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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukrainian government exploits fears of a new winter gas crisis

by Roman Kupchinsky
Eurasia Daily Monitor

In December 2009 Ukrainian officials descended on Washington with one overriding mission: to convince the Obama administration that without the financial help of the International Monetary Fund, Ukraine might be unable to supply the European Union with Russian gas this winter. This badly disguised attempt at blackmail on the part of both Petro Poroshenko, the confectionary oligarch and a member of President Viktor Yushchenko's inner circle, and recently appointed foreign affairs minister and Hryhoriy Nemyria, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's right-hand man, was so transparent and brazen that few in Washington were inclined to believe them.

In a further sign of disenchantment and frustration with the current Ukrainian leadership, EU leaders speaking at the 13th EU-Ukraine summit in Kyiv on December 4, 2009, blasted the lack of promised constitutional reforms in the country, its erratic gas policies and placed part of the blame for past breakdowns in supplying Russian gas to Europe on Ukraine.

Jose Barroso, the head of the European Commission, was blunt in his criticism of Mr. Yushchenko: "Mr. President, I will speak honestly with you. We are often led to believe that Ukrainian promises about reforms are only partially fulfilled and that words are not followed by deeds" (Kommersant, December 7, 2009).

Mr. Yushchenko hastily rejected these charges and placed the blame for the lack of reform on the government of Yulia Tymoshenko and the Parliament. He also defended Ukraine's record as a reliable transit country for Russian gas and assured the summit that there would be no disruptions in gas supplies this winter (www.unian.net, December 17, 2009).

Despite President Yushchenko's calming words, Foreign Affairs Minister Poroshenko sang a different tune during his later visit to Washington: "Ukraine is confident Europe will not see another winter of gas supply disruptions, but there will be a higher risk if the IMF does not resume lending to its distressed economy," Mr. Poroshenko stated (www.unian.net, December 13, 2009). His use of the words "higher risk" in describing the situation was deceptively close to blackmail.

The same can be said of Vice Prime Minister Nemyria's statement reported in the Financial Times on December 11, 2009. "The next three months are crucial," he claimed. One day after returning from a mission to the IMF's headquarters in Washington, Mr. Nemyria asserted: "Wait and see is not an option. The cost

of inaction is greater than the cost of action and may aggravate the situation in the wider region." Apparently the IMF had a number of good reasons to stop lending money to Ukraine.

According to an article by analyst Tammy Lynch on the Jamestown Foundation blog on Eurasia, on December 10, 2009, in the wake of the freezing of IMF and World Bank funding, and following repeated statements by President Yushchenko calling for the renegotiation of a Russia-Ukraine gas deal supported by the EU, there was little to discuss. It seems EU leaders believe Ukraine has not lived up to its side of the negotiated bargain. This is true - but the EU has not been in a collaborative mood itself (www.isria.com, December 10, 2009; www.ukrainianjournal.com, November 19, 2009).

The EU's refusal to even mention the far distant possibility of EU membership for Ukraine has consistently irked the country's leadership, who several years ago needed some hope on which to develop its reforms. More recently, the EU and Ukraine signed a joint declaration at the EU-Ukraine International Investment Conference on the Modernization of Ukraine's Gas Transit System. Among other things, the declaration commits Ukraine to ensure transparent operation

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Ukraine's leaders greet nation with optimism for the new year



Official Website of Ukraine's President

President Viktor Yushchenko delivers his New Year's Eve greetings to the Ukrainian nation.

KYIV - In his New Year's Eve address to the nation, President Viktor Yushchenko underscored his pride in being a Ukrainian and stated that "a new Ukrainian person... is being born in hard trials, and even maybe in times of unrest."

"We together - all the people from the Donbas to the Carpathians - are capable of reaching great goals. The new Ukrainian is our personal dignity, faith and confidence. It

is a piece of energy that renewed the country, gained freedom and aspires to create new life," Mr. Yushchenko said.

In her greetings for 2010, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko stated, "Ukraine lives. Ukraine can be proud. Our sacred land unites us and we can take on the world if we have a little peace and quiet. Peace will

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UNWLA announces new initiative to aid Ukraine's elderly

by Ulana Musij Zinych

NEW YORK - The year 2010 marks the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America Inc. (UNWLA), the largest and oldest Ukrainian women's organization in the United States, which works independently as a charitable and cultural organization.

To mark its anniversary, the organization has announced a new initiative to help needy elderly in Ukraine, thus continuing one of its long-standing missions.

The UNWLA was established in 1925 by five existing Ukrainian women's associations in New York City and vicinity following the exclusion of the National Council of Women (NCW) of Ukraine from the International Council of Women. The NCW of Ukraine had been a member of the ICW since 1920, but was excluded from the ICW as a direct result of Ukraine's loss of national independence - a prerequisite for ICW membership.

The new centralized organization was

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UNWLA Chicago Regional Council volunteers who completed the arduous but satisfying task of packing over two tons of goods that will be shipped to nursing homes for the elderly in Ukraine. With them are UNWLA national officers Iryna Rudyk, social welfare chairwoman (second from left); Marianna Zajac, president (fourth from left); and Ulana Musij Zinych, vice-president (ninth from left).

ANALYSIS

The disintegration of Ukraine's armed forces

by Roman Kupchinsky

Jamestown Blog on Russia and Eurasia

The Ukrainian military has apparently become a victim of the country's fierce political infighting and might well be on its way to disintegration. For nearly half a year Ukraine has been without a Defense Minister, an unprecedented situation in the country's history.

In June Defense Minister Yuri Yekhanurov was forced out of office after charges of illegal land sales were leveled against him by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. These charges were upheld by the powerful opposition Party of Regions, which at the time was in an erstwhile coalition with Tymoshenko.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko disputed the accusations against Mr. Yekhanurov and stated: "I can see no signs of corruption or any wrongdoing which could lead to the minister's resignation." Mr. Yushchenko praised the ministry's three-year track record as stable, given the meager funding the ministry gets from the Cabinet. [Editor's note: On November 18, 2009, President Yushchenko nominated Mr. Yekhanurov to again take on the defense minister's post.]

To make matters worse, on October 5, 2009, the chief of the General Staff, Gen. Serhii Kyrychenko, resigned his post due to "health reasons." The media, however, reported that his resignation was motivated by the chronic underfunding of the Ukrainian military by the government.

Defense spending in Ukraine was reduced considerably this year, and further cuts are expected in 2010. If this trend continues, some believe that in the next two or three years the Ukrainian army might lose its combat capability.

The crisis in the Ukrainian armed forces, according to Ukrainian analysts, is mainly due to the fact that most members of the Ukrainian leadership are not interested in defense issues, and Prime Minister Tymoshenko has been pursuing a policy in which welfare spending is her priority.

The prospect of membership in NATO once provided Ukraine with an impulse for military reform which the government saw as a platform of co-operation with the West, but this has now become more distant as prospects for NATO membership have almost vanished.

Ukraine's largely conscript armed forces consist of 191,000 military personnel and 43,000 civilian employees. They are generally considered to be underfunded and lacking in training.

According to a 2007 study by Marybeth Peterson Ulrich of the Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, "The Ukrainian armed forces have been on a starvation diet, recently receiving only 1.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). If

Ukraine were in NATO, it would rank third among NATO's 26 countries in terms of size, but 127th out of 150 countries worldwide in expenditure per serviceman."

Former Defense Minister Yekhanurov once noted that "The Ministry of Defense has a very long way to go in the area of defense, because a systematic transformation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces requires enormous efforts, clear coherence in actions, and heavy daily routine."

The Armed Forces of Ukraine have been struggling with insufficient financing for many years, which has been the main impediment to reform. The current economic crisis has resulted in drastic cuts in the defense budget, and left the army in a state of de facto financial collapse. In 2005-2008, the proportion of defense spending decreased from 1.3 percent of GDP to 0.99 percent (the 2005 armed forces reform program stated that Ukraine would allocate 2 percent of GDP to defense purposes).

This year, the Defense Ministry's budget was altered, according to critics of the Tymoshenko government, in order to conceal decreased military spending. They claim that the Tymoshenko government appears to have been treating the budget as an election campaign tool, and has established welfare spending as a priority when facing finance shortages.

The proportion of the so-called special fund in the budget, which consists of the Defense Ministry's revenue from the sale of the army's fixed assets, has increased from over 10 percent of total spending in 2000-2008 to nearly 30 percent in 2009. The real amounts obtained from such sales have always been lower than those foreseen in budget legislation.

According to the Polish East-West Analytical Newsletter (No. 35, October 14, 2009) "Ever more serious shortages in material (including the increasing amount of sales of the Ukrainian armies most valuable equipment) and the loss of personnel (young officers trained to NATO standards are leaving the services), combined with the drastic reduction of practical test-ground training, means that the new structure of the Ukrainian armed forces, which were trained in the middle of this decade will become ineffective. This situation will not only delay the completion of armed forces reform, but also pose a real risk that Ukraine's military potential will be diminished. This, in turn, may undermine Ukraine's position as a partner in its military cooperation with the West, and weaken its standing in relations with Russia."

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

CAMPAIGN WATCH**Yushchenko: no deal with Yanukovich**

KYIV – During a TV talk show on December 28, 2009, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko called the documents given over to the mass media about his possible cooperation with the leader of the opposition Party of Regions of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, false and provocative. "I will never be a prime minister with Yanukovich... These patterns are of no interest either to me or to my team. It must have been just a fraud," the presidential press service quoted Mr. Yushchenko as saying. The procurator general was ordered to investigate the situation. (Ukrinform)

Grytsenko on troops abroad

KYIV – Presidential candidate Anatoliy Grytsenko, who also heads the Parliament's Committee on National Security and Defense, has authored a bill that would grant the president the right to use the country's armed forces abroad. Relevant amendments to a Ukrainian law on the country's defense have been submitted to the Verkhovna Rada, Mr. Grytsenko's press service reported on December 28, 2009. A former defense minister, Mr. Grytsenko said the bill is aimed at protecting the interests of

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NEWSBRIEFS**Russia, Ukraine OK energy pact**

WASHINGTON – Russia and Ukraine have agreed to new terms for the transshipment of oil to Europe, it was reported on December 30, 2009. The deal, together with an existing natural gas transit contract, appears to have averted another year-end European energy crisis. Neither Moscow nor Kyiv have released full details of the oil deal. But the Russian Energy Ministry says it covers only the year 2010. Ukrainian official Valentyn Zemliansky said the new pact calls for Moscow to pay 30 percent more in transit fees than last year. He said the volume of oil piped into his country will remain at 2009 levels. A dispute one year ago over natural gas pricing led to a cut-off of Russian gas supplies to Europe. Those shortages in Eastern Europe led to European and U.S. charges that both Moscow and Kyiv had become unreliable trading partners. Last month Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko vowed her country would pay its gas bill in full and abide by a 10-year gas contract signed in early 2009. She said Ukraine struggled to make its monthly payments to Moscow during 2009 because of the global economic downturn. At that time, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin guaranteed that Russia would fulfill its energy agreements, saying he wanted the new year to begin without, in his words, "any shocks." (Voice of America, with AFP and Reuters)

