise wages and pensions, but he can't seem to find a good reason to approve 1 billion hrv to fight the flu epidemic.

Ukrainians are paid miserably: the average wage is \$240 a month, according to recent government statistics. Yet wages and pensions increase legitimately only when the economy is growing. Artificial attempts will be dissolved by inflation. President Yushchenko and PRU Chair Viktor Yanukovich know this, and helping poor Ukrainians wasn't what motivated them. Mr. Yanukovich is playing the election populism game initiated by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, aiming to outdo her in proving to naïve voters that he can give out just as many petty trinkets as she can. How unfortunate that Ukrainians don't understand how much this will damage the economy in the long run.

Meanwhile, the president wants to undermine the prime minister any way he can. Approving the wages and pensions hike accomplishes his goal twofold by placing additional fiscal stress on the Tymoshenko government, while dissuading the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from lending a fourth tranche of \$3.8 billion.

IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn reportedly said the IMF wouldn't extend any more loans until after the 2010 presidential elections. A few days later, Vice Prime Minister for Euro-Integration Hryhorii Nemyria said those remarks were misinterpreted, yet he had a look of panic in his eyes. Given Ms. Tymoshenko's promise to European diplomats in Kyiv to submit the wage and pension increases for Constitutional Court review, the potential to lose the IMF money appears entirely realistic. Her only option to pay any remaining debts and bills for the next several months will involve issuing government bonds – the equivalent of printing money – which raises the risk of inflation.

Some Ukrainian economists, such as the maverick Dr. Oleh Soskin, believe an economic collapse would serve Ukraine well, giving the country a chance to start from scratch and replace the oligarchy of a once-Soviet nomenklatura that continues to pirate the nation's wealth. With an average wage of \$240 a month, most Ukrainians have nothing to lose from an economic collapse, which reveals the real reason the IMF is propping up Ukraine's corrupt oligarchy. It's not the people the IMF is concerned about.

The stability of the Ukrainian economy is critical for avoiding a chain reaction of panic and defaults that could reverberate throughout Eastern Europe's financial institutions, and possibly further. So the IMF has funneled \$10.6 billion to the Tymoshenko government, supporting its utterly irresponsible populist policies. In turn, instead of cutting excessive social spending and balancing the budget in the midst of a financial crisis, Ms. Tymoshenko has boosted wages for teachers, village doctors, librarians, mail carriers and village council chairs, all of the bourgeoisie, low-rung intelligentsia that tend to sign up for election commissions. IMF support for such policies has been so absurd that suspicions of corruption are rampant and gaining legitimacy.

Whether one supports eliminating the IMF's life-support for Ukraine's oligarchy, or whether one supports the IMF loans, the conduct of the country's leaders in the last few weeks confirms that their legitimacy has expired. Few, if any Ukrainians, have any faith in these folks. And that's the sense in Europe too.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn is fed up with Ms. Tymoshenko using the IMF's money for populist social spending, and his November 7 statement to reserve the fourth tranche until after the elections was like throwing a bucket of cold water at the prime minister. Meanwhile, virtually everyone is ignoring President Yushchenko, the lamest of ducks whose erratic statements in the last week included a consideration of martial law and insistence that the National Security and Defense Council become the country's main governing organ. And, if Mr. Yanukovich thinks raising wages and pensions under inflationary conditions will help pave the way for an election victory, he's in for a cold bucket of water himself. Ukrainians have been there, done that.

Whether the people of Ukraine will continue to lend passive support to this ruinous oligarchy remains to be seen. No wonder the "against all" movement is gaining ground.

ELECTION NOTEBOOK

BY ZENON ZAWADA

KYIV PRESS BUREAU



Eighteen candidates are registered

The 2010 Ukrainian presidential election will involve 18 candidates, the Central Election Commission announced on November 11 after the application deadline expired.

The 18 candidates are Kharkiv lawyer Inna Bohoslovskaya, Kyiv businessman Mykhailo Brodsky, former Defense Minister Anatolii Grytsenko, Ukrainian People's Party Chair Yurii Kostenko, Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn, Socialist Party Chair Oleksander Moroz, Kyiv City Council Deputy Oleksander Pabat, Ivano-Frankivsk citizen Vasyl Protivysikh, Uzhhorod Mayor Serhii Ratushniak, Kyiv lawyer Oleh Riabokon, People's Democratic Party Chair Liudmyla Suprun, Communist Party Chair Petro Symonenko, Svoboda All-Ukrainian Union Chair Oleh Tiahnybok, mega-millionaire banker Serhii Tihipko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Party of Regions Chair Viktor Yanukovich, Change Front leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk and President Viktor Yushchenko.

Among the surprises was the inability of pro-Russian radical Natalia Vitrenko, chair of the Progressive Socialist Party, to muster an adequate registration fee. She submitted only a 1,964 hrv deposit, far short of the 2.5 million hrv (\$309,000) minimum. Consequently, the CEC rejected her application, which will give Mr. Symonenko most of her electorate. She competed in the 1999 presidential elections, earning 2.9 million votes, and gained about 430,000 votes in the 2004 race.

Perhaps Vladimir Putin figured he had enough allies campaigning and it wasn't worth financing another...

The "protivysikh" (against all) movement is gaining momentum in Ukraine, with 8 percent of Ukrainians expected to make that selection on January 17, 2010, according to an October poll conducted by the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Research.

That's more support than for most of the 18 presidential candidates, with the exception of frontrunners Viktor Yanukovich (29 percent), Yulia Tymoshenko (20 percent) and Arseniy Yatsenyuk (8 percent).

Protivysikh billboards have emerged along the Khreshchatyk and throughout Kyiv neighborhoods with the slogan, "Against All – For Life Without 'Yu' and 'Ya'." "Yu"

refers to Yulia and Yushchenko, while "Ya" refers to Yanukovich and Yatsenyuk.

The "against all" option has such potential popularity that one candidate has taken on that moniker. Among the 18 to register was Vasyl Protivysikh, who changed his name from Vasyl Humeniuk just three weeks ago.

A former Communist and City Council chair of Yaremche, who blocked the city's attempts to tear down its Lenin statue in the early 1990s, Mr. Protivysikh is currently president of the Ivano-Frankivsk Chamber of Commerce.

He participated in the 2007 parliamentary election, running on the KUCHMA Bloc ticket. (KUCHMA stands for Constitution, Ukraine, Honor, Peace and Anti-Fascism.)

Observers believe Mr. Protivysikh is a technical candidate, financed by the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) to draw votes away from Ms. Tymoshenko in the first round, particularly in western Ukraine.

PRU deputies have voiced support for Mr. Protivysikh. One of them, Ternopil native Yaroslav Sukhyi, said he has known the "fair dude" for 40 years, having traveled with him in their student days to Kazakhstan for construction work.

Mr. Protivysikh insisted at a November 10 press conference in Kyiv that his financing of \$309,000 to register came from "family, hometown residents and friends, including those abroad," and not from any Ukrainian political party.

His candidacy could also help to prevent the first round of elections from being undermined by a failure to reach the 50 percent quorum needed of the Ukrainian electorate. Some observers speculate the quorum could fall short, particularly since votes cast "against all" don't count.

The timeliness of the influenza outbreak could not have been ignored by the Presidential Secretariat, which considered it as a reason to keep Viktor Yushchenko in place longer than his five-year term.

President Yushchenko could declare martial law should the flu and associated panic escalate, and he could postpone the election until May 30, Presidential Secretariat Deputy Chair Ihor Popov said on November 6, offer-

(Continued on page 21)

Nov.
15
2004

Turning the pages back...

Five years ago, on November 15, 2004, Ukraine's presidential candidates Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich engaged in the first televised debate witnessed by Ukraine's electorate.

Questions about media independence were a hot topic prior to the debate, with many of the television networks owned by oligarchs who supported Mr. Yanukovich's candidacy. Broadcast by six television networks, the 90-minute debate focused on four pre-approved general topics – social policy, the economy, domestic policy and foreign policy. The debate was moderated by a journalist who kept track of allotted times. Both candidates claimed to have gained the advantage.

"I am satisfied with the debate if only because it was the first time in three and half years that I had a chance to come before the nation and present my positions on Ukrainian

(Continued on page 11)



Zenon Zawada

Placards urging Ukrainians to vote "Against All – For Life Without "Ya" and "Yu," have appeared throughout Kyiv in recent weeks.

From a Canadian Angle

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn



Election challenges in Ukraine

Ukraine is facing difficult challenges from Russia and at home. Cleaning up internal concerns – primarily the flawed Constitution and corruption – is critical to moving forward. The presidential candidate determined to tackle these, in particular the latter, would gain commanding electorate support.

The current Constitution, readers should recall, was adopted in the 11th hour to resolve the impasse surrounding falsifications of the 2004 presidential elections and the Orange Revolution protests. It encompasses provisions that would confound good government in any country. For instance, the powers of the president and the prime minister are intertwined. Designed to prevent either from being too strong, this executive duality creates two masters complicating – no, breaking down – Ukraine's political process.

In Canada the prime minister appoints the Cabinet and holds exclusive executive power by being the first minister in the Cabinet. The ceremonial head of state, the governor general whom the prime minister appoints has no de facto political power. In the United States the president is both head of state and the chief executive who chooses his Cabinet. Ukraine's model provides neither clarity. Its head of state, the president, also has responsibility for Cabinet portfolios like defense, internal security and foreign affairs, and can stifle the work of the prime minister, with veto power.

Unless the Constitution of Ukraine is amended, conflicts between two masters will continue regardless of the personalities in power. Ukrainians are tired of the squabbling and want good government.

The other concern infuriating Ukrainians is this: none of the candidates have dealt with corruption. While Ukraine boasts some of the world's richest people, most of the people live on about \$100 a month. Scandals surrounding the energy sector – indeed all sectors – abound. Politicians and government officials are neither prevented from abusing nor punished for profiting from positions of power. Furthermore, the impartiality of Ukraine's judiciary – the ultimate arbiter – is highly suspect. Freedom House gives Ukraine nearly 6 out of 7 on the corruption scale. Public trust in government is among the lowest in the world.

Having done their job several times now – holding democratic elections against considerable odds – Ukrainians now accuse their leaders of violating their trust; infighting; inattention to poverty, unemployment, inadequate housing and medical care. Basic services require bribes. They blame all politicians, but above all President Viktor Yushchenko, who promised a better life by dealing with corruption in officialdom.

Yes, he gets credit for elevating national symbols, Ukrainian language, for promoting recognition of the Holodomor, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army as legitimate protectors of Ukraine. As important as these are, however, these initiatives do not address the people's day-to-day concerns. Rather, they play to the diaspora's agenda which lives, in the main, comfortably in wealthy, democratic societies. But the diaspora does not vote, and the president's ratings are languishing under 5 percent.

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko fares much better at 20 percent support. She handled the energy crisis effectively but non-stop tensions with the president detract from her accomplishments. She would benefit from another success story like her privatization of the Kryvorizhstal plant in 2005.

A clearer pro-western position would elevate her standing as well. A superb tactician, she will gain votes in the second round from supporters of Volodymyr Lytvyn and Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the current and former chairs respectively, of the Verkhovna Rada, both with higher ratings than the president's. Her ability to unite former Orangistas is real.

Viktor Yanukovich, Moscow's favorite, scores about 30 percent, Russia, having favored him in the last presidential election, and miscalculated, is too smart to do so again. Perhaps Russia has decided that regardless of who wins it can manage Ukraine as the larger geo-political game has tilted. Recently the United States, as part of its reset of relations with Russia, scrapped the defense missile shield and is currying Russia's favor on the Iran nuclear issue. This positions Russia firmly in Iran – close to its nuclear power and oil fields – with U.S. approval. (This reminds me of the mad cry from the West in the 1990s for Ukraine and Kazakhstan to give up their nukes to the sole control of Russia.) The new chumminess will compromise America's resolve to push Ukraine's membership in NATO or react strongly to Russia's advancements in Crimea.

The good news is that Ukraine has handled difficult external challenges, primarily from Russia, before. And it has survived. The bad news: internal concerns spell ongoing trouble if not addressed. One-third of Ukrainians are undecided voters who clearly know what they want from their leader: someone to marry national pride with an easier life; clean up corruption and restore peoples' confidence in government.

Is anyone listening?

Oksana Bashuk Hepburn may be contacted at oksanabh@sympatico.ca.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Descendants of Kozaks

Ukrainians' self-image is deeply rooted in the Kozak tradition, delightfully captured in Ilya Repin's painting, "Zaporozhians Writing a Letter to the Sultan" (1880-1891) where a boisterous, battle-hardened group of warriors, taking neither themselves nor the Turkish Sultan all too seriously, craft a defiant statement defending their freedom and independence. It makes for a great picture: colorful, hilarious and utterly democratic – everyone who wants has a voice.

Starting with a vast repertoire of folk songs, the Kozak legacy is woven into the fabric of Ukrainian life. That became the basis for the life's work of Ukraine's national poet, Taras Shevchenko. Even at diaspora dances, thousands of miles and generations removed from Ukraine, the Kozak legacy comes to life with the national dance, the Hopak: young guys leap high and squat low, while the girls skip, spin, then whirl on the arm of one of the boys. The national anthem itself invokes fraternity grounded on a common Kozak origin: "brattia kozatskoho rodu."

The Kozaks sprang out of necessity. With no natural boundaries and lots of resources and wealth, Ukraine was the target of invasions going back to Kyivan Rus', a thousand years ago. Over the decades and generations, relentless attacks and disastrous political infighting took its toll. When the Rus' empire collapsed, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth filled the void during an era of feudalism and serfdom.

On either side of the Dnipro River south of Kyiv, the open steppes were rich with game, fishing and fertile land. And, there were no masters, so many fled there to live in freedom and plenty.

But it wasn't so simple. They became targets anew, this time of the Tatars, ancestors of the Mongols who had destroyed Kyiv in 1240 and then settled in Crimea, where trafficking in people on behalf of Ottoman Turkey was a major industry. Men were sold for brute force labor, females as harem girls and domestics, boys into military training to become janissaries.

In the mid-1500s, the nobleman Dmytro "Baida" Vyshnyvetsky founded a fortress, the Sich, on an island in the Dnipro rapids that became the stronghold from which free Ukrainians defended their villages and homes. Over the course of a century, the Kozaks gathered strength and organization, taking the fight to their enemies. In 1648 Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky astonished everyone, including himself, when he led a national revolution and established an independent state.

Sadly, Ukrainian independence did not survive its author. The generation following Khmelnytsky is known in history as "The Ruin" – when the country had two hetmans, one for either bank of the Dnipro River and events were driven by ambition, conflict and betrayal.

Repin's famous Kozak painting is from an actual event from the mid-1660s. It depicts a democratic process, to be sure, but no one seems to be in charge. In the background, a couple of men look on with sour expressions, as if disapproving. Then there's the guy calmly observing the scene and twirling his mustache. A spy? Russia and Poland certainly had their agents among the two Kozak camps, playing the right and left bank hetmans against each other.

The "Ruin" finally ended when Ivan Mazepa normalized the country's politics and economy. His revolt against Russia's

Tsar Peter in 1709 added immeasurably to the Kozak mystique, but the fact is it failed, largely because a major portion of the Kozaks hedged their bets and stayed with Moscow. Not that it did them much good: tens of thousands ended up as slaves building St. Petersburg; within a half century, the last vestiges of Kozak sovereignty were eliminated, the Sich destroyed.

Two centuries later – we're talking about vast stretches of time – during the Revolution of 1918-1920, the same factionalism that plagued Ukraine during the Ruin, sabotaged that bid for independence. During World War II the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) was riven by a disastrous split, weakening what was otherwise a powerful revolutionary movement. In the big picture, both periods pitted one group of Ukrainians committed to independence against another that remained loyal to Moscow.

Today, 19 years into an unprecedented period of national independence, it's tempting to view the current situation in Ukraine and wonder whether history isn't repeating itself, whether the Kozak legacy of which everyone is so proud doesn't also carry with it a tendency toward discord. After all, within a year of the historic Orange Revolution in 2004, its leaders engaged in a bitter split. And now, as the fifth election since independence looms, multiple candidates vie for power, even as Russia – true to form – plays the natural gas card and wages a campaign of historical distortions and political calumny while quietly cutting deals.

And yet, in the mysterious sweep of history, a lot has changed to move Ukraine in a positive direction. Today, it's a sovereign country with a single capital, its own Parliament, military, currency, postage stamps and a single set of national symbols. Everyone roots for the national team at the World Cup and the Olympics, where kids with no memory of the Soviet Union compete in blue-and-yellow uniforms.

Above all, Ukraine has been a free country – again, no small thing for a nation that endured 200 years of tsarist rule followed by 75 years as a Soviet republic with a ghastly legacy of civil war, terror, famine and genocide. Millions sprang up spontaneously in the Orange Revolution to make sure the country doesn't revert to that. As for the millions who opposed the Orange Revolution, they agreed to a second, internationally monitored election and accepted the ultimate outcome of that vote. And that's no small factor.

Since 2005 Ukrainian politics has been messy and dismaying. But, it's been played out in freedom and according to the rules, as flawed as those might be. And that's also no small thing. The Kozak legacy has many positive attributes and negatives, as well. We can only hope Ukraine's political class has learned the right lessons from its country's past. The election is January 17, 2010, and we don't know what the outcome will be. And that's a big deal. Contrast that with Russia, where elections are fore-ordained.

As for Repin, most of his paintings were about Russia. His masterpiece, "The Volga Boatmen," is in the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, not far from the Kozak painting. Interesting contrast. Repin's last painting was "Hopak" (1927). Beautiful.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is fedynsky@sbcglobal.net.

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UCU's Liturgical Institute celebrates 10th anniversary

by Matthew Matuszak

LVIV – On November 17 the Institute of Liturgical Studies (ILS) of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) will mark the 10th anniversary of its founding. An international academic conference celebrating the jubilee was held at the university on October 27-29. "Liturgy and Liturgical Chant of the Byzantine Rite in its Historical Development" featured speakers from various cities of Ukraine, as well as Canada, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Russia and was the institute's sixth such conference.

In addition, as part of the celebration, the Rev. Peter Galadza, Ph.D., director of the ILS and professor of liturgy at the Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies in the Faculty of Theology at St. Paul University in Ottawa, conducted members of UCU's choir who sang at an "all-night vigil" on October 28 held at Transfiguration Church in Lviv. The church was celebrating the 20th anniversary of its official return to the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Born in the U.S. to Ukrainian immigrants, the Rev. Galadza has served various parishes in North America. He has also traveled to Ukraine numerous times to help the Church there. He taught courses at Lviv's Holy Spirit Seminary under the challenging conditions then prevalent newly independent Ukraine in the early 1990s. Later he was dean of the Lviv Theological Academy, now UCU, for the 1999-2000 academic year, when he founded the institute.

"Vatican II's teaching on worship will remain forever a proclamation of true liturgy's life-giving force; and it will also remain, forever, a challenge to the Church. The Institute of Liturgical Studies was created 10 years ago to meet the challenge of making the Church's teaching on worship credible," said the Rev. Galadza, reflecting

on the institute's tasks.

"For that to happen, the divine service which we celebrate, and which the ILS studies, will have to become service in prisons and hospitals, at soup kitchens and schools. More people will have to believe that the heavenly Jerusalem that they experience in church can be revealed after church. They will have to believe that the repentance and forgiveness, wisdom and beauty that they see in church can embrace home and office, government and the academy. May our research and study help them believe," he added.

With a grant from the European Union's international association for scholarly cooperation, INTAS, the institute's first research project involved the creation of a database of Ukrainian and Belarusian sacred music. The institute has also been grateful for subsequent support received from the Harvard Ukrainian Studies Fund, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Bishop Robert Moskal and the Very Rev. Boniface Malowany.

Dr. Yuri Yasinovskyi, assistant director of the institute's noted that the ILS's publication of "The Anthology of Ukrainian Church Monody" has practical as well as theoretical importance. "Contemporary choirs are able to perform these classics because of the ILS's transcriptions," he explained. Another practical aspect of the ILS's work is its school for cantors and choir directors. "The need for qualified church musicians in the Ukrainian churches can hardly be emphasized enough," he stressed.

Since 2005 the institute has annually organized a summer school for cantors and choir directors at the Studite Monastery in Univ, Lviv region. Students have come from Canada, the United States, Ukraine and Slovakia for the program. In addition, in 2007 the ILS collaborated in the revival of



The Rev. Peter Galadza, Ph.D., director of the Institute of Liturgical Studies of the Ukrainian Catholic University, preaches at a retreat for families of university staff.

the Cantors' Institute of the Przemyśl-Warsaw Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and has been training cantors for this eparchy.

With the demise of another training school for cantors and choir directors, founded by Myroslav Deshchysia, which had graduated hundreds of students, the ILS has tried to pick up the slack. On August 2-23, the ILS held the first session of a new program to grant a two-year accredited certificate in sacred music. According to the Rev. Galadza, it is integrated into the academic program of the Ukrainian Catholic University and also stresses regular practice during actual liturgical services.

"A separate church has been built for pilgrims at the Studite Monastery in Univ – a perfect site for such training programs," noted the Rev. Galadza. "So the students sing matins, liturgy and vespers every day. And after each service members of the teaching staff discuss 'best practices' with the participants. Naturally, every day includes hours of training in sight reading, vocal technique, chant, ordo, history and theology."

Right now the program includes students from eastern and western Ukraine and Belarus, but it "eminently lends itself to the needs of students from outside of Ukraine, as well," boasted the Rev. Galadza. "For only \$500, a student from North America, for example, receives three full weeks of room and board, as well as instruction from some of western Ukraine's best cantors, choir directors, vocalists and historians.

"Leading the list of instructors is Oleh Tsyhylyk, who came to prominence as the conductor of the combined 600-voice choir during Pope John Paul II's liturgy in Lviv in June 2001. Prof. Tsyhylyk provides individual voice training and is renowned in Ukraine for his pedagogical abilities, having trained two generations of accomplished singers.

"We have barely begun our work," concluded the Rev. Galadza. "And 90 years from now, when, God willing, the ILS celebrates its 100th anniversary, the infinite challenge of making the Church's teaching on worship credible will remain."

Further information about UCU (in English and Ukrainian) is available on the university's website at www.ucu.edu.ua. Readers may also contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, which is the largest supporter of UCU's annual operating budget. One of the effects of this assistance is to provide scholarships to worthy students, allowing them to get an excellent education that they otherwise might not be able to afford. Of every dollar the UCEF spends, more than 84 cents goes to its charitable programs, ranking the UCEF among the most efficient and effective charities in the nation.

The UCEF may be contacted in writing at 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; by phoning 773-235-8462; e-mailing ucef@ucef.org; or browsing its website, www.ucef.org. The phone number of the UCEF in Canada is 416-239-2495.

Symposium and exhibit to recall "Age and Legacy of Mazepa"

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – "The Age and Legacy of Hetman Ivan Mazepa" of a symposium co-sponsored by the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies (University of Manitoba) and Oseredok (Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center) to mark the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava.

The one-day symposium on November 28 will feature five academic presentations on the theme of "The Age and Legacy of Hetman Ivan Mazepa." The symposium will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Oseredok (184 Alexander Ave.) in Winnipeg.

The presenters will include Drs. Orest Subtelny (York University), Radoslav Zuk (McGill University), Denis Hlynka (University of Manitoba), Mysoslav Shkandrij (University of Manitoba) and Roman Yereniuk (St. Andrew's College

and the University of Manitoba).

Mazepa is a complex figure representing a pivotal period in Ukrainian history who was vilified by the Russians as a traitor, mythologized by the Romantics, and revered as a symbol of independence and statehood by Ukrainians. His defeat at the hands of the Russians at Poltava in 1709 signalled the end of any Kozak autonomy and saw the ascendancy of the Russian Empire. Despite the turmoil of this historic period, the age of Mazepa was also a time of great cultural achievement in the arts in Ukraine. The symposium will explore Mazepa's historical legacy, as well as the myths associated with his name.

For further information readers may contact Dr. Roman Yereniuk, 204-474-8907, or Sophia Kachor, 204 942 0218.

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Ukrainian American Veterans meet at 62nd annual convention

by Bernard W. Krawczuk

VENICE, Fla. – The 62nd annual national convention of the Ukrainian American Veterans was hosted here on October 16-17 by the Cpl. Roman G. Lazor UAV Post 40 of North Port, Fla.

This successful convention, held at the Best Western Ambassador Suites, was made possible through the work of Convention Committee members under the leadership of Marion Bojsiuk. The committee also published the 62nd UAV Convention Journal.

The UAV national executive board met on the eve of the convention, on October 15, to address pre-convention issues. The UAV National Ladies Auxiliary headed by Oksana Koziak held its meeting as well.

The posting of colors and opening ceremonies of the 62nd UAV National Convention were led by UAV National Commander Leonid Kondratiuk. The national service officer/chaplain, Mr. Bojsiuk, read the opening prayer. The roll call was executed by UAV National Adjutant Mathew Koziak (a past national commander) and a quorum was established.

Financial and activity reports were presented by the following national officers: Jerry Kindrachuk, finance officer; Stephen Kostecki, quartermaster; Myroslaw Pryjma, welfare officer; Nicholas Skirka, scholarship officer; and Anna Krawczuk, immediate past national commander, UAV Registration Project and UAV National Monument Committee. All financial reports were subject to an audit and were accepted after Auditing Committee Chair George Mutlos's report.

The afternoon session was dedicated to activity reports of the UAV National Commander Kondratiuk, Adjutant Koziak, Judge Advocate Michael Demchuk, Service Officer/Chaplain Bojsiuk, Historian Edward Zetick, Public Relations Officer and Co-editor of the UAV Tribune Bernard W. Krawczuk and UAV National Monument Committee Co-Chair Koziak, who also reported on the UAV website currently under reconstruction. Vice-Commander Walter Mychajliw's report, which included the status of UAV members-at-large, was read by the adjutant. State and post commanders submitted their reports in writing.

Irena Pryjma of the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary reported on delegate registration, while President Oksana Koziak announced the fund-raising for the UAV welfare and scholarship fund and the UAV National Monument.

Convention resolutions presented by its committee chairman, Edward A. Zetick, were accepted. Among them were:

- We appeal to all American veterans of Ukrainian heritage to register in the UAV National Registration Project [volume II of which is in the planning stages] and to par-

ticipate in the Veterans Oral History Project at the Library of Congress.