Zakarpattia region fights flooding

KYIV – The floods reported in the Zakarpattia region after heavy rains and snow melt hit seven districts, has damaged private housing estates, farmland, roads and other facilities and infrastructure. The Emergencies Ministry, regional water and road economy teams are engaged in the mitigation effort. As of the afternoon of December 27, 2009, the situation began returning to normal after the waters of local rivers receded. However, in the lower reaches of the Tysa, Borzhava and Latorytsia rivers, further flooding was expected. Experts said on December 28, 2009, that they hope the worst is over. (Ukrinform)

Lviv region completes anti-flood project

KYIV – The Lviv region has completed anti-flood construction projects, it was reported on December 31, 2009. Dams that comply with modern drainage system technologies will protect the population of Staryi Sambir, Drohobych, Mykolaiv, Stryi and other districts from natural disasters. These were the areas where floods caused much damage in July 2008. Thousands of persons lost their housing, property and means of support. The head of the Lviv Regional State Administration, Mykola Kmit, said work will continue in 2010-2011 as facilities will be constructed to protect not only the Lviv region, but also the Ivano-Frankivsk region. (Ukrinform)

759 deaths from flu, AVRI

KYIV – The Health Ministry of Ukraine confirmed on January 4 that 759 people died of flu and acute respiratory viral infections (AVRI) in Ukraine from October 29, 2009, through January 2 of this year. During that period, 102 deaths were registered in the Lviv region, 97 in the Donetsk region, 45 in the Ivano-Frankivsk region, 37 each in the city of Kyiv and the Kharkiv region, 35 each in the Kyiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions, 29 in the Volyn region, 28 each in the Khmelnytsky and Chernihiv regions, 27 in the Kirovohrad region, 26 in the Cherkasy region, 25 each in the Chernivtsi and Ternopil regions, and 24 in the Zaporizhia region. Twenty-two people died in Crimea, 18 in the Rivne region, 16 in the Sumy region, 15 each in the Poltava and Vinnytsia regions, 12 each in the Zhytomyr and Zakarpattia regions and the city of Sevastopol, 11 in the Kherson region, 10 in the Odesa region, nine in the Mykolaiv region, and seven in the Luhansk region. Over 3.789 million people have contracted flu and flu-like illnesses since the outbreak of the flu epidemic at the end of October 2009. A total of 217,056 have been hospitalized and 180,892 have been discharged from hospitals. (Ukrinform)

Seven parties expected to win seats

KYIV – According to a survey carried

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Top presidential candidates decline TV debates

RFE/RL

KYIV – Ukraine’s leading presidential candidates are refusing to participate in televised debates ahead of the January 17 election.

The debates were conceived as one-on-one events in which each of the 18 registered candidates appears once.

But five of those official candidates – including front-running former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, leader of the Party of Regions of Ukraine and current Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko – have said they won’t appear with the lesser-known “technical” candidates with whom they were paired for the debates.

President Viktor Yushchenko has also said he won’t participate.

The first of the nine hour-long debates took place on state television on January 4 and pitted former Environment Minister Yuri Kostenko against former Vice Prime Minister Serhii Tihipko.

Under the debate format’s rules, if one candidate in any pair decides not to participate, then his or her debate partner is granted 30 minutes of broadcast time to deliver a speech.

Kyiv-based political analyst Andriy Yermolayev told RFE/RL that the debates are unlikely to significantly influence voter preferences. However, he noted that candidates who skip the event might enable dark-horse aspirants to “surprise both voters and political opponents” with their televised appearances.

Although several Ukrainian TV channels have political talk shows, the major presidential candidates have thus far avoided appearing together.

Mr. Yanukovich and Ms. Tymoshenko, who lead all election polls, have said they would consider taking part in a debate if they were one of the two candidates involved in a possible second round of the election.

IMF eases loan criteria for Ukraine

WASHINGTON – As 2009 came to a close, the International Monetary Fund announced it had lowered the bar for the Ukrainian government, allowing it to use international reserves to pay its debts, including those for Russian-supplied gas.

The IMF announced on December 30, 2009, that it had granted Kyiv’s request for a modification of its \$16.4 billion stand-by arrangement. The IMF said it had agreed to lower the floor of Ukraine’s net international reserves by approximately \$2 billion.

“This important step will enable the Ukrainian authorities to use existing resources to make external payments due – including gas payments – within the framework of Ukraine’s program with the fund,”

the IMF said. The decision “does not involve any new disbursement by the IMF,” the fund added.

Ukraine had been seeking the next tranche, \$3.8 billion, of its loan from the IMF. Ukraine’s acting Finance Minister Ihor Umanskyi said a week earlier that the IMF had turned down the request for the new installment to be disbursed in 2009 over concerns about run-up to the January 17 presidential election. Mr. Umansky led a delegation to appeal for the release of at least half the new credit installment in talks at the IMF’s Washington headquarters last month.

Source: Agence France-Presse

Ukrainian government...

(Continued from page 1)

of its gas network, and set tariffs at a rate that will “reflect actual costs incurred” (http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/energy/events/eu_ukraine_2009/joint_declaration_en.pdf).

In return, the European Commission, Ukraine and “creditors” commit to “cooperate in seeking to establish a technical coordinating council unit within Naftohaz of Ukraine.” This council would create an EU-approved “full modernization business plan” for the Ukrainian gas transportation system, and would help arrange the funding to undertake the system’s modernization.

But the main problems with the IMF were linked to Ms. Tymoshenko reneging on a promise to raise gas prices for domestic consumers. After having promised to increase prices by 25 percent in September, the prime minister had a sudden change of heart.

President Yushchenko was not blameless in these pre-election machinations and pushed for an increase in the minimum wage and pension payments, which the IMF was set against, fearing that its money would be squandered for Mr. Yushchenko’s election campaign promises.

According to the November 2009 issue of the Warsaw-based publication East Week: “The Ukrainian state-owned oil and gas monopoly, Naftohaz, has only

twice been able to raise the funds to pay punctually for the monthly gas supplies on its own. In the remaining months, it benefited from support provided by the government and the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU).” Yet, the means it has employed so far to raise funds for gas settlements are becoming more and more desperate. State-owned banks would have to violate the guidelines regulating their activities in order to grant Naftohaz further loans.

The state budget is not only experiencing problems financing its own spending, but has also already used almost all the legal options available to support Naftohaz; in September, it reimbursed the company’s VAT for all current, past and future (until the end of 2009) settlements, and in August it issued 18.3 billion hrv worth of bonds to raise the company’s statutory capital.

The government had hoped to obtain loan support from European financial institutions (\$1.7 billion negotiated in July 2009 with the support of the European Commission, to be spent on modernizing the network and partially financing gas purchases), but Ukraine failed to meet the basic requirements for that loan and the deal fell through.

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

CANDIDATE PROFILE: Arseniy Yatsenyuk

Compiled by Zenon Zawada

Name: Arseniy Petrovych Yatsenyuk

Born: May 22, 1974.

Birthplace: Chernivtsi.

Highest academic degree: Candidate of sciences degree in economics in 2001, Chernivtsi Economic Institute of the Kyiv Economic University.

Career: Bankers and politicians assisted Mr. Yatsenyuk throughout his lightning-speed ascent in Ukrainian politics. He launched the YUREK Ltd. Law firm in Chernivtsi when he was 18 years old in 1992, assisting clients in privatizing property. In January 1998 Mr. Yatsenyuk was recruited by Aval Bank founder Fedir Shpyh to serve as a consultant, becoming the bank’s assistant director within three years. By the time he left Aval Bank in 2001, the 27-year-old Mr. Yatsenyuk had earned his first million dollars. After serving as economy minister in Crimea, Mr. Yatsenyuk was tapped by National Bank of Ukraine Chair Serhii Tihipko in 2003 to serve as his assistant. In 2005 he served as the deputy to Odesa Oblast State Administration Chair Vasyl Tsushko. In 2006 he was tapped by former Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov to serve as minister of the economy. President Viktor Yushchenko tapped him as a first vice-chair of the Presidential Secretariat in September 2006. Parliament approved the president’s nomination of Mr. Yatsenyuk as foreign affairs minister in March 2007. He was elected Verkhovna Rada chairman in December of that year, remaining in the post for 11 months. His image as a no-nonsense, straight-talking politician placed him among the top three presidential candidates.

Government service: Eight years.

Time spent in publicly elected office: Two years.

Party: Front of Changes.

Advisers: Longtime confidante Andriy Pyshniy, former law firm partner Andriy Ivanchuk, former Inter television executive Volodymyr Hranovskyi, oligarch Leonid Yurushev, industrial and media mogul Victor Pinchuk, Russian political technologists Dmitry Kulykov, Timofei Sergeytsev and Iskander Valitov.

Parliamentary chair: December 2007-November 2008.

Officially declared assets: 700,500 hrv (\$88,000 U.S.) gross income in 2008. Annual salary as national deputy of 233,300 hrv (\$29,000). 5.2 million hrv (\$650,000) in savings. 32,421 square feet of land, 3,229 square-foot residence, 3,692 square-foot apartment. Skoda and Mercedes automobiles.

2010 campaign

Proposed economic policy: A “new industrialization” and “productive village” are cornerstones in Mr. Yatsenyuk’s campaign platform. His “new industrialization epoch” would be based on government-financed transport infrastructure projects such as airports and roads, expanding railroads, modernizing metallurgical plants and building electrical generating plants. Mr. Yatsenyuk advocates nuclear energy and wants more nuclear power plants built in Ukraine. “Only the state can modernize the economy,” a Yatsenyuk campaign newsletter stated. “The state sector should become the locomotive for modernization. To expect the initiative of private capital is nonsense.” He has proposed replacing imports with domestically produced goods, such as automobiles, agricultural machinery, household appliances and printers. Rather than exporting raw materials, Mr. Yatsenyuk advocates producing



Zenon Zawada

Arseniy Yatsenyuk

finished products. Like most candidates, Mr. Yatsenyuk claims to support the Ukrainian village and small- and middle-scale agriculture, yet has offered few concrete proposals. “Oil, natural gas, gold, liquor, the so-called monopoly on alcohol – all the excessively profitable spheres should belong to the state because that’s budget revenue and the chance to reduce taxes for small and medium business,” Mr. Yatsenyuk said in November 2009, hinting at re-privatization and socialist policies.

Proposed domestic policy: Mr. Yatsenyuk is among the few presidential candidates placing considerable focus on medicine and education, sectors in Ukrainian society that are desperately underfinanced and demanding radical reform. “Education and medicine are two spheres of state responsibility which directly define the quality of life in a country,” Mr. Yatsenyuk said in a campaign newsletter. Like all candidates, he’s called for higher wages for teachers. Reformed education ought to teach students how to think critically and independently, he declared. In health policy, Mr. Yatsenyuk emphasized the need to develop a system of preventive medicine in Ukraine, which currently doesn’t exist. The state health administration must change, Mr. Yatsenyuk said, without offering specifics. The system’s renewal should take into account the Soviet experience and contemporary methods, he said, stressing a preference for state-managed health care rather than an insurance-based industry. Health insurance should exist as a separate option for those who can afford it, in his view. The Canadian health care system is the ideal model, he said in campaign speeches. Mr. Yatsenyuk defends the right to use the Russian language in all spheres of Ukrainian life, but stops short of endorsing Russian as an official language. He’s avoided taking any positions on commemorating World War II, but has taken active positions against alleged “Nazism” and xenophobia.