- We appeal to the entire Ukrainian American community and our friends everywhere to contribute and support the UAV National Veterans Monument.

At the end of the first day's deliberations, Post 40, assisted by the Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida, hosted an evening reception for convention delegates, their spouses and invited guests. It took place at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Religious and Cultural Center in North Port. Ukrainian "soul food" was served to the delight of all.

The friendly atmosphere was felt throughout the evening: old friends rekindled friendships and new ones were formed, and old war stories were exchanged. In attendance was Michael Nasevich, past post commander of the Pioneer Post 1, who attended the first UAV National Convention in 1948.

The highlight of the evening was the induction ceremony by National Commander Leonid Kondratiuk of two new UAV Post 40 members. Michael Wosny, recipient of the National Defense Service Medal of the Vietnam era, and Yarema Boryshchak, recipient of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, were congratulated and warmly received into the UAV ranks.

Saturday, October 17, was the final day of deliberations. The convention closing ceremonies were conducted by National Commander Kondratiuk, ending with a prayer by National Chaplain Bojsiuk.

The evening was filled with commemorations. The gala banquet hall at the Ukrainian Catholic Parish Center in North Port, was filled to capacity. Celebrations were in order, not only of the 62nd UAV National Convention but also the 10th anniversary of Post 40 of North Port. This post is very active in the Ukrainian American community and represents it well by participating in national Memorial Day and Veterans Day commemorations, as well as parades and other local events in the area.

The banquet began with greetings by Post Commander Eugene Tomashosky and the expertly executed posting of colors by the North Port High School JNROTC. The American and Ukrainian national anthems and an invocation by national chaplain followed. Best wishes were extended by the National Commander Kondratiuk and National Ladies Auxiliary President Koziak, who also presented donations to the UAV welfare, scholarship and monument funds. Tamara Denysenko presented a greeting on behalf of the Ukrainian World Congress executive committee.

A skilled master of ceremonies, Past Post Commander Ihor Hron introduced the UAV National Executive Board Officers, Past National Commanders, including their own Walter Shipka (1949-1950), distinguished guests, as well as the president of the local



Viktor Lisnyczyj

UAV national executive board officers (from left): Nicholas Skirka, Marian Bojsiuk, Bernard W. Krawczuk, Anna Krawczuk, Myroslaw Pryjma, National Commander Brig. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk, Mathew Koziak, Jerry Kindrachuk, Stephen Kostecki, Edward Zetick and Michael Demchuk.



Anna Krawczuk

Keynote speaker Col. James E. Donnellan (left) with Brig. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk.

Branch 56 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. He invited the Rev. Dr. Severyn Kovalishyn to bless the food. Keynote speaker U.S. Marine Corps Col. James E. Donnellan was introduced prior to his remarkable presentation on the current issues that face the U.S. armed forces. He underlined the need of international support in the ongoing global war on terrorism.

The UAV national commander presented two UAV national executive board awards: the UAV Achievement Award for his journalistic contributions was given to Past National Commander Atanas Kobryn. The The Largest Increase in Membership Award went to UAV Post 1 of Greater Philadelphia, for recruiting 22 new members. An award was presented also to the keynote speaker.

In celebration of UAV Post 40's 10th anniversary, Post Commander Tomashosky

and Past Post Commander Hron presented numerous awards. The Veteran of the Decade Award went to Mr. Kobryn in recognition of his dedication to the UAV. He is a past national commander, and the founder and the first post commander of UAV Post 40.

UAV Post 40 awards also were given to members of Ukrainian American Club, and everyone who wholeheartedly helped in making this event so successful. Lydia Marusyn was especially recognized for supervising the parish center staff in preparation of a wonderful banquet dinner and Daria Tomashosky for her beautiful design of the banquet program. Among other recipients of UAV Post 40 awards were: Nancy Wosny, Halyna Korol, Mr. Bojsiuk, Viktor Lisnyczyj, Vladimir Szpiczka and Mr. Hron.

The music by Double Effects lent an enjoyable atmosphere to the evening.



Anna Krawczuk

Honoree Atanas Kobryn is flanked by Ihor Hron (left) and Eugene Tomashosky.



Anna Krawczuk

Brig. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk presents an award to UAV Post 1 Commander Ed Zetick.

Alberta Minister Gene Zwozdesky receives Shevchenko Medal

EDMONTON, Alberta – Ukrainian Canadian Congress National President Paul Grod presented the Shevchenko Medal to Alberta Cabinet Minister Gene Zwozdesky. The presentation was made on Sunday, October 4, at the 11th Annual Hetman Awards ceremony hosted by the UCC Alberta Provincial Council, at which volunteers from the Ukrainian community in Alberta were also recognized.

“Minister Zwozdesky has enriched our community in Canada by his commitment to Ukrainian organizations and endeavors,” said Mr. Grod. “He has shown pride and dedication to his Ukrainian heritage in all aspects of his personal, volunteer and professional life.”

Minister Gene Zwozdesky received the

Medal in recognition of his work as a dedicated community volunteer, leader and activist. At the provincial level, Minister Zwozdesky led the establishment of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations and helped orchestrate the first-ever visit by an Alberta premier to Ukraine.

One year ago Minister Zwozdesky presented the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act in the Alberta Legislature, which passed in a single day.

His work as a volunteer in the community has included the instruction and development of Ukrainian dance and music projects, developing Ukrainian children's books, choral and orchestral

conducting, teaching Sunday school, and serving as an active church volunteer and board member for several organizations.

As a Cabinet minister, he has worked in community development, education and capital planning.

In accepting the medal, Minister Zwozdesky thanked all those who supported him in presenting the Holodomor Bill, which he said “has made a dramatic difference to the way that Ukrainians are viewed around the world.” Mr. Zwozdesky went on to say: “I think about all the work that has been done since our ancestors came here over 100 years ago and how it all sort of came together for that one magical afternoon in the Alberta Legislature.”

Also in attendance at the event was Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, who presented the Hetman Awards, with UCC Alberta President Daria Luciwi, to 11 exemplary volunteers. The premier noted that the spirit of volunteerism was a significant force among the early Ukrainian pioneers and commended the Hetman Awards honorees for their work. “You



UCC National President Paul Grod (left) with Minister Gene Zwozdesky, recipient of the Taras Shevchenko Medal.

are not only preserving Ukrainian culture, but also sharing our culture and serving communities in the province of Alberta,” he said.

The Shevchenko Medal is the highest form of recognition that can be granted by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. It recognizes individuals of Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian descent, as well as institutions and organizations, for their outstanding national contribution toward the development of the Ukrainian Canadian community.

Ukraine's Sports Ministry, UWC sign memorandum of cooperation

Ukrainian Canadian Congress

TORONTO – The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Ukraine and the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) on October 27 in Kyiv signed a memorandum of cooperation in support of sport.

The memorandum states that joint actions are aimed at creating conditions for establishing productive contacts between:

- organizations of the Ukrainians abroad and Olympic teams of Ukraine in preparing for and participating in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, and in the 2012 Olympics in London;
- sports teams of Ukraine and the

diaspora in conducting sport and recreation events;

- organizations of Ukraine and the diaspora in preparation and conducting of Ukrainian sports camps;

- sports teams of Ukraine and the diaspora in promoting development and non-Olympic disciplines.

The memorandum was signed by Minister of Family, Youth and Sport of Ukraine Yurii Pavlenko and the head of the Sports Commission of the Ukrainian World Congress, Mykhaylo Hamaliy.

Eugene Czolij, the president of the UWC, has emphasized that this memorandum is an important step forward in further development of cooperation with Ukraine in the field of sports.

CIUS scholars participate in conference on historical memory of World War II

CIUS

EDMONTON – An international conference on “World War II and the (Re) Creation of Historical Memory in Contemporary Ukraine” was held in Kyiv on September 23-26.

Co-chaired by Myron Stachiw, director of the Fulbright Program in Ukraine, and Vladyslav Hrynevych, senior researcher at the I. F. Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the conference examined crucial and sometimes controversial and painful issues and events related to World War II in Ukraine, the subsequent Soviet mythologizing of the war and Ukraine's role in it, and the politics of historical memory in independent Ukraine.

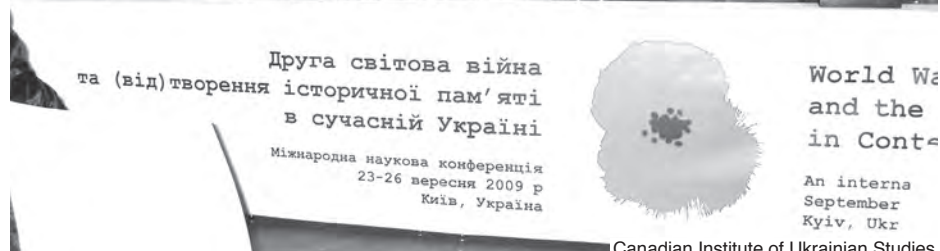
Papers were delivered, presentations made and roundtable discussions held at the following sessions: “Models of National Memory of World War II”;

“Models of Official History of World War II”; “Politics of Memory in Ukraine”; “Genocide, Holocaust and Inter-Ethnic Conflicts”; “Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to Comparative Studies on Political Memory: Ukraine and the Central European Region”; “Models of Collective and Individual Memory”; and Culture and the Formation of Memory.

Other events held during the conference included a tour of the National Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War, the opening of the exhibit “The Ukrainian Insurgent Army: A History of the Unvanquished,” a festival of documentary films on World War II, and a reception at the Polish Embassy.

The conference took place at an auspicious time. Not only did September mark the 70th anniversary of the war's outbreak, but it has become increasingly evi-

(Continued on page 20)



At the session on models of national memory of World War II (from left) are: Yurii Shapoval (Ukraine), Richard Ned Lebow (U.S.), Vladyslav Hrynevych (Ukraine), Rafał Wnuk (Poland) and Vladimir Nevezhin (Russia).

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Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center holds annual meeting

by Andrea Zharovsky

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, a non-profit educational and cultural organization in Jenkintown, Pa., held its 29th annual meeting on Sunday, October 25, in the UECC Gallery.

In his report, UECC President Borys Pawluk reminded those present that the work of the UECC is distributed among five sectors. This year, the Strategic Planning/Capital Campaign Sector was created. In his PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Pawluk described the accomplishments of each sector, the UECC's administration and facility management.

He thanked the vice-presidents of each sector and reported that Orysia Hewka, UECC executive director, has announced that she is leaving the UECC, effective November 1. He expressed his thanks to Mrs. Hewka from the board of directors for her many years of devoted work for the good of the center and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. All present sang "Mnohaya Lita" in honor of Mrs. Hewka.

Mr. Pawluk then focused on the future

of the center. The UECC is working and planning its 30th year celebration banquet in 2010. The first phase of the master plan is almost complete. Many items have been crossed off a seemingly-endless to-do list. Most recently, new bathrooms on the first floor were completely gutted and renovated, and new exterior doors were installed. Less glamorous and less visible recent work included electrical, heat and insulation upgrades. Mr. Pawluk emphasized that the UECC needs financial support from Ukrainian organizations and from its members in order to continue to thrive and be a home away from home for all Ukrainians.

Roman Petyk read the Audit Committee's report, which, based on its work and the report of outside auditors, stated that the financial and administrative work of the UECC is conducted on a business and professional level. He reported that the committee is satisfied with its review and the UECC financial report for the 2008-2009. Meeting participants voted unanimously to give the outgoing board a vote of confidence with a commendation.

Laryssa Krywusha read the Nominating

Committee's report and recommended new candidates to the UECC board of directors: Roman Dubenko, Patricia Sawchak and Danylo Zacharczuk. She also recommended board members who were up for re-election: Natalia Griga, Sophia Koropecyk, Laryssa Krywusha, Lesia Nowak, Lubomir Pyrih and Larysa Stebly. Two additional candidates, Petro Hewka and Nadia Petryk, were proposed by UECC members. The UECC board of directors consists of 24 members with staggered three-year terms.

Vera Andryczyk, Marta Shyprykewych and Marta Tailikh were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2009-2010. Slava Bilas, Halyna Keller and Roksolana Luci were elected to serve on the Election Committee for the same period.

The chair of the By-Laws Committee, Mr. Petyk, explained the eight proposed changes to UECC By-Laws, which pertained to membership, procedures at UECC board meetings and the structure of the Nominating Committee.

During the discussion, UECC members recognized and praised the work of the board of directors, raised questions on membership, grant writing, and the costs of reno-

vating and building. Mr. Pawluk, Ms. Koropecyk, Orest Wirstiuk and Myron Soltys responded for the UECC Board, addressing each concern.

After a thorough count of the votes cast, the head of the Election Committee, Lubomyra Kalyta, announced the results. With a majority of votes, the candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee were elected and re-elected to serve the board.

President Pawluk thanked the UECC board of directors for its work and accomplishments, noting that the board worked so well this year that every member of the executive is well-qualified to become UECC president. The annual meeting adjourned with members continuing their discussions over coffee and sweets.

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

UECC bids farewell, with thanks, to executive director Orysia Hewka

by Andrea Zharovsky

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center announced on October 25 that Orysia Hewka will leave as UECC's long serving executive director on October 31.

Mrs. Hewka announced her plans to the UECC's board of directors earlier that month. She will assist with the transition as the UECC begins its search for a new executive director.