Proposed foreign policy: Mr. Yatsenyuk’s campaign took a radical turn when he revealed this autumn that he no longer supported Ukraine’s admission into the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Until his announcement, Mr. Yatsenyuk was among the biggest supporters of Ukraine’s Euro-Atlantic integration, most

(Continued on page 17)

HURI co-founder and noted Byzantinist Prof. Ihor Ševčenko dies at age 87

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Ihor Ševčenko, Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Byzantine History and Literature (emeritus) at Harvard University, an internationally known specialist in Byzantine and pre-modern Slavic literatures, history and culture, and co-founder, associate and acting director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, died at his home in Cambridge, Mass., on Saturday, December 26, 2009, after an eight-month battle with cancer. He was 87.

Prof. Ševčenko was a member of Harvard's Department of the Classics from 1973 to 1992, associate director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) from 1973 to 1989, and its acting director in 1977 and 1985. He was a scholar of history, philology and literature, and his primary field of study was Byzantine cultural history, hagiography, text editions, codicology, epigraphy and Greek palaeography. His scholarship is especially recognized for its unique studies on Byzantine-Slavic cultural relations.

In noting his passing, HURI Director and Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian

Philology Michael S. Flier observed that Prof. Ševčenko was known for his deep erudition and incisive analytical skills, and was an inspirational mentor and colleague for generations of students and scholars alike in Byzantine and Slavic studies.

Prof. Flier also noted Prof. Ševčenko's other work in the field of Ukrainian studies. "Together with the late Prof. Omeljan Pritsak, Prof. Ševčenko was instrumental in establishing the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard and serving as its associate director. He was one of the driving forces to make Ukrainian studies an integral part of European and world scholarship."

During his academic career, Prof. Ševčenko held teaching or research appointments at some 15 different institutions, among them the University of California at Berkeley, University of Michigan and Columbia University as well as in Budapest and Oxford in Europe.

Ihor Ševčenko was born on February 10, 1922, in Radość, Poland, not far from Warsaw. His parents, Ivan Ivanovyč Ševčenko and Maria née Czerniatynska, had



Tania D'Avignon

Prof. Ihor Ševčenko

been active in the Ukrainian national independence movement. His father had served

as a department head in the Interior Ministry of the government of Symon Petliura (1918-1920) before the Communist takeover of Ukraine.

In Warsaw the young Ševčenko attended the Adam Mickiewicz Gymnasium and Lyceum, where he began the study of the classical languages. While attending the lyceum, he translated an extract on a historical topic from one of Voltaire's works into Polish for the student journal that he co-edited. He studied at the Ukrainian Free University and the German Charles University, both in Prague. In 1945 he was awarded a doctorate of philosophy in the subject areas of classical philology, ancient history and comparative linguistics.

Shortly after receiving his degree, he published a translation of George Orwell's "Animal Farm" into Ukrainian. For that translation, intended for Ukrainian refugees living in displaced persons camps following World War II, he was able to persuade Orwell to contribute an account of his own

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The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: December

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Four books are shortlisted for 2010 Kobzar Literary Award

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – The third Kobzar Literary Award ceremony will take place in Toronto on March 4. Presented biennially, the award is a \$25,000 prize that recognizes a Canadian writer who best presents a Ukrainian Canadian theme with literary merit through poetry, drama, fiction, non-fiction or young people's literature.

The award was launched by the Shevchenko Foundation in 2003, and thus far has been awarded twice. The shortlist of books nominated for the award was announced in the Toronto Globe and Mail book section; the award winner will be selected by four adjudicators.

The themes of the nominated books are hockey, ethics, the search for identity and religious history.

"Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems" by Randall Maggs focuses on the life and times of Terry Sawchuk, the great goaltender from the old six-team National Hockey League. It is a biography in poems – some are prose-like, others are monologues in Sawchuk's own voice – all built into a narrative long poem.

Sawchuk was a star, voted the top goalie of all time, who had 103 career shutouts – a record that stood until recently. Yet, off the ice, he suffered from untreated depression and died at age 40. He grew up in a Ukrainian immigrant household, with a "faraway father" and a mother, who was the "only one in the world who scared him." It seems to have been an experience that formed a dark and unpredictable character.

The author of the second selected book, the novel "Zo," is Murray Andrew Pura, a writer, speaker and researcher in the fields of philosophy, theology and ethics.

The novel is centered on the Chornavka family, Ukrainian immigrants to western Canada just before World War I, and the main characters are Andrew Chornavka and his younger sister Zoya. The story begins in the present with Andrew, an elderly monastic who has taken a vow of silence and found peace, apparently escaping from demons that had invaded his life. His idyllic existence is interrupted when an entourage from the Vatican arrives to question him about his sister Zoya, who has become a candidate for beatification.

Andrew is forced to go back into his family's painful history – the hatred directed against the family because they had come from Galicia in the Austro-Hungarian Empire; the internment of an uncle as an enemy alien; and the racism endured because they were Slavs. The family seeks refuge in the socialist movement and, motivated by idealism born of their socialist beliefs, Andrew and his older sister Yuzia decide to go back to Ukraine to help in the collectivization drive, a decision that leads to terrible tragedy.

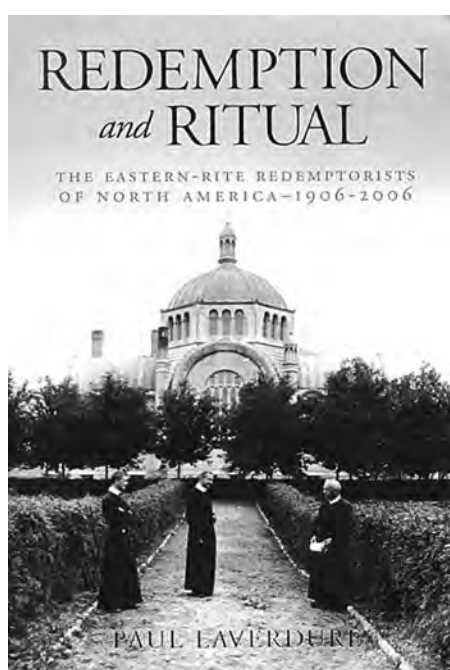
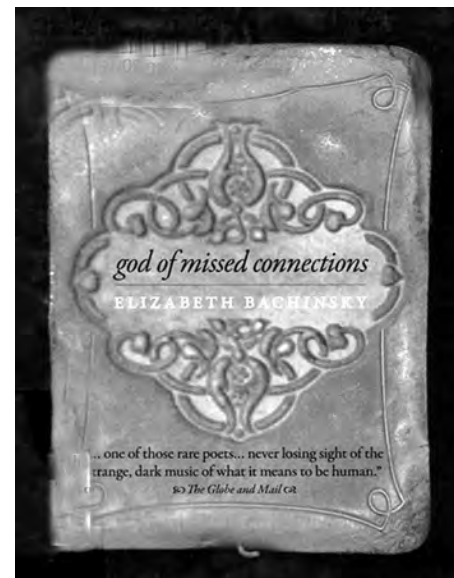
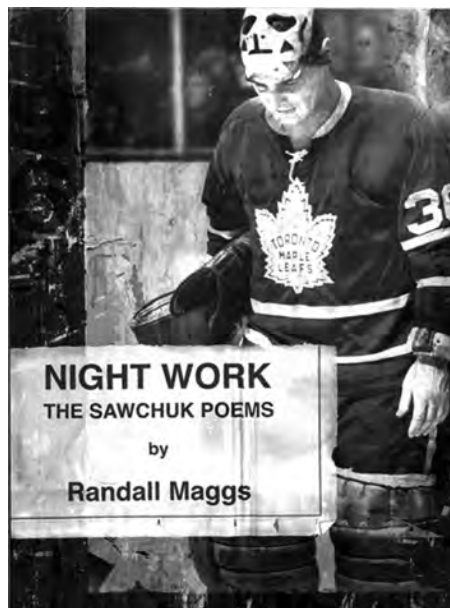
Elizabeth Bachinsky is the author of the third selected book, "God of Missed Connections." The author explains the inspiration for the poems: "... people of my generation... are cultural insiders and outsiders: inside because our experiences have been drawn from a distinct, albeit particularly dispersed, cultural milieu within Canada, and outside because we have little or no direct experience of life in Ukraine..." In her poems, Ms Bachinsky says she "wanted to capture the sense of what it feels like to not know where you're from, to be looking for connections."

The lyric poems seek these connections by confronting family stories – immigrant anxiety, learning Ukrainian dances, a grandmother's funeral; rituals in which the poet searches for their origin and meaning – the wax-pouring ceremony, a Hutsul wedding, folk musical instruments; and complex historical events – the Holodomor, the Chernobyl nuclear accident and World War I internment in Canada. This collection of poems will probably speak most directly to persons of the poet's generation (she was born in 1976) whose own search for identity might include similar questioning.

The fourth work on the shortlist, "Redemption and Ritual. The Eastern Rite Redemptorists of North America 1906-2006" by Paul Laverdure, is the history of a very unique religious community. The Redemptorists are a missionary order founded in Europe, but active in Canada since 1834. Between 1897 and 1913 the Roman Catholic Church of Canada faced the arrival of an increasing number of Ukrainian-speaking, Eastern-rite Catholics into western Canada. Belgian Redemptorists were sent west to serve them, but the rush of immigrants, who spoke neither English nor French, soon overwhelmed them.

The Belgian Redemptorists proved to be true missionaries: they understood that one had to get to the people rather than remake the people to come to them. They learned the Ukrainian language and liturgy, adapted to the Julian calendar, went to Galicia for training, and learned how to be both Catholic and Eastern. They created the Yorkton (Saskatchewan) Province of Redemptorists, which became the center of Catholics of the Eastern rite in North America. With its stories, anecdotes and biographies of very unique individuals, "Redemption and Ritual" holds the reader's attention and, in spite of its exhaustive (sometimes exhausting) detail, the narrative moves forward.

Dr. Christine Turkevych, program director, reported that a public relations campaign has been initiated to bring the Kobzar Literary Award shortlist to greater attention among the Canadian reading public by engaging bookstores in displaying the nominated books.



Books nominated (clockwise from top left): "Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems" by Randall Maggs, (London, Ontario: Brick Brooks); "God of Missed Connections" by Elizabeth Bachinsky, (Gibsons, British Columbia: Nightwood Editions); "Zo" by Murray Andrew Pura (Toronto: Windhover Marsh); "Redemption and Ritual" by Paul Laverdure (Yorkton, Saskatchewan: Redeemer's Voice Press).

Take a look at the past:

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

Log on to www.ukrweekly.com

Our unique website also contains the full texts of all issues published between 1996 and 2007. We are working on making every single issue of our newspaper published since 1933 available online.

Also available – for a limited time only – are the full texts of all issues published in the current year. Soon to come: paid subscriptions to the online version of each week's edition of The Ukrainian Weekly. Take advantage of this opportunity to experience what an online subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly offers.

Bethlehem Peace Light atop Old Rag Mountain



WASHINGTON – A lone Plast member brought the Bethlehem Peace Light to the top of Old Rag Mountain (elevation: 3,291 feet) in Virginia on December 22, 2009. The act was dedicated to the memory of Andrij Pryshlak of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization U.S.A. and Josef Saidman of the Boy Scouts of America, both of whom died suddenly and unexpectedly. The hike took eight hours and 15 minutes round-trip because it was undertaken soon after a heavy snowfall on the East Coast that brought two feet of snow to the area; on parts of the trail the snow was waist deep. Old Rag Mountain is located in Shenandoah National Park near Luray, Va. The hiker was accompanied to the summit and back by a "guardian angel" – a stray dog that he later brought to a nearby village.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Let's make a resolution

It's that time of year again: the editorial staff at The Ukrainian Weekly and its loyal correspondents are hard at work on the annual Year in Review issue. As we put together our lists of the most significant news and happenings of 2009 – based solely upon the information that was published on the pages of this newspaper, we can't help but notice certain trends in our community activity.

For starters, from reading The Weekly, you might think the most active Ukrainian American communities are in Philadelphia and North Port, Fla. Why? The sheer number of stories from these communities that were sent in for publication in our paper. Surely there are other communities at least as active as these, or even more active. However, the problem is that these communities do not share information about what goes on in their part of our Ukrainian diaspora as well as others do. As a result, they are shortchanging both themselves and others who might benefit from reading about their work and their accomplishments. It's like the proverbial tree that falls in the forest... (If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?) If others don't know about their work, does it have an impact? Or as great an impact as it would have if others knew about it, appreciated it and learned from it? Is your community among those whose work is underrepresented on the pages of The Weekly?

The same goes for our organizations. Sometimes we get a skewed perception about how active they are (or how inactive they are) based on what we see in our newspaper. Ask yourself: Based on reading The Weekly, what are the most active organizations? And, does that perception correspond to the reality? Is your organization's work accurately reflected on our news pages?

We're sure there are many readers out there who see deficiencies in coverage of their communities and their organizations. And we see this as well. The reality is that our staff at The Weekly does not have its own correspondents across North America. (Of course, we wish we did, but the financial reality makes this impossible.) The good news is that there is something very simple you can do about this deficiency in coverage as it affects your community and/or your organization. You can send in information about the events and people in your community or organization – articles, short news stories, photographs, letters to the editor, commentaries. Sometimes a simple photo and caption will suffice to tell your story. That way, folks in Philly will find out what their colleagues in Cleveland are up to, the residents of Rochester will learn what the movers and shakers in Chicago are doing, and so on.

For decades this newspaper has worked with Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian Canadians to help them tell their stories. As editors, we will work with you to make sure your story is told clearly and accurately. (Please note that we always ask for complete contact information from our contributors – full mailing address, daytime phone number, e-mail address – in order to make our communication and cooperation more effective.) We hope to continue working in this way with our community members for the benefit of all our communities.

So, let's start off the New Year right. Let's make a resolution to re-establish our partnership. You provide us with news from your community, and we will provide the forum for it to be published. You give us information, and we will help you share it in a most effective way. Let The Weekly function as a network that connects all of our communities and community members, and allows them to share facts, ideas and opinions.

A POSTSCRIPT: For years, we at The Weekly had heard complaints that there was no place where people could go to find out about advance scheduling of major events. Last year on our website (www.ukrweekly.com) we created a special section called "Community Events" that allows community members to have their events listed well in advance on an online calendar. The aim is to help community activists keep track of what is going on when and where, and thus help them in planning so that their events do not conflict with others that might be attended by the same audiences. (A good example is the many debutante balls and festivals.) As well, it is intended to help community members make plans to attend such events well in advance. The e-mail address for submissions is community@ukrweekly.com. Please take advantage of this unique tool on our ever-expanding website.

Jan.
15
2003

Turning the pages back...

Seven years ago, on January 15, 2003, a survey developed by the Ukrainian Institute for Social Research and the Social Monitoring Center in conjunction with the United Nations Development Program showed that 78 percent of the respondents

believed that all or most all government officials have accepted bribes. More than 80 percent stated that corruption was prevalent within the judicial branch of government as well, and 70 percent agreed that most government officials were tied to the mafia or private family business relations.

The survey was conducted in late November 2003 and early December 2003, and included 3,063 participants from 83 cities and 69 villages across Ukraine. The margin of error was between 1.1 percent and 1.83 percent.

Most unnerving was that the survey results indicated that the majority of Ukraine's people were inclined to accept bribery and corruption as a normal part of everyday life. Approximately 44 percent indicated that they had paid bribes or made gifts in one form or another at least once in the past year, while 23 percent said that making additional payments beyond the assigned cost of a government service was tolerable.

Olha Balakirieva, director of the Social Monitoring Center, noted that 44 percent of respondents said that government authorities were incapable of resolving individual and societal problems, and 45 percent said they could not do so at the oblast level.

Oleksander Yaremenko of the Ukrainian Institute of Social Research reported that a

(Continued on page 16)

COMMENTARY

In Ukraine's presidential race, the biggest billboard wins

by Irena Chalupa
RFE/RL

KYIV – Size does matter. Particularly when it comes to campaign ads for Ukraine's January 17 presidential election.

Here, the guiding principle is: the bigger, the better. In a country where advertising was practically nonexistent during the Soviet era, today the billboard is king.

One of the first things a visitor notices upon leaving Ukraine's main airport, Boryspil, en route to Kyiv is the seemingly endless chain of billboards that escort her all the way to the capital. Currently, it's the slogans of presidential hopefuls that make up the lion's share of this type of advertising.

Vadym Karasiov, a prominent Ukrainian political analyst and director of the Institute for Global Strategies, recently made the claim that Ukrainians are not guided by political programs when they go to the polls. Rather, he argued, they vote for the slogan they like best.

So Ukraine's 18 presidential candidates have their work cut out for them – and billboards are proving perhaps the biggest and most immediate way of bringing those slogans to the voter.

The "she" campaign

Yulia Tymoshenko, the current prime minister and one of the leading contenders for the presidency, launched her billboard attack well before the campaign's official kickoff on October 18, 2009.

As early as August 2009, signs already appeared over the capital's streets bearing messages like: "They strike – she works," "They block – she works" and "They ruin – she works." The slogans were unveiled references to the Ukrainian Parliament, which has spent a good part of 2009 doing basically nothing because one faction or another was blocking the rostrum.

Despite the fact that the signs bore no identifiable copyright marks, photographs or indication of political affiliation, it wasn't difficult to decipher that the "she" in question was none other than Ms. Tymoshenko.

Now "she" is all over the country, on billboards of all shapes and sizes. And in a clever turn, the "she" has now become more than just Ms. Tymoshenko: Now "she" is Ukraine herself. As a recent ad announces: "She works, she will win, she is Ukraine."

Some political analysts have praised the "she" campaign as memorable. And indeed, the charismatic Ms. Tymoshenko, with her ever-present braids, appears to have had little trouble solidifying her public image. Current polls put her in second place, with a healthy lead over her former Orange Revolution partner, incumbent President Viktor Yushchenko.

"For the people"

The man she trails behind is Viktor Yanukovich, someone who has had his share of negative image perception. Mr. Yanukovich, leader of today's parliamentary opposition, lost in the last presidential election to Viktor Yushchenko.

A tall, imposing figure of a man, Mr. Yanukovich is an awkward and undynamic communicator. Twice imprisoned for theft and violence in his youth, he continues to be perceived by some as a thug, despite having his criminal record expunged.

Whether the very digitally enhanced image beaming down from his campaign billboards will change that perception remains to be seen. Where Ms. Tymoshenko

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has identified herself as Ukraine, Mr. Yanukovich, true to form, is simply himself.

Initially, Mr. Yanukovich's billboards boasted that each and every person's complaint, idea and view would be heard. The next round of ads, logically, suggested the listening period was over and one of action had begun. Last but not least, a third group of Yanukovich billboards proclaimed, in a brusque and seemingly Soviet manner: "Your opinion has been heard. The problem has been solved."

Currently, his leading campaign slogan is "Ukraine for the people." During a recent call-in program with RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, political analysts deemed the slogan ineffective and perilously reminiscent of the old Soviet slogan "Everything for the people." One listener even suggested that if Mr. Yanukovich really is listening to all views and all people, then he should listen to the portion of the electorate who don't want to see him become president and quit the race.

Misfires and mystery men

Another candidate who has taken his campaign to the billboards is the current Verkhovna Rada Chairman, Volodymyr Lytvyn. He plastered Kyiv with bright yellow, anonymous billboards with such mysterious slogans as "Only he is worthy of leading Ukraine" and "Only he can be trusted with our future."

While no one had any trouble identifying the "she" as Ms. Tymoshenko, for weeks no one quite knew who the "he" in question could be. Some suspected it was the incumbent, Mr. Yushchenko. But then Mr. Lytvyn dispelled the mystery and, overnight, his face appeared on billboards.

The youngest of the candidates, 35-year-old former Foreign Affairs Minister and parliamentary speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk, was initially thought by many to be Ukraine's fresh young hope in these elections. He created the Front for Change, claimed to be a new style of politician, and by spring 2008 he was pulling in 12 to 13 percent support.

And then he hired a Russian team to run his campaign. They devised a pseudo-military approach and message for him. An intent-looking Mr. Yatsenyuk now peers down from a billboard that proclaims "Ukraine will be saved by new industrialization." Promises extend to a battle-ready army, a productive agrarian sector, healthy and educated people. Mr. Yatsenyuk's youthfulness and new approach have evaporated amid a misguided, khaki-colored campaign that harkens back to Soviet ideas and slogans.

Billboard slogans are slowly giving way to television commercials, but the boards still continue to be omnipresent throughout the country.

Ms. Tymoshenko's slogans have even inspired witty rebuttals from another female candidate on two of the biggest billboards to date, which claim: "I will win, so she can stop working" and "I will win, so she can have a rest."

Those promises are made by Inna Bohoslovka, formerly of Mr. Yanukovich's Party of Regions, a so-called "technological" candidate with no chance of winning but whose sole purpose is to siphon votes from others.

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The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

A memory of a gift

It was just a headband. I had embroidered it for my roommate at university to give her a special gift at Christmas. But I also made it for her because I could not afford something that would be fitting for a good friend. This was over 40 years ago, yet in a phone conversation with Meg a week ago, out of the blue she mentioned, "You know, I still have that headband you made for me."

We met when we were both freshmen at George Washington University in Washington, and were roommates during our senior year. There could not have been a deeper, greater gulf in our backgrounds. We were from completely different worlds.

I was a naturalized American citizen, a DP (displaced person), a post-World War II refugee, an immigrant to New Jersey, arriving just before my fourth birthday. My parents were Ukrainians who wound up as forced laborers in Germany during the war. That is where they met and married. Their first baby, Lesia, died at the age of 14 months from pneumonia.

When the war ended, there was no way they would go back to Ukraine. The Soviets, i.e., the Russians, now occupied their homeland. My parents had both been in the Ukrainian underground, working against both the Nazis and the Russians. So, after four years in a DP camp in Bavaria, waiting for some Western country to take us, we arrived in America. I can only imagine how difficult it was for my parents, as young adults, coming to a different continent, not because they wanted to, but because there was no other choice. They knew many languages, but not English.

After two weeks of playing outside, I learned English and, at 4, was my parents' interpreter in the stores. They worked hard, and over the years, did well. As I was growing up, it did not even enter my mind that we were not rich, but I was also totally unaware how truly not wealthy we actually were. I went to college on scholarships and student loans.