Mrs. Hewka's work for the center began with its founding in 1980, when she was elected to the UECC board of directors. Later, Mrs. Hewka served as a volunteer executive director and for the last 20 years as a paid executive director.

Her commitment to the UECC and the Ukrainian community of the Greater Philadelphia area were seen showed in her work. Mrs. Hewka passionately organized demonstrations in defense of Ukrainians, organized events to raise awareness of Ukrainians and Ukraine, wrote over 35 grant applications for the UECC, chaired numerous fund-raising campaigns, and served the Ukrainian community through the UECC



Borys Pawluk, president of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, with Orysia Hewka, UECC executive director.

radio program and Social Services.

"I want to thank Orysia for her terrific contribution and commitment to the UECC for all of these years," said Borys Pawluk, UECC president. "Orysia has diligently served the UECC and the Ukrainian community for many years and we all wish her the best in her future endeavors. Mnohaya, Mnohaya Lita!"

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

National Television," explained Mr. Yushchenko after the debate.

In response, Mr. Yanukovich defended his allegations that Mr. Yushchenko had a hand in the poor state of the economy in the mid-1990s as head of the National Bank of Ukraine. "Time will tell who was wrong, I never feel hurt when people say they disagree with me. I will always respect them," noted Mr. Yanukovich.

The role of appearance on television also was evident during the debate, especially after the poisoning of Mr. Yushchenko left his face deeply scarred.

Yurii Karasov, a political consultant, commended the debates as another step in

the often awkward development of democracy in Ukraine. "These debates were a breakthrough moment for Ukraine," explained Mr. Karasov, who added that, while "Mr. Yanukovich had done better than expected, Mr. Yushchenko had simply done better."

The Ukrainian television rating firm GFK-USM stated that its survey showed that 55.6 percent of households in populations centers with more than 50,000 inhabitants had watched at least five minutes, while 43.4 percent watched at least a half-hour of the debate.

Source: "Ukraine's first televised debate watched by nationwide audience," by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, November 21, 2004.

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27 students attend 2009 Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute

by Peter T. Woloschuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – “I am happy that I participated in the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute (HUSI),” said Anastasiya Prymovych, a master’s student in history at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, who is working on her thesis on the “Legal Status of Orphans in City Statutes in the 15th and 16th Centuries.”

“The lectures and readings were given by distinguished professors and helped me to look at the status of the Ukrainian language before and during the Soviet period, the Holodomor and Ukraine’s current nation-building process,” she commented. “They also helped me to enrich my own knowledge and develop my own opinions on these issues. In Ukraine questions are often raised touching these complicated matters, especially by politicians, but there are never any serious answers or even sincere efforts to find the truth and come to terms with it.”

Ms. Prymovych was one of 27 students who attended this summer’s 38th annual Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute. They came from Germany, Italy, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Ukraine and the United States. The Ukrainian cohort consisted of eight students from the cities of Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Kyiv, Lviv, Rohatyn and Ternopil, representing Dnipropetrovsk National University, the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and the Ukrainian Catholic University.

American students participating in the program represented a variety of U.S. universities: Boston University, Brown University, Cornell University, Harvard University, St. John’s University, the University of New Mexico, the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Toledo.

Dr. Patrice Dabrowski (HUSI class of 2002), lecturer in history at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a 2008-2009 Eugene and Daymel Shklar postdoctoral fellow at HURI, directed the program. She is the author of “Commemorations and the Shaping of Modern Poland” and a number of prizewinning articles, and she is currently writing a book tentatively titled “‘Discovering’ the Carpathians: Episodes in Imagining and Reshaping Alpine Borderland Regions.”

Introductory, intermediate and advanced Ukrainian language courses were taught by dedicated HUSI veterans: Alla Parkhomenko (examinations manager of the British Council, Kyiv), Yuri Shevchuk (Columbia University) and Volodymyr Dibrova (Harvard). The faculty that taught Ukrainian history, literature and linguistics consisted of internationally renowned scholars, including Andrea Graziosi, professor of



Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute students with their instructors in front of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.

contemporary history at the University of Naples Federico II, who taught “Soviet Ukrainian History, 1914–1991”; Tamara Hundorova of the Institute of Literature at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, who lectured on “Ukrainian Literature and Popular Culture”; and HURI Director Michael S. Flier, the Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian Philology at Harvard, who again presented his course “Ukraine as Linguistic Battleground.”

Outside the classroom, once a week students met for dinner at designated Ukrainian tables in Annenberg Hall, Harvard’s main undergraduate student dining facility, and were required to speak with each other exclusively in Ukrainian.

Commenting on the practice Mykhailo Hnojewyj, a graduate of Brown University in Rhode Island, said, “I found the dinners a good language immersion experience outside of the classroom. Since we didn’t have the ability to walk out of the classroom onto the streets of Lviv to practice speaking, the language table gave us a realistic atmosphere to hone our skills, particularly while speaking with the students from Ukraine.”

“As a native Ukrainian speaker,” Ms. Prymovych added, “I enjoyed helping fellow students perfect their knowledge of the language, including various food terms. It was also an opportunity for me to improve my own Ukrainian while arguing what case



Summer school students are welcomed at an American-style barbecue.

and form were most appropriate and even what case to use in negative sentences.”

Lisa Dzul of Detroit, who is majoring in international studies at the University of Chicago, said, “I was also a fan of the Ukrainian language table and found it an entertaining experience, particularly on the days when the dining hall coincidentally served either pyrohy or ‘ginger dumplings’ which were simply pyrohy served in soy sauce.”

In addition to the language table, stu-

dents had the further opportunity to immerse themselves in the language and learn about current Ukrainian culture by attending viewings of both short and feature films selected for screening by Dr. Shevchuk. Popular among HUSI students as well as the broader Ukrainian community, the film screenings were cosponsored by the Ukrainian Film Club and Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University.

The screening of the film “The Living”

(Continued on page 21)



Prof. Alla Parkhomenko with students in the introductory Ukrainian language class.



Prof. Volodymyr Dibrova teaches the advanced class in Ukrainian language.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Flu epidemic reported in decline

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko noted on November 9 that there has been a decline in the flu sickness rate in Ukraine. At a meeting with the World Health Organization delegation, Ms. Tymoshenko said: "I think that now there are certain positive signs. On November 4, we had a peak of the sickness rate – 127,254, and on November 8 – 32,448. In other words, there are absolutely positive dynamics." Ms. Tymoshenko emphasized it is necessary to continue "to prepare the country for possible ARVI [acute respiratory virus infection] and flu episodes, pandemic flu diseases and use this time to better provide hospitals with the necessary medical preparations and free medicaments." According to the latest data, 969,000 cases of acute respiratory disease have been registered. As a result of the epidemic, 155 persons have died. (Ukrinform)

PM: no grounds to delay election

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has said that there are currently no grounds to postpone the presidential election in Ukraine. The deputy chief of the Presidential Secretariat, Ihor Popov, had announced on November 6 that, "if the government fails to control the situation" with the flu epidemic the poll could be pushed back until the end of May. Speaking during her working visit to Uzhhorod on Saturday, Ms. Tymoshenko said: "I want to emphasize once again that every region has its own epidemic threshold. Quarantine is imposed in any region in which the disease rate reaches its peak. So this is an objective approach that has no subjective element, so there are no grounds to cancel the elections." (Ukrinform)

New batch of Tamiflu arrives

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko met a plane from Switzerland that arrived in Lviv with a new shipment of 200,000 boxes of Tamiflu, the liaison department of the Cabinet of Ministers Secretariat reported on November 5. The head of government thanked the crew for bringing the medications. Ms. Tymoshenko noted that, counting the new portion, Ukraine has obtained a triple reserve of Tamiflu, and therefore people may receive it at hospitals for free. The plane also brought medical equipment such as ventilators, as well as cardiomonitors, fiberoptic bronchoscopes and pulsoximeters. (Ukrinform)

Tefft still awaiting confirmation

WASHINGTON – The expected confirmation on November 10 of Ambassador John F. Tefft by the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, as the next U.S. ambassador to Ukraine did not take place as the meeting of the committee was postponed for one week. Ambassador Tefft was nominated by President Barack Obama on September 30 to be the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, and a hearing on his nomination took place on October 8. Ambassador Tefft has been waiting in the wings for the past four weeks for a business meeting of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to be scheduled. (U.S.-Ukraine Business Council)

Kyiv, Moscow exchange draft of gas deal

KYIV – Ukraine and Russia have exchanged the drafts of a new inter-governmental agreement on cooperation in the gas sector. Kyiv needs the agreement to review a long-term contract between Gazprom and Naftohaz, as Ukraine will

buy 24 billion cubic meters of gas this year, instead of the 40 billion cubic meters contracted earlier. The Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Ministry said on November 10 that the drafts of a "new international agreement on cooperation in the gas sector" had been discussed at the fifth meeting of the subcommittee for the fuel and energy sector of the Ukrainian-Russian interstate commission on November 9. In the first half of 2010 the energy ministries of both countries should agree on a draft agreement "taking into account an inventory of the current international contracts in the gas sector, as well as agreements reached during consultations and bilateral talks." (Ukrinform)

Prysiazhniuk is SBU deputy chief

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on November 10 signed a decree appointing Anatolii Prysiazhniuk as a deputy chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). A Crimean Parliament deputy, Mr. Prysiazhniuk has served as chairman of state JSC Chornomornaftogaz for the last three years. In 2003-2005 he worked as vice-minister of internal affairs and chief of the public safety police. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Health officials named to NSDC

KYIV – Addressing the press on November 4, President Viktor Yushchenko said the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) must become the center of decision-making on the fight against the flu epidemic. "Non-implementation of the security council decisions will be accompanied with immediate appeals to the law-enforcement bodies. Let me remind this to all of those in charge," the president noted. He also stated he was appointing the health minister and the chief health officer as members of the NSDC. (Ukrinform)

Funds for Crimean Tatars' housing

KYIV – The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has decided to allocate 10 million hryv for the construction of housing for deported Crimean Tatars. Acting Finance Minister Ihor Umanskyi said on November 4 that the funds had been allocated to the Crimean Council of Ministers from the stabilization fund of the state budget for 2009 through the redistribution of funds. In July 2008 the Sevastopol City State Administration said it was planning to build a nine-story apartment block for deported Crimean Tatars. Around 280,000 Crimean Tatars currently live on the peninsula. (Ukrinform)

Criminal case opened against Kyslynskyi

KYIV – News media reported on November 4 that a criminal case has been opened against Andrii Kyslynskyi, the former deputy chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) who was dismissed by the president on October 13, when it was learned that his higher education diploma appears to have been forged and that he apparently provided deliberately misleading information during his appointment as a state employee. Mr. Kyslynskyi told Ukrayinska Pravda that he would "continue working thoroughly to establish the truth." He said he is currently unable to be employed, because the original of his diploma of higher education is in the investigator's office. He also said that he does not agree with the report about the authenticity of his diploma and that he would establish the truth in court. Ukrainian Education Minister Ivan Vakarchuk said on October 12 that the results of checks conducted by the Education Ministry confirmed that Mr. Kyslynskyi had not studied at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

and had not received a diploma. Late in September this year, the chief of the Internal Affairs Ministry's Main Office in Crimea, National Deputy Hennadii Moskal of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, charged that Mr. Kyslynskyi had used a forged document of higher education. He asked Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Procurator General Oleksander Medvedko to conduct checks on the authenticity of Mr. Kyslynskyi's diploma. Mr. Kyslynskyi served as deputy head of the Presidential Secretariat until mid-June. His activity in that post was marked by a number of public statements against Ms. Tymoshenko in which he accused the prime minister of treason and supporting Russia's interests. (Ukrinform)

Artek officials pledge to sue

KYIV – The International Children Center Artek will soon lodge a complaint to defend its honor, dignity and business standing against officials who have distributed information defaming the children center, Artek Director General Borys Novozhylov said at a news conference in Symferopol. According to news reports of November 11, Mr. Novozhylov added that "a very substantial damage complaint" will be made as well. Mr. Novozhylov, referring to conclusions of numerous bodies, including the Procurator General's Office, said the reports of pedophilia at the center do not reflect reality. Party of Regions National Deputy Vadym Kolesnichenko had claimed that children were raped at Artek by "high-ranking officials." Media reports later cited the names of three national deputies. Artek officials rejected all statements made by Mr. Kolesnichenko, underscoring that Artek has nothing to do with this matter. Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko said on

October 14 that an investigation into abuse charges was initiated and that the father of these children was arrested back in April. (Ukrinform)

Polish Consulate General in Vinnytsia

KYIV – A Consulate General of Poland will open in Vinnytsia in January, according to Andrzej Slomski, the Polish consul to Ukraine. This will be the fifth Polish Consulate in Ukraine, the diplomat said, adding that the opening of the new consulate will help to simplify visa issues for Ukrainians. The Consulate General in Vinnytsia will cover the Vinnytsia, Khmelnytskyi and Zhytomyr regions. Poland currently has General Consulates in Lviv, Lutsk, Odesa and Kharkiv. (Ukrinform)

Jackson's "This Is It" in Ukraine

KYIV – The documentary "This Is It," which is dedicated to the last months of "King of Pop" Michael Jackson arrived on October 28 in Ukrainian movie theaters. The documentary is a series about the 50-concert tour planned by the pop star that was scheduled to begin in July and continue through March 2010. Jackson died at age 50 on June 25 – 18 days before his planned first show. (Ukrinform)

Over 1,700 orphans adopted

KYIV – Ukrainians adopted 1,739 orphaned children and children deprived of parental care in the first nine months of 2009, or 225 more compared to the same period last year (1,514), the State Department on the Adoption and Protection of Children's Rights reported on October 29. Family, Youth and Sports Minister Yuri Pavlenko said that this data confirms the continuing trend of an increase in adoptions by Ukrainian citizens. (Ukrinform)



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що з волі Всевишнього, відійшла на Вічну Ватру у понеділок, 2-го листопада 2009 р., на 83-ому році життя, незабутня Сестра, Тета й Бабуся

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passed into eternity in her 103rd year on November 2nd, 2009

Viewing was held on Thursday, November 5th, 2009, at Peter Jarema Funeral Home in New York City. Funeral services were held on Friday, November 6th at St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York, followed by interment at St. Andrew's Cemetery in South Bound Brook, NJ.