My dear roommate Meg was a true American. Her blueblood California family was established way before the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. An ancestor was one of the Big Four driving in the Last Spike that joined the transcontinental railroads in 1869. To say her family was comfortable would be an understatement. She did not have to worry about school costs; a trust fund cheque arrived monthly.

Yet she did not advertise her status. Meg was a genuine down-to-earth individual.

There was a touch of sadness in her beautiful large brown eyes every so often – her family was not exactly a traditional one back then. There were numerous divorces of both mother and father, and she had half-siblings all over the world.

Before Thanksgiving, as we were both packing to go home I remarked to Meg that she packed her suitcase so neatly. She smiled sadly, "I've had so much practice" [in shuttling between relatives]. Even on this Thanksgiving, she was going to be with only one parent. She envied me, my family and my home, even though our house would have been a tiny cottage in comparison to her family's various vast estates. One of her uncles even had an employee whose only job was to polish the silver!

Yet we hit it off so well. We were close, and we spent much time together. So with Christmas approaching, I began to worry about what to get Meg for a gift. In my family, gifts were not a major thing, and the thought and the quality of the present – not the cost – were important. I wanted to get her something really special, but she certainly did not need anything, and there was only so much I could afford on my limited budget.

Somehow I got the idea to embroider a headband for her, since she wore them often. I had been embroidering since I was a child, and picked out a geometric Ukrainian design in red and black – but changed the red to blue because that was one of her favorite colors.

A few days before we left the dorm to go home for Christmas, I gave Meg her present. I was absolutely dumbfounded by her reaction. "You made this?! You made this just for me?!" She was moved to tears. Maybe if I had given her the Hope Diamond, I would have expected such a reaction.

We stayed in touch after graduation, and reconnected again a few years ago. I wound up in Winnipeg, and she is in the American Southwest. Meg phoned me recently after seeing a film about a family's life in World War II. The story reminded her of what I had told her about my parents' experiences during the war.

We talked for a long time, and as the conversation was drawing to a close, she said, "You know, I still have that headband you made for me."

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Opinions in The Ukrainian Weekly

Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

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CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

Nasty northern neighbors

Since the bare lightbulb near the elevator in the dingy entrance of the 1904 Austrian-built apartment house was still working but had not yet been stolen, I could just make out the graffiti on the wall. "Raguli must die!!! Russia forever!"

Who, I asked, is Raguli? I was informed that this was a misspelling of "roguli," from the Russian "rogaty," meaning "horned ones," or cattle. (Fanciers of Soviet agricultural statistics will recall the term "krupnyi rogaty skot.") "Roguli" was a common Russian term for Ukrainians.

By all appearances, it was just a children's prank. But this was Lviv, and the year was 2008 – 17 years after independence. How was it that children in the most Ukrainian city of Ukraine were growing up with such attitudes?

To many Ukrainians, this is no surprise. To paraphrase Mike Myers' Nigel Powers, they hate only two kinds of people: racial, religious, or ethnic bigots – and the Russians. For every Russian stereotype about the Ukrainian "khokhly," there is a Ukrainian stereotype of the Russian "katsap." The Russians, we like to say, are not really Slavs – Slavs being soulful, warm-hearted, peace-loving folk like us. The Russians, we insist, are really a mixture of Finns and Mongols – cold, ruthless, aggressive. In fact, we sometimes claim, most of Russia's great men were really Ukrainians. True Russians have a proclivity to drunkenness, filth and profanity, as a visit to any Russian village will prove.

Interestingly enough, western Ukrainians, who had almost no contact with Russians until World War II, seem most likely to hold such stereotypical views. This may be partly the influence of Dmytro Dontsov, himself of Russian origin, who became a leading ideologue of Ukrainian nationalism in pre-war Ukraine and in the emigration. It may also have resulted from contact with Russian occupying troops during the war. Ukrainian (as well as Polish) residents of Lviv have long recounted amusing stories of Soviet generals' wives who washed their hair in bidets and wore nightgowns to the opera, while Communist Party agitators boasted that they had brought "culture." The mass rape and pillage by the Red soldiery are all too well known.

The behavior of occupation forces is not, of course, a perfect reflection of the nation they represent. Conversely, it is elementary that one should not judge an individual by his government, social group or ethnic origin. Thus, one cannot blame individual Russians for Vladimir Putin's policies or, in an earlier age, the misdeeds of the serf-owning class. Much less can one hold them responsible for political traditions of which they might themselves have been victims. As Geoffrey Hosking reminds us (though many Ukrainians would disagree), many Russians see Soviet rule as a disaster for their nation.

But what if the individual proudly identifies with a repressive state, political organization or tradition? First of all, one should look into his education. What kinds of attitudes do Russia's schools foster, particularly towards its neighbors? Naturally, every individual is responsible for his opinions. But it is the state and the society, as well as the family, that present the choice of traditions.

Are Russia's traditions uniformly retrograde? Ukrainians think first of autocracy, epitomized by Ivan the Terrible and his modern disciple, Joseph Stalin. We see a steady progression from the Muscovite

principality, which spread like a cancer throughout Rus', metastasizing into the Russian Empire and then the Soviet Union, brutally conquering its neighbors and spreading bondage and misery over half of Europe. Then we think of the caesaropapist Russian Orthodox Church, slavishly loyal to the state – even an atheist state – keeping its subjects in servility and ignorance. Economically, we argue, Russia has thwarted all enterprise, preferring to steal from others. The Russians' communal mentality has stunted individual development.

Such perceptions, while exaggerated, are not without foundation. Recently, Ukraine's Ambassador to Russia Konstyantyn Gryshchenko convincingly linked a number of Russian political attitudes to a mentality and historical perception differing markedly from those of Ukrainians ("Ukraina i Rosiia – Liudyna i Derzhava," *Dzerkalo Tyzhnia*, No. 43, November 7-13, 2009).

Yet though we think of such traditions as constant and inexorable, Russian history reveals other traditions and other trends. For example, Hans-Joachim Torke shows in his contribution to the collection cited below that Russia has not always been single-mindedly expansionist. Indeed, we should be skeptical of statements beginning, "Russia has always..."

Medieval Novgorod and Pskov became merchant republics with representative government not unlike the Italian city-states or the Hanseatic towns with which they traded. Russian merchants were known for their boldness and enterprise. In the 19th century, humanitarian and civic-minded intellectuals like Alexander Herzen championed individual freedom, successfully fought serfdom, and reformed the judicial system. In the 20th Century, Russia became a constitutional monarchy with representative government and civil rights. Russian philologists F. E. Korsh and A. A. Shakhmatov won official recognition for the Ukrainian language. In the Soviet period, this tradition was represented by the Moscow Helsinki Group and humane democrats like Andrei Sakharov. In Ukraine, Russians like Gen. Kostiantyn Morozov supported independence in 1991. Today, this civic tradition is epitomized by fearless individuals such as journalist Anastasia Baburova and human-rights lawyer Stanislav Markelov, both murdered in January 2009. In the past century, the Russian Orthodox tradition has produced brilliant thinkers like Berdiaev and Bulgakov, Fedotov and Florensky – and countless martyrs for the faith.

True, the current Russian regime seems bent on reviving some of the most regrettable aspects of its heritage. The global community should make it clear that it does not welcome this crass, belligerent Russia, whose children resort to bovine epithets in speaking of their neighbors. We cannot direct the course of Russian history. But we can imagine, and encourage, the flourishing of the other Russia – the Russia of high minds, generous hearts and noble spirits.

Further reading:

Geoffrey Hosking, "Rulers and Victims: The Russians in the Soviet Union" (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap/Harvard, 2006).

Peter J. Potichnyj et al., eds. "Ukraine and Russia in Their Historical Encounter" (Edmonton: CIUS Press, 1992).

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UNWLA announces...

(Continued from page 1)

named "Soyuz Ukrainok Ameryky" – Ukrainian National Women's League of America – and its goal was to inform the free world about events in Ukraine, to support the homeland both spiritually and materially, and to promote the preservation of Ukrainian national identity, cultural heritage and ethnic traditions in the United States.

Today's UNWLA members are continuing this mission as it applies to the 21st century. It has become customary in the UNWLA to celebrate anniversaries by implementing new and meaningful social service projects. Five years ago the project "Milk and Roll for Our Youngest Students," or "Moloko i Bulochka," was established to commemorate the organization's 80th anniversary. This project has been discontinued because the Ukrainian government now provides breakfast for children in schools.

On the eve of its 85th anniversary the UNWLA turned its efforts to helping the elderly – an often neglected group – by lending needed assistance to selected nursing homes in various regions of Ukraine. The project is named "Assistance and Caring for the Elderly." It is noteworthy that nursing homes, which were virtually unknown in Ukraine before World War II, are now overflowing. The economic crisis is serious and exacerbates the problem.

Through the efforts of the UNWLA executive board and Social Welfare Chair Iryna Rudyk, contacts with institutions for the elderly in Ukraine have been established. As a result, each Regional Council of the UNWLA (of which there

Ulana Musij Zynych is vice-president of the UNWLA.

are nine) and a 10th group comprising branches at large, has been assigned a geriatric home that will benefit from their generosity.

Phase 1 of the project involves Mission Outreach, a not-for-profit organization focused on the recovery and responsible redistribution of healthcare equipment and supplies to developing countries. It is administered in exemplary fashion by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. Mission Outreach wholeheartedly supported the UNWLA's initiative and contributed articles of daily necessity to homes for the elderly in Ukraine. After weeks of a tedious selection process by phone and Internet, this portion of the humanitarian aid project has finally come to fruition.

Because Mission Outreach is located in the Chicago area, three members of the national board of the UNWLA – President Marianna Zajac, First Vice-President Ulana Zynych and Social Welfare Chair Rudyk – traveled to the Windy City to help with the packing and oversight of the final stage of this phase (December 3-5, 2009).

In an enormous warehouse near Midway Airport, the UNWLA leaders were met by their "guardian angel" from Mission Outreach and 10 volunteers, members of the Chicago Regional Council. The diligent and cheerful volunteers were: Olena Charkewych, Oresta Fedyniak, Oksana Jackiw, Olenka Pryjma, Eugenia Byskosh, Kristine Sobol, Kristine Dzuk, Eva Zelenko, Luba Nowak and Vasyl Shcherbyuk. Mr. Shcherbyuk deserves special mention – since his wife, Maria, was unable to attend, he took her place among the volunteers.

Together the group packed and repacked over 4,000 pounds of donated items, including wheelchairs, walkers, canes, bed linens, disposable and reusable personal hygiene items, socks and stockings (including anti-emboli stockings)



Members of the Chicago Regional Council of the UNWLA put the finishing touches on their packaging project at the Mission Outreach Warehouse.

and various other items that had been requested by the nursing homes. The packing list was pages and pages in length. With only a short meal break, the task was completed. All were tired, but it was a good tired – knowing that perhaps they would touch a life and bring a smile to an elderly person's face.

Paul Shaluga from Meest Chicago Shipping of Lombard, Ill., came to assess this "sea" of boxes and share suggestions for packing, since Meest was in charge of shipping.

The only financial responsibility to be addressed by the regional councils during this phase was Mission Outreach's handling costs and the cost of shipping to Ukraine. Following Phase 1, each UNWLA regional council will be dealing directly with its assigned institution.


The further success of the Assistance and Caring for the Elderly program will depend on the independent work of

regional councils and their branches with their respective homes for the elderly. Their creativity, commitment and cooperative spirit will dictate the progress of the project.

All regional councils have been provided with the necessary contact information, such as phone numbers of the directors of the respective geriatric homes. They also have contact information for a member of Soyuz Ukrainok in the corresponding oblast who will coordinate the program and ensure its proper implementation on the local level. She will also function as a liaison between the nursing home and the regional council.

The UNWLA has put together a comprehensive plan, and its members have the desire and commitment to help.

For more information about the UNWLA readers may search the website: www.UNWLA.org or subscribe to Our Life, the UNWLA's official publication.



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The UNWLA National Board wishes a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year to the Ukrainian-American Community and our Members located in:

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ANALYSIS: The Demjanjuk saga – the final round

by Andriy J. Semotiuk

Part I

The criminal trial of John Demjanjuk in Munich, Germany, has been recessed for a few weeks, but will soon recommence. Despite the pathetic images from the trial of Mr. Demjanjuk that we see on television from the trial, German doctors assure us he is fit to stand trial. Brought to court on a stretcher each day because of his illnesses, he is accused of being an accessory to the murder of 27,900 inmates of the Nazi Sobibor concentration camp during World War II.

Just one look at him in his decrepit state, however, not to mention the background to the case, the efforts to prosecute Mr. Demjanjuk over the last 30 years and the evidence the prosecution is expected to present, suggests this event is more like a show trial than a trial in an objective court where the rule of law will prevail. Is this feeble man really in a position to defend himself through the rigors of a criminal trial related to allegations of complicity in massive killings contained in the indictment?

Meanwhile, media coverage so far has all but forgotten that in every criminal trial, including Mr. Demjanjuk's, the basic

Andriy J. Semotiuk is an attorney practicing in the area of international law in the field of immigration. He is a member of the bars of California and New York in the United States, and Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia in Canada. A former United Nations correspondent who was stationed in New York, Mr. Semotiuk is currently a member of the Los Angeles Press Club. He resides in Los Angeles.

presumption of innocence applies – that the accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty. In other words, Mr. Demjanjuk does not have to prove his innocence. The prosecution must prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Calling him a “Nazi” may garner headlines, but it will not change the fact that Nazi ideology precluded non-Aryans like Mr. Demjanjuk, who was a Ukrainian and, therefore, an untermensch or subhuman, from being a part of the Nazi Party or a leader in Nazi Germany. As an untermensch it is more likely Mr. Demjanjuk was a victim of the Nazi regime than a persecutor acting on its behalf.

The historical background

John Demjanjuk was born in Soviet-occupied Ukraine in 1920. As a young child he lived through the 1932-1933 Holodomor, the man-made Famine inflicted on Ukraine by Stalin and the Soviet leadership in which millions of Ukrainians starved to death. Having survived such a Soviet atrocity, it is not surprising that, with the later outbreak of World War II, Mr. Demjanjuk was not exactly eager to join the Soviet Red Army. Nonetheless he was conscripted.

In 1942 he was captured by the Germans and, according to him, languished during his wartime years as a German prisoner of war until 1945. After the war Mr. Demjanjuk, and others like him from Soviet Ukraine, became the target of Operation Keelhaul.

Arising out of an agreement reached in Yalta among Joseph Stalin, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, Operation Keelhaul enabled Red Army officers, initially acting with Allied military support, to comb through displaced persons camps looking for former Soviet

subjects, anyone who could reveal the truth about the abhorrent Stalinist past. Of those who were caught and destined for Soviet repatriation, some committed suicide, some were shot trying to escape, and still others ended up in the Soviet gulag. The fate of Aleksander Solzhenitsyn comes to mind in this context.

Anyone who refused to return, or managed to evade Soviet capture, was accused by the Soviets of Nazi collaboration – whether the allegation was true or false. Forcible repatriation became the terror of most displaced persons from the USSR, including Mr. Demjanjuk.

The irony lay in the fact that it was the Soviets who actually collaborated with the Nazis, since they signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop non-aggression pact on the eve of World War II, carved up Poland with the Germans and were their allies for the first two years of the war.

Nonetheless, such accusations levelled against displaced persons hindered those who were unjustly accused in their efforts to immigrate to the West, at least until the Allies finally came to an understanding of this Soviet intrigue.

It was in this context that in 1952 Mr. Demjanjuk obtained permission to immigrate to the United States with his wife and young daughter. He settled in Cleveland, where he found work as a mechanic at a Ford auto plant. He then had another daughter and a son. Twenty years passed.

Accusations arise

According to Katie Engelhart in a recent story published in Canada's McLean's magazine, in 1975 “Michael Hanusiak, editor of the New York-based Ukrainian Daily News, compiled a list of Ukrainians suspected of collaborating with Germans and presented it to what was then the U.S.

Immigration and Naturalization Service. Demjanjuk was on that list.”

What Ms. Engelhart failed to explain was that the Ukrainian Daily News was nothing more than a pro-Soviet mouthpiece, at least according to Yoram Sheftel, an Israeli attorney who wrote about the incident in his book “Defending Ivan the Terrible.”

The newspaper served as a convenient vehicle for the Soviet KGB to set off Ukrainians against Jews – particularly in the United States, since at that time there was a fair degree of cooperation between the two groups and Russian dissidents like Andrei Sakharov, all aimed at securing the release of various Soviet dissidents and the emigration of Soviet Jewry to Israel during the era of detente. It was then that Leonid Plyushch, the first Soviet Ukrainian dissident was released to the West and Soviet Jewry was making inroads to emigrate to Israel.

In 1977 Mr. Demjanjuk was first accused of being Ivan the Terrible, a gas chamber operator at the Treblinka death camp in Poland. From 1977 to 1993 Mr. Demjanjuk faced a long series of court hearings through the American and then Israeli court systems, all the way to the Supreme Court of Israel. In the course of those hearings he was found guilty and sentenced to death.

In short, for 15 years, while he sat in U.S. and Israeli jails, those who pursued and prosecuted Mr. Demjanjuk were positive that he was not in Sobibor as they claim now, but rather in Treblinka. But in 1993, after the defence was able to amass irrefutable evidence to the contrary, the Israeli Supreme Court lifted the sentence, dismissed the charges which incidentally

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A model of historical memory of World War II for Ukraine

by Vladyslav Hrynevych

Vladyslav Hrynevych, a leading scholar on the study of historical memory and the politics of memory with regard to the events of World War II in Ukraine, is a senior research scholar at the Department of the Theory and History of Politics, Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. He was in Edmonton recently on the invitation of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, where he gave a talk November 5, 2009, on "A Model of Historical Memory of World War II for Ukraine: In Search of Identity and Consolidation." Following is the second and concluding part of his presentation. (Part I appeared in our January 3 issue.)

CONCLUSION

Ukrainian memory was greatly activated at the moment when the Ukrainian state came into being. It was, indeed, historical memory itself that emerged as a powerful weapon in the struggle for independence. As soon as the influence of Communist rule weakened during the period of perestroika and glasnost, alternative models made themselves apparent. The struggle between the old Soviet or post-Soviet models and various national ones, both democratic and undemocratic, has been going on ever since.

The formation of the politics of memory in independent Ukraine has proceeded in stages that are clearly associated with the specifics of presidential rule.

President Leonid Kravchuk, who formerly headed the department of ideology of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukrainian SSR, made no small personal contribution to covering up the Holodomor and discrediting the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the

Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). His tactic was the original one of "running between the raindrops" so as to avoid getting wet – that is, keeping his distance from the extremes of Communism and nationalism, as well as seeking to avoid painful subjects that might upset the northern neighbor, the Communist Parliament, or the divided society.

Both the semicentenary of the UPA and the 60th anniversary of the Great Famine were practically ignored by the president and Parliament. True, at the level of school textbooks the old model of the war underwent cardinal change, owing particularly to the introduction of the UPA into the discourse and to the condemnation of Stalinism and Hitlerism.

Just like Kravchuk, President Leonid Kuchma said a great deal about the importance of restoring historical memory, returning to the sources of national identity, reviving national traditions and the like, but kept for the most part to Soviet commemorative space. What Mr. Kuchma called political wisdom was in fact an expression of cynicism and lack of principle.

Instead of institutionalizing traditional Ukrainian holidays and traditions at the national level, the authorities tried to adjust Soviet holidays to Ukrainian ones. Mr. Kuchma restored "to the letter," as he liked to say, the commemoration of February 23 (the Day of the Protector of the Fatherland), March 8, May 9, and November 7.

In 2003 he revived the tradition of May Day greetings and introduced a new holiday – the Day of Partisan Glory – on September 22 (it preceded the day of the formation of the UPA, October 14). In 2004 the president introduced Veterans' Day on October 1 (on the U.N. calendar, this is the International Day of the Elderly – those over age 65).

The myth of the war was Ukrainianized by heroizing Ukrainian triumphs and sacri-

fices, but the OUN-UPA was passed over in silence. Not only was the cult of victory not abolished, but it obtained legitimizing support when, at the initiative of the Communists, a law on the Great Fatherland War (GFW) was adopted (it was intended to prosecute those who "distorted the truth of the war").

In 2004 society showed itself prepared to mobilize on the basis of regional, national and sociocultural identities. The slogan of the Orange Revolution and Independence Square – where, in the words of Zbigniew Brzezinski, "nationalism embraced democracy" – was "to give Ukraine its first Ukrainian president." Evident in this formulation was an appeal to revive Ukrainian historical memory.

Under President Viktor Yushchenko, the politics of memory has not only been considerably activated but has taken on features of a systemic nature. The frequency of the president's historical references is greater than that of his predecessors, and his repertoire of events, facts and personalities is broader. He has stressed more than once that "For the first time we have taken a systematic approach to the national revival; we are speaking of the renewal of our historical memory. ... In a united state, in independent Ukraine we must remember everyone who brought our independence closer at various times. ... The Ukrainian state arises against the background of this history. ..."

An emphasis on the activity of the national-liberation movement became the defining feature of the new model of historical memory, with the OUN and UPA as one of its most characteristic representatives. President Yushchenko was the first to greet the country with the 63rd anniversary of the UPA. In this context, the logic of establishing the Museum of the Soviet Occupation in Kyiv and of creating the Museum of the Liberation Struggle in Lviv becomes apparent. This list can be continued with such events as the Ukrainian Parliament's acknowledgment of the Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian people; the mounting of an exhibition devoted to the UPA, "The Army of the Unvanquished," by the Archives of the Security Service of Ukraine, and so on.

Overall, the Stalinist USSR appears in President Yushchenko's model of memory as a totalitarian empire that did considerable damage to Ukraine. Not long ago he also acknowledged the colonial status of Ukraine in that empire, characterizing it as a post-totalitarian, post-colonial and post-genocidal country.

This year Mr. Yushchenko has greeted the nation with the 67th anniversary of the UPA. He has visited the monument to the Kolky Republic in Volhynia, which was created under the aegis of the UPA on German-occupied territory (the so-called region of liberty). He has also visited the Demianiv Laz memorial museum to the victims of Stalinist persecution, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the reburial of their remains. He has issued a decree conferring official memorial status on the Łącki Street Prison in Lviv.