In deep sorrow remain:

Sons: Dr. Jaroslaw Sydorak with wife Oksanna
Mark Sydorak with wife Elizabeth

Grandchildren: Andrew Sydorak with wife Kim and children Alex and Will
Dr. Roman Sydorak with wife Laura and children Harper and Dashiell
Larissa Zinycz with husband George
Darya Sydorak

Memorial donations can be made to UCEF (Ukrainian Catholic Educational Foundation), 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622 or The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E 6th St., New York, NY 10003

Vichnaya Pamiat! Eternal Memory!

Flu continues...

(Continued from page 1)

illnesses in Ivano-Frankivsk.

"Children, currently on recess, are walking the streets without anyone watching after them," said Zoya Tsykhon, a health official at the Ivano-Frankivsk State Oblast Administration.

Conflicting information still abounds in the mass media, with certain authorities, such as former Health Minister Mykola Polischuk, dismissing the outbreak as largely a typical seasonal flu outbreak no worse than in prior years, and others insisting that Ukrainians be vigilant and wear masks in public places.

Authorities have shifted their emphasis towards vaccinations, which may be offered for free by next month. Seasonal flu vaccines already received from Canada and the Russian Federation aren't yet registered in Ukraine, Chief State Medical Doctor Oleksander Bilovol said on November 11.

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko demanded throughout the week that President Viktor Yushchenko sign legislation passed overwhelmingly by Parliament releasing 1 billion hrv to buy medical equipment to combat the flu.

The president is contradicting himself when calling for mass vaccinations yet denying the financing to pay for them, she alleged, lacing into an emotional attack against him at the November 11 Cabinet of Ministers meeting.

"Until the law is signed and the government receives the necessary financial resources, we can't sign a single contract and fight the epidemic," she said. "We believe it's activity directed against Ukraine when the president doesn't sign – consciously for eight days – the law to

allocate money to fight the epidemic, when it was supported by almost the entire Parliament, more than 400 national deputies. The president holds personal responsibility for every person who falls ill or dies."

President Yushchenko dismissed Ms. Tymoshenko's claims as blackmail, adding that he's confident the budget could allow for 1 billion hrv for this year's increase and 5.5 billion hrv for next year. At the same time, however, he said Ms. Tymoshenko's request would require printing more money.

"To perform a [currency] emission means officially announcing today that we are proceeding with further devaluation of the national currency," the president said. "I won't be the author of such politics. When the National Bank gave the government 32 billion hrv (\$4 billion) for the third quarter and our hryvnia deeply suffered, the cost was a drop in real wages of 13 percent."

Tymoshenko Bloc Serhii Soboliev said the wages and pensions increase will actually cost 8 billion hrv, which makes it illogical for the president to reject the prime minister's request for \$1 billion.

The U.S. government announced on November 6 that it will donate 25 million doses of vaccines valued at \$10 million to the World Health Organization. In the initiative's first phase, Ukraine is scheduled to receive 930,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine in early December, the U.S. Embassy reported in a press release.

Under the Biological Threat Reduction Program, the U.S. government is also offering Ukraine's Central Sanitary Epidemiological Station equipment and test supplies to improve their diagnostic capabilities and ability to react to the outbreak of illnesses.

Increases...

(Continued from page 1)

Commission representatives in Kyiv, Ms. Tymoshenko said, "It will be exceptionally difficult without the fourth IMF tranche."

Approving the increases, President Yushchenko openly defied the IMF's demand that the government refrain from wage and pension hikes, which are viewed by political players and observers alike as a populist stunt during a presidential election campaign with no long-term benefits for the country.

Wage and pension increases, carried out without economic coordination as populist gimmicks, typically lead to consumer price inflation, which erases any gains, Ukrainian economists agreed.

"Increasing the minimum wage doesn't resolve the issue and can increase unemployment instead, which leads to the degradation of society," said Volodymyr Lanovyi, president of the Center for Market Reforms in Kyiv.

"When are wages raised? Only under conditions of growth in Gross Domestic Product, particularly GDP per capita, because there aren't any other sources of increasing income in society. It's not growing for us," he explained.

President Yushchenko stood to gain politically when undermining the Tymoshenko government twofold – creating additional spending requirements that are unattainable, while at the same time repelling financial relief from the IMF.

The president placed another obstacle in the way of the government on November 11 when he sent back to Parliament a bill raising excise taxes on cigarettes, which could have raised 6 billion hrv (\$741 million) in desperately needed government revenue, according to Serhii Soboliev, a Tymoshenko Bloc national deputy.

"He doesn't want her to get revenue to cover holes in the budget," said Dr. Oleh Soskin, director of the Institute of Society Transformation in Kyiv. "Moreover, he knows her money-laundering schemes for financing her election, and he's taken the course of stopping her by any means."

Dr. Soskin said he believes Ms. Tymoshenko has hatched a money-laundering scheme with her IMF counterparts, which is why IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn made a rare statement on November 9 declaring that no more tranches would be extended to Ukraine until after the presidential election.

"If not for his statement, the lowest rung would have said Ukraine needs the fourth tranche," said Dr. Soskin, an economic advisor to former President Leonid Kuchma. "He neutralized the lower and middle management of the IMF working with Ukraine." Ceila Pazarbasioglu is the head of the IMF mission to Ukraine.

A week after the president signed the wage and pension raises, the Verkhovna Rada approved amendments to the 2009 budget to finance the increases, infuriating Ms. Tymoshenko's allies, who called for the resignation of Rada First Vice-Chair Oleksander Lavrynovych of the Party of Regions.

He violated parliamentary regimen by leading a vote on the first reading of the amendments, without allowing a required second reading, the Tymoshenko Bloc stated in a November 6 press release.

Mr. Lavrynovych "deprived Ukrainian society of the chance to obtain objective information about the difficult and dangerous consequences of implementing the law on social standards, and corresponding changes to Ukraine's state budget," the statement said.

Furthermore, Parliament violated the Constitution because only the Cabinet of Ministers can initiate legislation to adjust wages and pensions, the prime minister told the diplomats. Should the president sign the amendments into law, she said

she would submit the legislation for review by the Constitutional Court.

Ms. Tymoshenko has relied on the IMF tranches – \$10.6 billion so far – to survive the financial crisis. Nevertheless, the government is virtually broke, Dr. Soskin said. It was left with about 3.3 billion hrv (\$407 million) in its treasury at the end of October, and needs about 1 billion hrv a day to function and make required payments.

To fulfill October payments to Gazprom, Ms. Tymoshenko spent Ukraine's share of its entitled Special Drawing Rights (known as SDRs) from the IMF, as well as restructured Naftohaz's required tax payments, UNIAN reported on November 5, citing an anonymous source in the Finance Ministry.

Ms. Tymoshenko acknowledged using Ukraine's IMF entitlements to fulfill Gazprom payments during her November 11 meeting with European diplomats. Just how she will pay for November and December obligations remains unclear, but economists are suspecting she will be forced to print money through more bond issuances.

"She has nothing to pay the November gas with," Dr. Soskin said.

Ms. Tymoshenko acknowledged as much when stating that the government had made its September and October natural gas payments to Gazprom, partly by using IMF loan money, in spite of inadequate revenues from privately owned gas intermediaries and utility companies.

The bankrupt natural gas system, with both government-owned and private distributors, has left 5 million Ukrainians without heat, Party of Regions National Deputy Volodymyr Rybak said on November 4.

About 4,300 schools and nurseries are without heating, he estimated, as well as 364 hospitals and medical clinics. Those estimates were confirmed by Vitalii Yakovenko, chair of the Heating Engineering Association of Ukraine.

To make payments beyond the required budget expenditures, Ms. Tymoshenko has repeatedly turned to printing additional money by issuing government bonds that are bought back by the National Bank of Ukraine.

About 18 billion hrv (\$2.2 billion) in bonds were issued in July to boost the finances of Naftohaz, Ukraine's state-owned natural gas distribution company. Ms. Tymoshenko also issued government bonds to restructure a \$500 million loan to foreign bankers on which Naftohaz defaulted on September 30.

"Parliament didn't authorize the loan's restructuring and bond issuance, which is a crime on her part," Dr. Soskin said of Ms. Tymoshenko. Meanwhile, the state railroad monopoly, UkrZaliznytsia, on November 11 defaulted on a \$550 million loan from Barclay's bank.

Another 9.8 billion hrv (\$1.2 billion) in bonds were approved in October to finance Euro-2012 preparations, and 44 billion hrv (\$5.4 billion) were printed to refinance bankrupt banks whose owners embezzled money and speculated on Ukraine's currency exchange.

While President Yushchenko thinks more money should be spent for wage and pension increases, he doesn't believe the government should be allowed to issue 1 billion hrv in bonds to finance efforts to cope with the influenza epidemic.

"All the vaccines are waiting for our payment, which we don't have because we don't have the president's signatures," Serhii Soboliev, a Tymoshenko Bloc parliamentary deputy, told the Channel 5 TV network on November 11.

"At the same time, precisely a week ago, the president signed a law increasing a hryvnia emission for 8 billion [hrv] for only two months. I am referring to the law that allegedly helps those with a minimum pension, though he knows very well that 8 billion hrv don't exist. He vetoes 1 billion hrv, but approves 8 billion hrv. Where's the logic?"

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Soccer

- Shakhtar Donetsk is in first place in Group J of the UEFA Europa League, with four wins and no losses, scoring 14 goals for and two against, for a total of 12 points. Club Brugge KV is in second place with 7 points. Donetsk defeated Brugge 4-1 on September 17, FK Partizan 4-1 on October 1, and Toulouse FC 4-0 on October 22 and 2-0 on November 5. Scorers for the Ukrainian club on November 5 were Luiz Adriano (49th minute) and Gai (63rd). Shakhtar's next match will be against Brugge on December 3, followed by a match against Partizan on December 16. With its latest win, Shakhtar qualified for the knockout stage with two matches to spare.

- Ukraine's women's team is in the qualifying rounds of the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup. Ukraine lost its first match in Group 4 against Poland 1-4 on September 19 and won its second match on October 25 against Bosnia-Herzegovina 7-0. Ukraine will play against Hungary on November 14 and on March 27, 2010, and against Romania on June 10, 2010. Ukraine is in fourth place in its group with eight goals for and four against with a total of three points.

- Dynamo Kyiv tied 2-2 with FC Internazionale Milano (Inter Milan) in the UEFA Champions League Group F match on October 20. Taras Mikhalik scored the opener goal in the fifth minute; Milan answered back in the 35th minute with a goal by Dejan Stankovic. After the half, Milan's Lucio scored an own goal in the 40th minute, and in the 47th minute Walter Samuel evened the score. In the follow-up match on November 4, Inter defeated Dynamo 2-1 with an opening goal from Andriy Shevchenko in the 21st minute. The second half was dominated by the Italian squad, which netted two more goals in the 86th (Milito) and 89th (Sneijder) minutes. Inter Milan lead Group F with six points, and Dynamo has fallen to the bottom of the group with four points after four games played. Dynamo's next match will be on November 24 against Russian club Rubin Kazan in Russia. Barcelona faces against Dynamo on December 9 in Kyiv.

- Coach Olexiy Mikhailichenko dropped veteran forward Andriy Voronin in naming the squad for Ukraine's World Cup qualifier against Greece on November 14, as reported by Reuters on

November 4. The 30-year-old striker fell out of favor with the coach after criticizing Ukraine's qualifier against Croatia, in which he didn't see any playing time. His last performance for the national team was in September against Belarus, which ended in a 0-0 draw. The named forwards for the upcoming match include: Andriy Shevchenko, Artem Milevsky, Volodymyr Homenyuk and Evgen Seleznev.

Boxing

- Viacheslav Senchenko retained his WBA welterweight title against Japan's Motoki Sasaki in Donetsk on October 3. The referees unanimously scored Senchenko the winner of the fight (119-107) that lasted 12 rounds. On the same card, Oleh Yefimovych defended his European featherweight title against Esham Pickering with a KO in the 3rd round.

- World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko (38-2, 37 KO) is scheduled to fight Kevin Johnson (22-0-1, 9 KO) on December 12 at PostFinance-Arena in Bern, Switzerland. The arena is renowned for having the largest standing-room grandstand capacity in the world – 10,422 people. Klitschko commented that he is also eager to fight David Haye of Great Britain, who recently won the WBA heavyweight title against Nikolai Valuev of Russia on November 9.