Against this background, the subject of the GFW becomes quite controversial. On the one hand, the ruling authorities regard the war in light of the heroic liberation struggle of the UPA, as well as through the prism of the crimes of both totalitarian regimes. Auschwitz and the gulag, the Holocaust and the Holodomor are boldly compared.

A new feature should be noted – the introduction of the Holocaust into the discourse of the war with regard to the Victory Day celebrations of May 9. Earlier it was mentioned only at ceremonies in Babyn Yar. Moreover, in frequency of historical messages in the president's appeals of 2006, the Holocaust took fourth place, preceded by the second world war, the Holodomor, and Stalinist persecutions and deportations. (True, the Holocaust is never mentioned in

For Ukraine, the creation of its own model of memory is not just a question of reviving national identity, as well as democratizing and humanizing society, but also of solving the problem of emerging from under the influence of Russia...

the context of Ukrainian participation in it.) The president also makes mention of the deportation of the Crimean Tatars. Polish-Ukrainian encounters at the highest level are intended to discuss the complex problems of the Volhynian tragedy.

Thus, the model of historical memory promoted by Mr. Yushchenko cannot be called nationalist. This is a model of an inclusive political nation that is taking shape on the basis of multiculturalism and mutual tolerance. Accordingly, the national narrative is based on historical events meaningful to various national groups residing on Ukrainian territory.

Even so, the current Ukrainian model of memory of the second world war remains a hybrid, since it includes elements of Soviet heroic rhetoric about the GFW that are far from a rational consideration of events. Soviet myths – the name of the GFW, the May 9 holiday, the uncritical approach to the Red Army – remain in this model as birthmarks. In his Victory Day speech of May 2005 the president called Soviet veterans "fighters for freedom and democracy" and noted that "they fought for the country clearly desired by Bohdan Khmelnytsky, Ivan Mazepa, Volodymyr the Great and Yaroslav the Wise."

In his policy on war memory, Mr. Yushchenko is following the well-trodden path of the Ukrainization of the GFW myth. This was particularly apparent in the posthumous award of the distinction of Hero of Ukraine to Oleksii Berest, a Ukrainian who took part, along with Meliton Kantariia and Mikhail Yegorov, in a dubious "first" raising of the victory flag above the Reichstag. (As is well-known, this was a staged grouping filmed after the battle for official newsreels.) According to presidential decrees, Soviet symbols are an official component of May 9 celebrations. The St. George ribbon and Russian songs are standard accompaniments. The status of "Participant in the GFW" also remains unchanged.

It is also paradoxical that the term GFW was reinstated in school textbooks after the Orange Revolution (owing to the efforts of the Socialist minister of education, Stanislav Nikolaenko). In articles for an encyclopedia of Ukrainian history now being prepared by the Institute of History, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the "Great Fatherland War" also remains a fundamental concept. By this logic, Baron Carl Mannerheim, Erich von Manstein et al were participants in the Great Fatherland War.

Mr. Yushchenko is being criticized today from both left and right, both for radicalism and for lack thereof in forming a model of

(Continued on page 16)



Вельмишановним Членам
і всій Українській Громаді

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HURI co-founder...

(Continued from page 4)

personal history and of the background to "Animal Farm" – a unique contribution to Orwelliana.

At the conclusion of World War II Dr. Ševčenko moved from Czechoslovakia to Belgium, where he spent four years at the Catholic University of Louvain (Leuven), pursuing further studies in classical philology and Byzantinology and earned the degree of docteur en philosophie et lettres in 1949. While at Louvain, he participated in a seminar in Brussels on Byzantine history presided over by the eminent Henri Grégoire, who had a lasting impact on him. Prof. Ševčenko said that Grégoire's seminars were "among the most exciting of my intellectual experiences." He also expressed gratitude to him for helping him, a refugee, in the aftermath of the war.

Dr. Ševčenko came to the United States in the early 1950s and began his academic career as a lecturer on ancient and Byzantine history at the University of California at Berkeley. After two years as researcher in Washington, and Cambridge on a Ford Foundation Fellowship, he became an instructor in Slavic languages and literatures at the University of Michigan. In 1954 he was appointed to a tenure-track position and taught Slavic languages, Old Rus' literature and Byzantine history. In 1955 he moved to Columbia University where, as associate and then full professor, he taught Byzantine and Slavic studies.

In 1960 he was named a visiting scholar at Harvard's Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Byzantine Studies in Washington, beginning a close association with Harvard that was to last for the rest of his life. In 1965 he was invited to join the resident senior scholars there and spent eight years working there. While there he joined forces with Cyril Mango, another noted Byzantinologist, and the two presided over the intellectual life of the center.

In 1973 Dr. Ševčenko moved to Harvard's Cambridge campus where as the

Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Byzantine History and Literature he became a member of the Department of the Classics. He taught courses in medieval Greek, offered seminars on Byzantine literature and palaeography, and trained numerous graduate students in the field.

The year 1973 also marked the beginning of his close association with the just established Ukrainian Research Institute, of which he was co-founder together with Prof. Pritsak. His active involvement with HURI continued until his retirement in 1992.

Prof. Ševčenko was an active member of the HURI Seminar on Ukrainian Studies, as well as a special seminar on the Primary Chronicle on the early history of Kyivan Rus'. He played an important role in training a new generation of specialists in Ukrainian history and philology, including George Grabowicz (Dmytro Čyževskij Professor of Ukrainian Literature, Harvard), Lubomyr Hajda (HURI associate director), Zenon E. Kohut (director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta), Frank Sysyn (Director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies [CIUS]), Orest Subtelny (professor of history and political science at York University [Toronto]), and the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak (rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv). He was co-founder and co-editor of the journal *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, which began publication in 1977.

Together with Prof. Pritsak, Prof. Ševčenko introduced courses on Ukrainian history at Harvard on a regular basis. His lectures later served as a basis for his volume "Ukraine between East and West: Essays on Cultural History to the Early 18th Century," issued by the Peter Jacyk Center at the University of Alberta in 1996. The book was received exceptionally well by the academic community both in North America and Ukraine, where it appeared in a Ukrainian translation.

Shortly before his death, Prof. Ševčenko had finished work on a new, revised edition

of "Ukraine between East and West," which is scheduled to appear in print in early 2010.

Prof. Ševčenko produced numerous essays and articles, framed by his 1962 doctoral monograph on two 14th-century statesmen and literati, Theodore Metochites and Nikephoros Choumnos, and his critical edition and translation of a seminal biography composed in the 10th century, "The Life of Emperor Basil I," to be published in 2010.

He produced a major piece of detective work published in the *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* of 1971, titled "The Date and Author of the So-Called Fragments of Toparcha Gothicus," which was the unmasking of a scholarly fraud perpetrated by a 19th-century Hellenist and palaeographer, Karl Benedikt Hase. He also wrote "Two Varieties of Historical Writing," "A Shadow Outline of Virtue" and "Observations on the Study of Byzantine Hagiography in the Last Half-Century: Two Looks Back and One Look Forward."

Prof. Ševčenko's collected Byzantine papers were issued in two volumes, while his contributions over a lifetime to Byzantino-Slavic and Ukrainian cultural and historical matters were likewise published in two volumes.

A major intellectual force in Byzantine and Slavic studies on both sides of the Atlantic, Prof. Ševčenko was for 10 years (1986-1996) president of the Association Internationale des Études Byzantines and at the time of his death was an honorary president of that association as well as honorary president of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States.

The breadth of his scholarship and accomplishments received further recognition in multiple honorary doctorates, one from Germany (the University of Cologne), and two from Poland (Warsaw University, 2001, and the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, 2005) as well as membership in numerous learned societies, including the American Philosophical Society,

American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Medieval Academy of America, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Accademia di Palermo, Accademia Pontaniana, Christian Archaeological Society, British Academy, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Academy of Humanities Research, Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (as a foreign member), and the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

He received research and literary prizes from Germany (the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung) and Ukraine (Lviv and Kyiv). The title of the first of two *Festschriften* produced in his honor, "Okeanos" (1984), was taken from the sobriquet of a very large manuscript ("The Ocean") in a monastery on Mount Athos which contains an encyclopedic collection of texts dealing with the sciences, literature, philosophy and theology, and nicely implied the true scope of his learning.

Prof. Ševčenko is survived by his former wives Oksana Drai-Khmara Asher and Nancy Patterson Ševčenko; two daughters, Catherine Bentley Ševčenko and Elisabeth (Liz) Ševčenko; and three grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by his wife Margaret Bentley Ševčenko. Internment took place at a private service at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge.

Plans are pending for a public memorial service at Harvard University in early February. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made toward the establishment of an endowment in Prof. Ševčenko's name to award travel grants to students in Byzantine and pre-modern Slavic studies (see details at <https://sites.google.com/site/ihorsevchenko/donations>).

In listing his own achievements and honors, Prof. Ševčenko always ended by pointing out that "His hobby is trout fishing." In the epitaph that he composed in Latin a few years ago for himself, he wrote: "over a long life he witnessed very many deaths; his own, therefore, he did not fear."

Ukraine's leaders...

(Continued from page 1)

come. I do not have the slightest doubt that Ukraine will become a leader and a jewel of Europe very soon. I know that will happen."

The president also noted in his address, "Our life is Ukraine, and no forces will return us to the old, foreign and unsettled seas. We are Europeans. We will be in the European Union and NATO. We will live in a safe, protected and prosperous country."

He also assured the people that "everything will be all right," adding, "We have become different. We will not go back. Believe in our strength. Believe in ourselves – without doubt. Be confident that the year 2010 will bring us victory."

The president also acknowledged that 2009 "was not an easy year." He said, "It passed under the mark of crisis, however, crisis did not define its essence. This year was rich in events and generous on conclusions. We will, I believe, learn to evaluate ourselves with dignity, calmly, without emotion, or denigration. I know this year each of you, my dear compatriots, achieved many accomplishments, both great and small."

He underscored that Ukraine "withstood the blow of crisis," and he listed a series of accomplishments: "We built stadiums and roads, new hospitals and schools. We will co-host the Euro-2012 games in four Ukrainian cities. Our doctors saved thousands of lives. Together, we freed our sailors from captivity. We concluded a series of very successful foreign contracts. We are uniting with the European Union in various sectors – through common humanitarian, transport, and aviation policies, as well as in the areas of justice and security. This year we entered the Energy Community. For the

first time in our history we came close to signing an agreement on association with the European Union, where the key component is a free trade zone."

Prime Minister Tymoshenko also spoke of the difficulties of 2009: "The outgoing year was the most difficult in the entire history of independent Ukraine, but that was only because of the world crisis. Every person, every company and even the government struggled hard to overcome that stress."

"We survived; we did not give in to the crisis," she said. "Despite the difficulties of this year, we have prepared for Euro-2012, have built Europe's largest pumped-storage plant on the Dnister that is twice as big as the Dnipro HPP [hydroelectric power plant], and have strengthened our energy independence. We have pulled through the 10-year bankruptcy our aircraft building industry had and conducted the maiden flight of the Antonov AN-148, one of the world's best."

She continued: "We have not closed down a single coalmine; on the contrary, our coalmines have recovered and been modernized. We have preserved all strategic enterprises and have restored governmental control over large oil and gas deposits."