Tennis

- Serhiy Stakhovsky defeated Argentine Horacio Zeballos (2-6, 7-6, 7-6) and won the St. Petersburg Open on November 1, earning his second ATP title. Zeballos, who is ranked 54th, led 3-0 in the second-set tiebreaker but allowed 93rd-ranked Stakhovsky to reel off six straight points, winning it 10-8 to level the match. Stakhovsky, whose first title came last year in Zagreb, broke for a 4-3 lead in the third set and had a match point in the ninth game, but Zeballos held before breaking back. In the deciding tiebreak, both players held match points before the 23-year-old Kyiv native finally sealed victory 9-7.

- Alona Bondarenko advanced to the semi-final match but was defeated by Italy's Francesca Schiavone (4-6, 0-6) during the Kremlin Cup on October 24. Schiavone won the tournament.

Martial arts

- Ukraine's Sambo team collected nine

medals at the 2009 World Sambo and Combat Sambo Championships in Thessaloniki, Greece, held on November 5-9. Silver medalists were: Viktor Savinov (74 kg), Olha Lazoriv (52 kg) and Tetiana Savenko (72 kg). Bronze medalists were: Serhiy Balabn (82 kg), Ivan Vasylichuk (90 kg), Anastasia Matrosova (80 kg) and Olha Davydko (+80 kg). In Combat Sambo, Serhiy Hlushchenko (57 kg) won silver and Serhiy Chorny (52 kg) won bronze medals.

- Natalia Verloka defeated American Soolmaz Aboali and won the Karate World Cup 2009 in Wires, Poland, on October 10.

- Ukraine's men's team won four bronze medals at the Judo World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan, on October 10-11. Medalists included Anatoliy Laskuta (60 kg), Volodymyr Rohalsky (66 kg), Dmytro Sheretov (73 kg) and Vitaliy Dudchuk (81 kg).

Gymnastics

Oleksandr Yakubovsky and Vitaliy Nakonechny won three gold medals each at the Beresh Cup international artistic gymnastics tournament in Kherson, Crimea, on October 28. Yakubovsky won in vault, floor exercise and parallel bars, and Nakonechny won in floor exercise, pommel horse and high bar.

Figure skating

Seven skaters were approved to compete in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, British Columbia. The approved competitors for Ukraine in pairs are Tetiana Volosozhar/Stanislaw Morozov and Kateryna Kostenko/Roman Talan; in singles Anton Kovalevsky. Yet to be determined are the last pair of skaters (Alla Zadorozhniuk/Serhiy Verbylo or Alla Beknazarova/Volodymyr Zuyev) after the championships are held in Ukraine in December and in Europe in January 2010.

Chess

- Ukrainian grandmaster Vasyl Ivanchuk is in 12th place in the World Chess Federation (FIDE) rankings,

released on November 10. Other Ukrainian chess players ranked among the top 100 include Ruslan Ponomarev (13th), Pavel Eljanov (17th), Serhiy Karjakin (18th), Andriy Voloktin (44th), Evgenii Miroshnichenko (46th), Alexander Moiseenko (49th), Zahar Efimenko (56th), Alexander Areshchenko (62nd), Vladimir Baklan (73rd) and Anton Korobov (99th).

- Yuriy Kuzbov won the Spice Cup Grandmaster Invitational held in Lubbock, Texas, on September 29. The grandmaster tied for first place, with 5.5 points out of 10, with Dmitry Andreikin of Russia and Rauf Mamedov of Azerbaijan. An additional blitz tournament determined the victory for Kuzbov.

Weightlifting

Olena Kiriyenko (69 kg) won the bronze medal with a combined lift of 195 kg (87 + 108) at the Under-23 European Championships in Poland on October 16.

Fencing

Ukraine finished in fifth place at the 2009 World Fencing Championships in Antalya, Turkey, on October 6. Ukraine's team won three medals – one gold, one silver and one bronze. The women's saber team won gold and included Olha Kharlan, Olena Khomrova, Olha Zhovnir and Halyna Pundyk, Kharlan won the silver medal in the women's saber individual event. Anfisa Pochkalova won bronze in the women's epee event.

Cycling

Ukraine's cyclists won three bronze medals at the UCI Track World Cup 2009-2010 in Manchester, England, on October 30 through November 1. Serhiy Lahkuti won the bronze medal in the men's scratch race final and Ukraine won the men's team pursuit final, which included Maksym Fonrabe, Maksym Polishchuk, Vitaliy Shchedov and Roman Kononenko. Shchedov won bronze in men's individual pursuit. Additional legs of the tournament will take place on November 19-21 in Melbourne, Australia, followed by Cali, Columbia, on December 10-12, and Beijing, China, on January 22-24, 2010.

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Party of Regions...

(Continued from page 3)

outside. "This is a psychological attack," Mr. Yanukovich claimed. "Our opponents, no doubt, will rub their hands that we are arguing and disillusioning Crimeans and they will then support Yulia Tymoshenko. I am certain that our political opponents will receive a stern response from Crimean voters in the presidential elections," Mr. Yanukovich said on Crimean television on September 26. Such words ignore the real personal and business conflicts that plague the Party of Regions in Crimea, Odesa and elsewhere.

Pro-Russian extremists

Business rivalries in Odesa have led to the removal of local oligarch Leonid Klimov from the leadership of the Party of Regions amid fears that this will reduce the financial resources available to Mr. Yanukovich to campaign in the Odesa area.

Mr. Klimov's local business empire controls all of the regional branches of the PRU in the Odesa Oblast in a process that is not atypical for the party: a fusion of business with politics.

If Mr. Yanukovich were to lose the elections, the PRU would lose its leading position in southern Ukraine, Komentari (September 11) predicted. Mr. Klimov was removed because of his 'scandalous' image, Komentari (September 11) wrote, which damaged the local popularity of the PRU, and further reduced its support to 22 percent from a high of 62 percent in the September 2007 pre-term elections.

The Party of Regions is seeking other supporters for the local Odesa branch, and among them is the scandalous Rodina (Homeland) Party. This would place the PRU in an unholy alliance with an extremist pro-Russian force whose leader, Igor

Markov, has a criminal history that extends back to 1995. Mr. Markov has been on a Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) wanted list since September 11 and is believed to have fled from a clinic to the separatist Transdnestr enclave in neighboring Moldova. This would not be the first occasion when suspects have been permitted to flee from Ukraine by corrupt or incompetent (or both) law enforcement officers.

In Odesa, Rodina Party activists had undertaken a campaign of terror over the last three years against pro-Ukrainian and Orange supporters, particularly in summer 2007 when Ukrainian NGOs organized protests against the unveiling of a monument to Tsarina Catherine. Mr. Markov's reign of terror culminated in the tragic murder in April of a 21-year old Ukrainian nationalist student activist, Maksym Chaika, by the Antifa (Anti-Fascist) NGO linked to the Rodina Party. This would be the second known occasion when a Ukrainian nationalist activist has been murdered by Russian nationalists, the first being the singer Ihor Bilozir who was murdered in Lviv in May 2000.

Mr. Markov is known to have financed from his own sources, and with Russian covert money, a network of anti-Ukrainian organizations throughout Odesa. His anti-Ukrainian violent activities within the city over the last three years were ignored by Mr. Yushchenko and the two institutions that the president constitutionally controls: the SBU and Procurator-General's Office until the Chaika murder.

Rodina has been financed by local organized crime and Russian intelligence, according to the SBU and the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry. Two Russian diplomats were expelled from Ukraine in August after they were accused of undertaking activities "incompatible with their status" (i.e., espionage). The diplomats were the consul general in Odesa and a

senior adviser to the Russian ambassador whose responsibility included the Black Sea Fleet. The Odesa consul has also covertly provided financial assistance to Rodina.

Two potential pitfalls

If Mr. Yanukovich wins the presidential elections, the Party of Regions will be in power and will take on responsibility for the first time. The PRU has been in opposition throughout the Yushchenko era (even though it came first in both the 2006 and 2007 elections) and has therefore escaped the responsibility that goes along with being in government.

A President Yanukovich would face hostility from two sources. Firstly, from a non-cooperative Orange parliamentary majority that will likely grow in size out of opposition to Mr. Yanukovich (as in 2006-2007). Secondly, from a non-cooperative Tymoshenko government. Mr. Yanukovich will attempt to disband Parliament in order to change the coalition and government – a step that will put him on a collision course with Tymoshenko, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, and Mr. Yushchenko may support pre-term elections in order to establish their own parliamentary factions.

If Mr. Yanukovich loses the elections, the PRU will most likely replace him as leader, particularly as he would have then lost two presidential elections. The replacement of Mr. Yanukovich could well lead to a major – and overdue – split in the Party of Regions. In Crimea the already deeply divided PRU would inevitably splinter further, leaving a vacuum into which the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc could expand its presence (Ukrayinska Pravda, October 6). Ultimately, the PRU needs to be led by its own Yatsenyuk, a representative of the younger generation of PRU leaders.

Conclusions

The Party of Regions is the only centrist political party that has survived the post-Kuchma era in good shape; the majority of other centrist parties have become marginalised or have disintegrated. This stems from the fact that, of the centrist parties, only the PRU had two strong regional bases (Donetsk-Luhansk [Donbas] and Crimea) from which to launch a comeback during the Yushchenko era. Although the Industrial Union of the Donbas (IUD) is a regional business competitor to Systems Capital Management, whose CEO, Mr. Akhmetov, is a major PRU sponsor, the IUD has never sponsored its own political party in the Donbas.

This makes the Donbas region different from the two other centrist regional strongholds: Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv. In Dnipropetrovsk, the Labor Party (led in the Kuchma era by Viktor Pinchuk and Serhii Tihipko and linked to Mr. Pinchuk's Interpipe) competed with Igor Kolomoisky (Pryvat) who supported the Orange Revolution and President Yushchenko. In Kyiv, the Social Democratic Party United could never establish its dominance because the city has traditionally backed national democratic and Orange parties.

The Party of Regions is fractured along four axes and held together by what it opposes and fears, rather than by a concrete ideology of what the party seeks to achieve. As an opposition party, it has been ineffective in proposing concrete alternatives to Prime Minister Tymoshenko's government policies. In addition, Mr. Yanukovich has been an ineffective opposition leader.

The article above is reprinted, with permission, from Dr. Taras Kuzio's bimonthly Ukraine Analyst. It appears in the October 31 issue. (See www.taraskuzio.net.)

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Receives award for physics research

CULVER CITY, Calif. – Viktor Konstanyin Decyk, Ph.D., of the University of California, Los Angeles, received an award given by the International Conference on Numerical Simulation of Plasmas for his pioneering advances to plasma physics obtained through simulations. The award was presented during the 21st international conference, which took place in Lisbon, Portugal, on October 6-9.

A plasma physicist, Dr. Decyk works at UCLA, primarily in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, but also in the Institute for Digital Research and Education (IDRE). His specialty is the development of numerical models for computer modeling of plasmas.

The International Conference on Numerical Simulation of Plasmas recog-

nized Dr. Decyk for “his seminal contributions to the development of parallel algorithms for particle-in-cell simulations, for his subtraction technique, and for the body of work which has benefited from his PIC codes and software.”

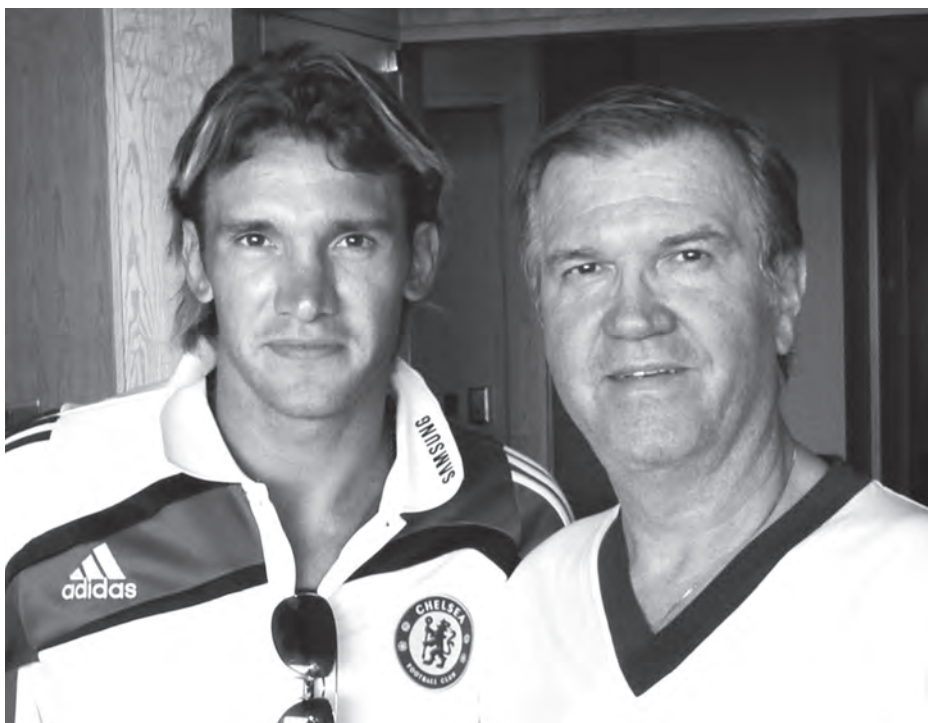
Dr. Decyk explained: “What this really means is that I was a pioneer in developing algorithms for particle simulations in plasma, and that many others have benefited from this work. Since the award is given only every two years and is named after my advisor, John Dawson, I am particularly happy to receive it.”

Dr. Decyk is a fellow of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and a member of the Ukrainian National Association. He and his wife, Betsy Decyk, the ombudsman at California State University in Long Beach, live in Culver City, Calif. Their daughter Marika just started medical school at Tufts University in Boston. Dr. Decyk is the son of Taissa Decyk Meleshko of Apopka, Fla., and the late Dr. Wolodymyr Decyk.



Dr. Victor Decyk delivers his acceptance address at the International Conference on Numerical Simulation of Plasmas, where he was honored for his pioneering research.

Meets with soccer star Shevchenko



SEATTLE – Jaroslaw Pikolycky (right) met with soccer star Andriy Shevchenko at the Four Seasons Hotel prior to an exhibition match between Shevchenko’s former club FC Chelsea of England and the Seattle Sounders FC on July 18. During their meeting, the two spoke in Ukrainian, which Mr. Pikolycky noted made the meeting that much more memorable. Chelsea defeated the Sounders 2-0 in front of 67,000 fans at Qwest Field Stadium in Seattle. Mr. Pikolycky resides in La Jolla, Calif., and is a member of UNA Branch 39.

A top attorney in Michigan

ROYAL OAK, Mich. – Andrey T. Tomkiw, of Royal Oak-based Tomkiw Dalton, plc, has been named by Michigan Super Lawyers magazine as a top attorney in Michigan for 2009. Only 5 percent of the lawyers in the state are named by Super Lawyers.

Mr. Tomkiw was selected for his work in representing management in employment and labor law issues. He has dedicated his legal career to representing employers in labor and employment law cases, and in related business matters, with focus on litigation avoidance counseling. Mr. Tomkiw is a skilled negotiator in dealing with unions and frequently advocates on behalf of employers in front of numerous state and federal agencies.

His experience also includes successfully defending numerous discrimination and sexual harassment litigation matters, as well as complex commercial disputes. He counsels employers extensively in the implementation and administration of workplace policies, with an emphasis on workplace violence and navigating the complexities of the various state and federal employment laws.

The selections for Super Lawyers are made by Law & Politics, a division of



Andrey T. Tomkiw

Key Professional Media, of Minneapolis. Each year, Law & Politics undertakes a rigorous multi-phase selection process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, independent evaluation of candidates by Law & Politics’ attorney-led research staff, a peer review of candidates by practice area, and a good-standing and disciplinary check.

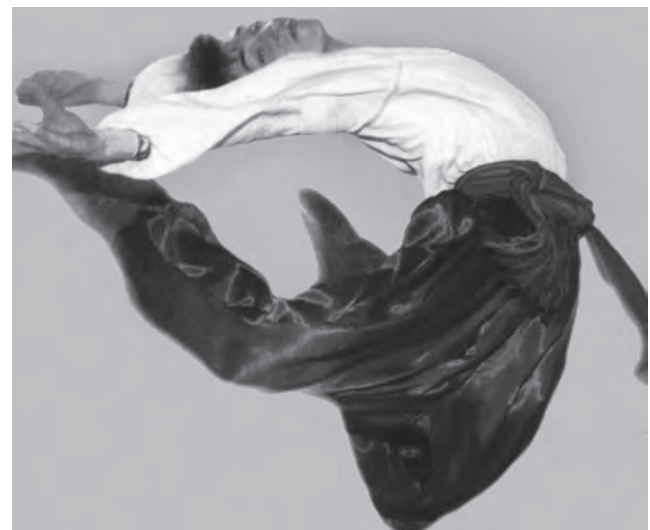
“Notes on People” is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian community. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person’s UNA branch number (if applicable). Items will be published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

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All-star teams from four orphanages: Lutuhene, (Luhansk Obl); Mizoch (Rivne Obl); Donetsk Orphanage #1 and Kremenets, (Ternopil Obl) competed for the second Little League Baseball Championships for orphans.

Championship game results on October 4, 2009: Donetsk 21 - Mizoch 8. All the children were winners.

The Lead Sponsor for this Championship for orphans was the Chopivsky Foundation.

Thank you so much for being there for all the children. You truly care and you showed it.

There were many hits, many runs and so many smiles from the children. These smiles are for you. You, who helped me help the almost forgotten children of Ukraine play baseball, compete in skills competition and visit local cultural sites.

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And thanks to the many kind individuals who purchased Ukrainian sports souvenirs from me at various Ukrainian Festivals.

The third annual Ukraine Little League Baseball Championships for children from orphanages is planned for late September of 2010. Financial help is needed. Please consider helping me help those almost forgotten children.

To contribute or to learn more about this program for orphan and / or abandoned children please contact:

Basil (Vasyli) P. Tarasko

District Administrator - Little League Baseball Orphanage Project in Ukraine
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e mail: bt4ukraine@aol.com

please visit: www.ukrainebaseball.org

CIUS scholars...

(Continued from page 10)

dent over the last several months that political relations between Ukraine and Russia are associated with the treatment of events and personalities of World War II in Ukraine.

While Ukraine was still part of the Soviet Union, especially in the Brezhnev years, a Soviet myth of the war was constructed, idealizing it as a great struggle against fascism, emphasizing the military victory over Nazi Germany, and propagating a type of Russian patriotism and nationalism associated with the war effort. Referred to as World War II worldwide, in the Soviet Union the war was glorified as the Great Patriotic War.

This Soviet-era myth, imposed on society at large by the Communist Party, Soviet state institutions, and public officials, helped mold the prevailing historical memory, or commonly held view, of the war. This historical memory became an important element in the identity of many, if not most, Soviet citizens, including Ukrainians. It was reinforced not only by the educational system but also through public commemorations of the war and Ukraine's role in it, as well as representations of the war in art, film and literature.

Following Ukraine's independence, events and subjects related to the war that had been forbidden or treated negatively during the Soviet period began to be re-examined by historians and others, including public figures. However, there is as yet no consensus on a new view of the war more accurately reflecting the specifics of Ukraine's experience in World War II. Some views of the war remain highly contentious, while particular events are not fully known or understood. Ukrainian historical memory can be described today as hybrid or perhaps fractured, with some specifically Ukrainian national elements grafted onto the traditional Soviet model.

Defenders of the pro-Soviet view are now receiving the strong support of official figures in Russia, including Prime

Minister Vladimir Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev. They have recently decried efforts to revise pro-Soviet views of the war in Ukraine and criticized President Viktor Yushchenko's support for a favorable treatment of the national-liberation struggle of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

The conference examined the politics of memory in Ukraine and in neighboring and nearby countries – Poland, Russia, Germany and Belarus. Papers were presented and discussions held on theoretical issues pertaining to memory. Some presenters at the conference focused on controversial, painful and still not fully researched questions, including Polish-Ukrainian massacres and ethnic cleansings and the Holocaust in Ukraine.

The conference wrestled with issues that bear directly on today's politics of memory in Ukraine and also abroad. Its proceedings helped integrate the academic discussion of World War II in Ukraine with the international scholarly reflections on this topic.

The conference was international in scope, as scholars from many European countries, the United States and Canada took part. It was co-sponsored by more than 20 academic institutions and government bodies, including the Embassy of Canada and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta.

Two CIUS scholars, Bohdan Klid and Mykola Soroka, participated in the conference and presented papers at the session on "Culture and the Formation of Memory." Dr. Klid's paper discussed "Historical Memory of World War II and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in Ukrainian Rock and Hip Hop Music." Dr. Soroka's paper dealt with "Memory of World War II in Ukrainian Émigré Literature."

Olesya Khromeichuk, a Ph.D. student at the School of Slavonic Studies, University College of London, who received a scholarship from CIUS, gave a paper on "The Reconstruction of World War II Memory and Its Contemporary Political Framing: The Case of Ukrainian Surrendered Enemy Personnel."



At the session on culture and the formation of memory (from left) are: Myron Stachiw (Fulbright Program in Ukraine) and Mykola Soroka (Canada).

Experts downplay...

(Continued from page 2)

Yanukovich's presidential campaign in 2004, when accusations of vote rigging following his initial victory sparked the Orange Revolution that brought Mr. Yushchenko to power.

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27 students...

(Continued from page 13)

(Zhyvi) by Serhiy Bukovsky (2008) was timed to coincide with Prof. Graziosi's treatment of the Holodomor in his history class, thus resulting in a unique synergy and sparking further discussion. A series of short films – "The River" by Tamara Karpynsa, "Oath" by Maryna Vroda, "T" by Mykhailo Kaliuzhny and "Taxi Driver" by Roman Bondarchuk – was also shown. "The Fourth Wave" by Victoria Melnykova concluded the summer film series.

This summer's evening lecture series offered a particularly diverse program of experts and scholars. Former Vice-Minister of Defense of Ukraine and recent HURI Research Fellow Leonid Polyakov began the series and spoke about the regional context of Ukraine's security.

During the month of July HUSI hosted five talks. Joyce Dove, founder and director of Foundation for Children Inc., gave a lively and impassioned talk about the good work that the foundation has undertaken during the last 12 years to assist orphanages in Crimea.

The noted Ukrainian American writer Askold Melnyczuk conducted a writing workshop for HUSI and other Harvard Summer School students, and even managed to have the participants write small pieces of prose during the two-hour session.

Prof. Oxana Shevel of Tufts University delivered an extremely well-attended talk on a subject of comparative politics, "The Politics of Memory in a Divided Society: A

Comparison of Post-Franco Spain and Post-Soviet Ukraine."

Prof. Mykhailo Minakov of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy paid his first visit to Harvard University to speak on the topic of "The Logic of Political Populism and Institutional Responses."

Wrapping up the 2009 HUSI summer seminar series was a lecture that had much to say not only to the students but also to the broader community. Adrian Slywotzky, a partner at Oliver Wyman, a global management consultancy firm, addressed issues concerning the global economic downturn and its effects on Ukraine in a talk titled "Surviving the Perfect Storm: How We Got into This Economy and How We Can Get Out."

A reception was held on Friday, August 7, to mark the end of the term and students received certificates of accomplishment. Three students – Iuliia Kysla of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and Kherson; James Marsh of the Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Program at Harvard University; and Anastasiya Prymowych of the Ukrainian Catholic University and Lviv – received the Theodosius and Irene Senkowsky Prize for Achievement in Ukrainian Studies for their extraordinary efforts.

Established in 1989 through the generous donation of Marta and Ostap Tarnawsky of Philadelphia in memory of Mrs. Tarnawsky's parents, the prize honors those students who the faculty agrees have demonstrated exceptional achievement over the course of their work in the program.

Eighteen candidates...

(Continued from page 6)

ing one of the most alarming statements during Ukraine's influenza epidemic.

He made the statement amidst the president's requests for public calm and accusations that it was Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko fueling panic in society.

No other leading politician saw any need to call martial law or postpone the election, and the public largely ignored the latest presidential brainstorm. On November 10, the president acknowledged just as much, his own panic apparently subsiding.

Ukraine's political parties are using ever more innovative techniques to mobilize their otherwise disillusioned voters, but few are as effective in the art of manipulation as the tried and true method of hate and violence.

The Zaporizhia leadership of the Party of Regions of Ukraine decided to make use of St. Mary the Protectress Feast Day (October 14) – also considered the founding date of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, which fought the communists and the Nazis – to mobilize their supporters to attack Ukrainian patriots.

Despite the fact that local courts forbid any rallies in the city center, more than 30 Ukrainian patriots held an improvised march on October 18, which was countered by more than 1,500 supporters of the Party of Regions and Communist Party, called by their leaders to an illegal rally that was guarded by police officers.

When the UPA supporters approached police officers, "people under Party of Regions flags near the police barrier threw themselves at the patriots, beating and shooting at the Zaporizhia residents," reported Oleh Osukhovskiy, the chair of the Lustration civic organization in Kyiv.

"I saw with my own eyes someone who emerged from the group of Regions supporters, took out a gun and began shooting at us," said Yurii Hudymenko, organizer of the UPA march.

"Members of the patriotic organization Nebo

(Sky) gathered to hold an 'avtoprobih' (parade of automobiles). They had two cars and drove through the central streets with a red-black (nationalist) flag."

The Regions thugs stopped the cars, dragged the girls out and beat them, Mr. Hudymenko said. After the assaults, the Zaporizhia police arrested seven assaulted patriots, while supporting the attackers, offering a verbal rebuke to the gunslinger, "You don't need to do that."

Attacks continued on the remaining patriots as about 40 Regions thugs chased them into courtyards and beat them with police supervision, he said. Meanwhile, the arrested patriots were charged with petty hooliganism. About 20 patriots were beaten, two of were hospitalized, Mr. Hudymenko said.

"If the Party of Regions and Communist Party and their satellites are so concerned about UPA and the nationalists that they 'called the people to the streets,' then why were there only four people representing these forces in the summer when we held a march in honor of [UPA Commander Roman] Shukhevych on the central streets of Zaporizhia?" Mr. Hudymenko asked rhetorically at an October 23 press conference. "Perhaps because elections are around the corner. These Ukrainians were simply used."

Lustration asked the Procurator General of Ukraine to file criminal charges against the assailants. It also demanded that the Internal Affairs Ministry punish those police officers who stood by as the attacks, including the shootings from pneumatic guns, were allowed to happen.

In standard Soviet fashion, however, that would have made his Bolshevik forefathers proud, City Council Member Volodymyr Kaltsev of the PRU claimed afterwards to local journalists that it was the outnumbered Ukrainian patriots who shot at the Regions supporters.

"Zaporizhia isn't Kyiv or Lviv," Mr. Hudymenko wrote on the Olena Bilozerska blog, a forum for Ukrainian patriots. "Our government customs haven't changed from the Soviet times."

No kidding.

(More details of the incident are available at: <http://bilozerska.livejournal.com/184292.html>.)



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Inaugural Kinofest NYC film festival slated for February

NEW YORK – The inaugural Kinofest NYC film festival will take place at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City over the weekend of February 26-28, 2010.

Philadelphia-based Kinofilm Project is spearheading this premier international film festival in close partnership with The Ukrainian Museum. These two organizations have a keen interest in promoting independent Ukrainian film and are now working in concert to bring Ukrainian and post-Soviet film to a growing New York City audience.

Festival Director and Kinofilm Project founder Andrew Kotliar expressed his enthusiasm about the upcoming festival and about working with a visionary organizing team, which includes award-winning director Damian Kolodiy; the museum's program director, Hanya Krill; and Kyiv-based filmmaker Dmytro Zacharevych.

"The time has come for New Yorkers to experience a weekend festival dedicated to contemporary film from Ukraine and the former Soviet bloc," said Mr. Kotliar. "As a multicultural global center of media and entertainment, New York is the ideal location for a festival that combines the amenities of a big city and the best in emerging film from an often overlooked region of Eastern Europe."

"We are designing this festival to mirror two of the more notable festivals that take place in Kyiv every year – Molodist

and Vidkryta Nich (Open Night), he said. "Despite the fact that Molodist does not showcase Ukrainian film per se, it is the highest-profile film festival in Ukraine. Vidkryta Nich, on the other hand, is more of a casual open-air experience where independent, young Ukrainian filmmakers have an opportunity to showcase their talents."

Mr. Kotliar explained: "Our ultimate goal is to bring together established and emerging film talent within a context that is true to its roots, while simultaneously maintaining broad, international appeal. It's an ambitious undertaking, but our intention is for Kinofest NYC to combine the ambience of Molodist with the bare-bones essence of Vidkryta Nich."

Mr. Kolodiy, a New York filmmaker who is the program director of Kinofest NYC, is currently putting together a comprehensive programming schedule for the festival. A veteran of the independent film festival circuit through his experience with his award-winning film "The Orange Chronicles," Mr. Kolodiy noted that, while the event will focus on emerging films produced in Ukraine, plans are also under way to include works from other countries of the former Soviet bloc.

"Regardless of nationality, people who lived under the shadow of Soviet authoritarian rule continue to share a common heritage. Twenty years have passed since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and a new generation of filmmakers from this part of

the world is now coming of age. Their films reveal a creativity that shows they are moving on from the immediate memory of the past, and are interpreting it from a fresh perspective. These filmmakers also do not hesitate to address and create the future."

"Kinofest NYC is about celebrating the independent spirit of interesting and original storytelling," said Mr. Kolodiy. "Bringing together diverse voices and films with a focus on Ukraine and other Soviet bloc countries is our goal; other than this geographic focus, we do not favor any single style or topic. We are looking for great films and interesting points of view from residents of these countries, or from 'foreigners' who see this geographic region through a Western, or other, perspective."

The film festival represents the first collaborative effort between Kinofilm Project and The Ukrainian Museum. Ms. Krill, program director at the museum,

says the timing of the festival could not be better. "Over the past two years, the museum has begun to develop an in-house film program that represents the ideals of the museum in a powerful and universal medium," Ms. Krill noted. "I'm very pleased that The Ukrainian Museum will host this introductory festival, as a more appropriate venue would be difficult to find. With our East Village location, we are advantageously situated in the heart of New York's historic Ukrainian community. While we expect to draw a sizable crowd from our local patrons, we are looking to tap into the New York film-going audience, as well as the considerable student population that lives just blocks away."

The Ukrainian Museum is located in the East Village at 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues. For more information about Kinofest NYC readers may visit www.kinofestNYC.com.

UUARC sends...

(Continued from page 4)

Dovhopyat). The UUARC's representatives in Lviv, Andriy Dyda and Alexandra Spiriak, worked with the three oblasts. The cargo transportation service and the leading forwarding company granted their time, services, equipment and packaging free of charge.

Special thanks were expressed by the UUARC to David Hennessey at AeroSvit Cargo and John Khodov at Delex Inc., for

getting the cargo packaged and ready for shipment in such a short period of time, as well as to Paul Bandriwsky of Chicago for initiating the contacts.

Requests from other oblasts have been received through the Ukrainian Embassy in the United States and its Consulates, as well as the two UUARC offices in Ukraine. The UUARC is conducting a fund-raising campaign to cover the \$75,000 cost of the initial shipment and future shipments. The Consulate Generals in Chicago and New York are helping with the solicitation of funds.

Preview of events...

(Continued from page 24)

Ukrainian Catholic Church will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a series of events beginning with an Exhibit of Religious and Ethnic Art on Saturday, November 28, through Monday, November 30. On displays will be: icons, church architecture, embroidered ecclesiastical vestments and other church objects, traditional embroidered "rushnyky," ritual breads, pysanky, ceramics woodcarvings; national costumes and Ukrainian contemporary embroidery and "merezhyvo" will also be featured. A wall hanging/quilt embroidered by several dozen ladies of the parish with the squares representing specific regions of Ukraine will be unveiled. There will also be workshops, lectures, a gift shop and tours of the church. Admission is free. The celebration continues with a moleben on Friday, December 4, at 3 p.m., followed by an anniversary concert at 3:30 p.m. Solemn divine liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday, December 6, at 10 a.m. and a jubilee dinner will follow at 12:30 p.m. For information contact Roman Maluk, 941-497-3548 or rlmaluk@verizon.net.

Saturday, December 5

PALATINE, IL: The Ukrainian American Veterans 1st Lt. Ivan Shandor Post 35 in Palatine and the Palatine Chapter of ACT invite you to a presentation "Why the U.S. Wins Wars and Will Win the War on

Terror," presented by Prof. Larry Schweikart of Dayton University. Prof. Schweikart is the author of "America's Victories," "48 Liberal Lies" and co-author of "A Patriot's History of the United States." He is also a commentator on Fox News. The presentation will take place at 2-4 p.m. at the Palatine Public Library located at 700 N. Court, Palatine, IL 60067. There is no charge for the event. For more information call Roman Golash, 847-910-3532, or e-mail romangolash@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, December 19

BETHESDA, Md.: The Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies will host a Mykolai Show and Holiday Bazaar. Students will present "Mykolai-Superhero" at noon. Sviaty Mykolai (St. Nicholas) will then meet with each grade/age group (non-students welcome). The Heavenly Office will be open at 9:15-11:45 a.m.; please bring only one item per child (\$2 fee), clearly labeled (child's full name, grade/age). The bazaar/bake sale at 9:30 a.m.-noon will feature: torte slices, fancy cookies for your holiday cookie tray, kolachi, makivnyky, medivnyky, children's sweets, varenyky and vushka (frozen), books, CDs, gift items. Location: Westland Middle School, 5511 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda, MD 20816. For further information visit <http://www.ukieschool.org/events.htm>, or contact Lada Onyshkevych, lada2@verizon.net or 410-730-8108.

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.**



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Живі голоси Йосипа Гірняка
та Олімпії Добровольської,
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від середи до неділі
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OUT AND ABOUT

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| November 17
Toronto | Lecture by Andrea Graziosi, "The Holodomor and the Soviet Famines, 1931-1933," Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies, Trinity College, www.webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/eventdetails.aspx?eventid=7358 | November 21
New York | Dance, featuring music by Vox Ethnica, St. George Academy, school auditorium, 212-473-3323 or 917-915-2209 |
| November 17
University Park, PA | Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company, Eisenhower Auditorium at Penn State, 800-ARTS-TIX or www.cpa.psu.edu | November 21
Alexandria, VA | Concert, featuring pianist Valentyna Lisitsa, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 703-655-2301 |
| November 18
Binghamton, NY | Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company, Binghamton University, 607-777-ARTS or www.binghamton.edu | November 21
Stoughton, MA | Dance, featuring music by Udech, Ukrainian American Educational Center of Boston, Club Luis De Camoes, 508-245-1890 or skosteckii108@comcast.net |
| November 19
Chicago | Concert, featuring music by Ephyra, Darkroom, www.etix.com or ephyraband@gmail.com | November 21-22
Washington | Christmas Bazaar, Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 202-526-3737 |
| November 20
Rockville, MD | Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company, Montgomery College, 301-279-5301 | November 22
London, ON | Film screening, "Bereza Kartuzka" by Yuriy Luhovy, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 519-204-1647 |
| November 20
New York | Conference, "The Orange Revolution: Five Years Since," Columbia University, ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu or 212-854-4697 | November 22
Arlington, VA | Film screening with filmmaker, "Between Hitler and Stalin" by Slavko Nowytski, Arlington Sister City Association, Shirlington Library, www.arlingtonsisitercity.org |
| November 20
Whippany, NJ | Dinner and Jazz Night, featuring music by Grupo Yuri, Sports, Recreation and Fitness Committee, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-585-7175 | November 22
Union, NJ | Concert, featuring the Voloskhy Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Kean University Wilkins Theater, 908-737-7469 |
| November 20
New York | Lecture with Jaroslawa Gerulak, "The Enchanted World of Halyna Cigash," Ukrainian National Women's League of America Art Gallery, 212-260-4490 or www.unwla.org | November 22
Philadelphia | Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company, with free performance by Svitanya Women's Vocal Ensemble, Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, www.kimmelcenter.org or 215-893-1999 |
| November 21
New York | "Winter Vechornytsi," Ukrainian East Village Restaurant, 212-571-1555 ext. 35 | | |
| November 21
New York | 25th anniversary gala, Ukrainian National Women's League of America - Branch 113, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-460-8615 or 718-721-5675 | | |

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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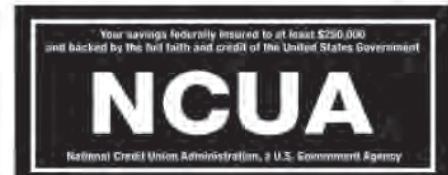
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Soyuzivka's Datebook

November 13-15 Plast Orlykiada November 26 Thanksgiving
November 21-22 Private function December 31 New Year's Eve



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, November 20

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The Sports, Recreation and Fitness Committee of the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey cordially invites all to attend "Dinner and Jazz Night." The evening will begin with a buffet dinner at 7:30 p.m., followed by a performance by Grupo Yuri at 8 p.m. This group features acclaimed violinist Yuri Turchyn with his quintet, and performs a fusion of diverse styles from World Beat, Latin and jazz flavors. The group has performed recently at New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), Teatro Si, South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC), Red Bank Jazz and Blues Festival, Trumpets Jazz Club, The Cavalier Social Lounge, Black River Jazz Festival, Shanghai Jazz Club, Tim McLoone's Supper Club and other venues. Tickets are \$35 per person; seating is limited and advance reservations are required. Attire is casual. For reservations and event information call 973-884-3336. Net event proceeds will benefit the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey. The UACCNJ is located at 60 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07504.

Saturday, November 21

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) and its Medicine and Biology Section invite all to a lecture by Dr. Alexandra Kushnir, director of the NTSh Section of Medicine and Biology, and Dr. Marta Kushnir, medical director consultant, on the subject "Medical Life Insurance: Risk Assessment and the Application Process." The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: Valentina Lisitsa, pianist, will give a recital at 7 p.m. at the

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, VA 22302. Admission is free, seating is unreserved. For information call 703-549-4766.

NEW YORK: The Center for Traditional Music and Dance and Ukrainian Wave present "Winter Vechornytsi" (Village Dance Party), 7:30-11 p.m. at the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant, 140 Second Ave. (between Eighth and Ninth streets). Enjoy Carpathian mountain music by the Cheres band, led by Andriy Milavsky, and learn traditional Ukrainian dances with dance master Tamara Chernyakhovska. Dance instruction is at 7:30-8:15 p.m.; dance party, 8:30-11 p.m. Admission: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children; all ages welcome. For further information call 212-571-1555, ext. 35.

Tuesday, November 24 -
Thursday, December 24

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America is pleased to announce the opening of "Remediation," an exhibition by Ukrainian Canadian artist Taras Polataiko. The show will be on view from November 24 through December 24. A reception for the artist will be held on Tuesday evening, November 24, at 6-8 pm. The exhibition will feature paintings from "Glare" and "Cut" series, the photographic series "Human Locomotion," the video works "Kyiv Classical" and "Dreams," and the sound sculpture "Pyramid." Much of the work in the show revisits seminal moments of art history and concerns itself with the practice of remediation. For information call the UIA, 212-288-8660.

Saturday, November 28 -
Sunday December 6

NORTH PORT, Fla.: The Presentation of the Most Holy Mother of God (St. Mary's)

(Continued on page 22)

KIMMELCENTER PRESENTS



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