The top candidate in the January 17 presidential election, Viktor Yanukovich, leader of the Party of Regions, posted a New Year's greeting on his official website. He, too, was optimistic about 2010: "I know that we will be able to overcome difficulties, that we will be able to be happy. I know that our children will be growing up healthy, and that there will be peace and well-being for every family. I know that harmony, peace and well-being will rule in our nation."

Sources: *Interfax-Ukraine, Official Website of Ukraine's President.*



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Vera Farmiga flies high in “Up in the Air”

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – After playing stark, dramatic roles in a series of independent films and one studio outing, actress Vera Farmiga has flown up into the ranks of big-time movie stars with her superb performance in Paramount Pictures’ comedy romance “Up in the Air.”

Her portrayal of a wise-cracking businesswoman, opposite charmer George Clooney, has captured Best Supporting Actress nominations from nine film critics’ associations, including the prestigious Golden Globe and SAG (Screen Actors’ Guild) Awards.

“Up in the Air” had its North American premiere on November 30, 2009, and was screened in select theaters before opening in theaters across the country on Christmas Day. The movie has received Golden Globe nominations in the film category for Best Picture, Best Actor (Mr. Clooney), Best Director (Jason Reitman), Best Supporting Actress (Ms. Farmiga and co-star Anna Kendrick) and Best Screenplay (Mr. Reitman and Sheldon Turner).

Golden Globe winners, who often advance into the ranks of Oscar nominees, will be announced on January 17 and SAG winners on January 23. The American Academy of Motion Pictures will hand out Oscars on February 2.

Despite its comedy designation, “Up in the Air” is widely seen as a commentary on the inhumanity of the way corporations cut work forces.

Ms. Farmiga gives a remarkably convincing performance as Alex Gorman, a confident, intelligent and sexy woman who meets Ryan Bingham (Mr. Clooney) in an airport lounge, each en route to another destination in their corporate business worlds.

Ryan is a senior staff member of a corporate downsizing firm; as one reviewer defined him, he’s a guy who travels around the country doing the dirty work of corporate bosses too cowardly to fire their own employees. Up in the air for 322 days a year, he’s a seasoned air traveler who knows the ins and outs of airport security, boards planes with one carry-on bag neatly packed with minimum essentials, and owns club cards for every major hotel chain.

Alex is able to spar with Ryan and yet remain sensuous, sympathetic and attainable, although she tells Ryan up front that she’s not after anything but a guy who can engage in intelligent conversation. The two are drawn to each other through their mutual quest for 10-million-mile frequent flyer status; admiration leads to romance, and before they realize what’s happening, they are meeting at airports for hotel liai-

sons as they criss-cross the country.

Director Reitman smoothly segues from one location to another by prefacing their meetings with stunning aerial views of various meeting places – Omaha, Seattle and other American cities.

Despite Ryan’s aversion to any serious commitment, he is drawn to Alex and takes her with him to his sister’s wedding in Wisconsin. (There’s a really touching moment here, when he goes against his own convictions to persuade his sister’s fiancé to proceed with marriage plans, even though the guy has cold feet.) He shows Alex his high school and other boyhood locales, and it seems his rigid dislike of marriage and family may be thawing.

Unlike most Hollywood film endings (saccharine and predictable), “Up in the Air” has a poignant, gripping, surprising finale that leaves movie-goers gasping.

Ms. Farmiga’s performance and her slender figure are admirable, even more so when one learns that her first child (her son Fynn) was born just two weeks before costume fittings and two months before the start of shooting.

The new Lauren Bacall

“Up in the Air” averaged an A- with reviewers, most of them highly impressed with the rapport between the two actors. Manohla Dargis of The New York Times, though somewhat skeptical of the movie, said that Ms. Farmiga “bats out the double entendres effortlessly and brings out the real warmth and vulnerable palpability of her co-star.”

The Christian Science Monitor critic said he hadn’t seen chemistry this good between two movie actors (Farmiga and Clooney) for ages, and declared: “At times [Farmiga] is reminiscent of Lauren Bacall, who also knew how to slink with the best of them and still stay smart.”

Todd McCarthy of Variety Magazine said the timing in the Clooney-Farmiga scenes is “like splendid tennis, with each player surprising the other with shots but keeping the rally going to breathtaking duration.”

Most critics agreed that the film was outstanding. The Los Angeles Times noted that the film blends entertainment and insight, comedy and poignancy, even drama and reality, “things that are difficult by themselves but a whole lot harder in combination.”

The Hollywood Reporter called it “crisply biting, moving and exhilarating,” and the San Francisco Chronicle described it as “light and dark, hilarious and tragic, romantic and real.”

In 15 years of film work, Ms. Farmiga, 36, has interpreted stern, dramatic charac-

ters – a recovering drug addict, a conflicted psychologist, the mother of a disturbed child, a prostitute and a doctor overseeing prisoners in a German prison camp.

Her role in “Up in the Air” has given the blue-eyed actress a chance to break out of that mold and embrace an entirely new thespian world of romance and sensuality.

She tells interviewers that selecting a script used to be “something in a woman that I wanted to defend, something that I recognized or wanted to understand.” Since she became a mother, she says it’s more the message of the movie or the questions it poses about life that draw her to a film.

The child of Ukrainian immigrants, Ms. Farmiga is one of seven siblings who grew up on a farm in Flemington, N.J., attended Catholic schools and Saturday Ukrainian classes, and did not speak English until kindergarten. Each child was allowed to select a pet; Ms. Farmiga chose a sheep.

A Ukrainian wedding

Her predilection for farm animals continues to this day. She and her new husband, Renn Hawkey, a writer, carpenter and former keyboardist (their wedding in 2008 included folk dancing, singing and traditional Ukrainian rituals), raise angora goats on their Catskills farm in upstate New York. Preferring the company of her husband and 10-month-old son and the serenity of upstate New York to big city hubbub and glamour, she likes to spin her own wool after the goat shearing and knit articles of clothing – a pastime she considers both therapeutic and productive.

Ms. Farmiga majored in drama at Syracuse University, lived in New York’s East Village while auditioning for acting



Dale Robinette

Alex (Vera Farmiga) is the answer to a prayer for any man with corporate wanderlust in the dramatic comedy “Up in the Air,” a Paramount Pictures release.

roles, and joined an Australian company filming the TV show “Roar.” Later, there were stage and television appearances and, eventually, roles in independent films, including the lead in the 2005 movie “Down to the Bone,” which brought her a special prize at the Sundance Film Festival and won her attention outside independent film circles.

Director Martin Scorsese, who admired her work, invited her to undertake a role in his 2006 movie “The Departed,” her first studio film. As the police psychologist Madolyn, who counsels (and has affairs with) two of the film’s leading stars, Matt Damon and Leonardo Di Caprio, she was nominated for the Empire Awards’ Best Female Newcomer honors, one of many awards she has received during her career.

“Up in the Air” is rated R, for language and some nudity.



Dale Robinette

In Alex (Vera Farmiga, right), company downsizer and frequent flyer Ryan Bingham (George Clooney, left) has finally met a woman with a similar case of corporate wanderlust, in the dramatic comedy “Up in the Air.”

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Poets Olena Jennings, Krystia Lucenko, Oksana Lutsyshyna, Vasyl Makhno, Askold Melnyczuk, and Candace Tarpley will read their own poetry. \$15

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

out by the Public Opinion-Ukraine fund, the Party of Regions of Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Communist Party, the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc and the Our Ukraine Bloc, as well as the Serhii Tihipko Bloc and the Arseniy Yatsenyuk Bloc (if they are established), are expected to win seats in the Verkhovna Rada during the next parliamentary elections. Respondents were asked to say which political party or bloc they would support if parliamentary elections were to be held soon. Some 29.6 percent of those polled said they are ready to support the Party of Regions, 14.8 percent the Tymoshenko Bloc, 6.2 percent the Tihipko Bloc, 5.6 percent the Yatsenyuk Bloc, 5.1 percent the Communist Party, 3.4 percent the Lytvyn Bloc and 3.1 percent Our Ukraine. A total of 1,000 respondents from all of Ukraine's regions participated in the survey conducted on December 17-22, 2009. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine to combat nuclear terrorism

KYIV – The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has approved an action plan according to which Ukraine will participate in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism by the end of 2010, it was reported on January 4. The plan of preparations foresees the improvement of Ukrainian laws on combating the illegal use of nuclear materials and radioactive waste, and countering terrorism. The document envisages the holding of counterintelligence, intelligence and search operations aimed at preventing, detecting and stopping illegal movement across the state border, transit across Ukraine, and the use or sale of nuclear weapons components that could be used to commit terrorist attacks. The resolution also foresees cooperation and an exchange of information with the special services, law enforcement and customs agencies of foreign states and international organizations on countering organized criminal groups whose activities are linked to the illegal use of radioactive materials. (Ukrinform)

Izium recognizes Armenian Genocide

IZIUM, Ukraine – Unanimously supporting local Armenian community leader Nikolay Adikhanyan's appeal, the municipal authorities of Izium, Ukraine, have decided to appeal to the Ukrainian president and the Verkhovna Rada with a request to enshrine in the country's legislation a clause recognizing and condemning the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Empire. This is a very important development not only for Ukrainian Armenians but also for the entire Armenian nation, Nikolay Adohanyan told an Analitika.at.ua correspondent. He expressed special gratitude to the head of the Izium City Council, Alexander Bozhkov; the secretary of the City Council, Konstantin Olshansky; Deputy Mayor Aleksei Poliakh; and all parliamentarians and experts who contributed to the initiative. This is the third such step taken in Ukraine. On May 19, 2005, the Crimean Parliament decided to declare April 24 as a Day of Commemorating Armenian Genocide Victims. On November 26, 2009, the Holosiyivsk District Council in Kyiv condemned the Armenian Genocide. (PanArmenian Network)

Ukrainian population under 46 M

KYIV – Ukraine's population as of January 1 will decrease to 45.973 million persons, the State Statistics Committee said on December 31, 2009. As of November 1, 2009, the population figure was 46 million. Notably, the birth rate exceeds mortality in only five Ukrainian regions: Volyn (6.09 percent), Zakarpattia (15.64 percent), Ivano-Frankivsk (0.02 percent), Rivne (14 percent) and the city of Kyiv (13.54 percent). According to the 2001 census, the popula-

tion of Ukraine was 48 million people. (Ukrinform)

2009 posts increased birth rate

KYIV – The year 2009 was marked by the highest birth rate of all the years of independence (since 1991) in Ukraine, said Family, Youth and Sports Minister Yurii Pavlenko. About 530,000 babies were born in 2009. "Foreign experts say this is a natural result of systematic and effective work by the bodies of state power," he said. The number of families with two and three children has also increased, Mr. Pavlenko noted. (Ukrinform)

Ukrainians adopt more children

KYIV – A total of 2,137 children were adopted in Ukraine in the first 11 months of 2009, which is more compared to the entire year in 2008, said Family, Youth and Sports Minister Yurii Pavlenko. Summing up the ministry's performance for the year at a press conference on December 29, 2009, Mr. Pavlenko said the number of children adopted by residents of Crimea and the Kherson, Zakarpattia, Poltava, Donetsk, Mykolaiv and Odesa oblasts grew in 2009. He also said that foreigners adopted 1,337 children over the period, which is 20 percent less as compared to 2008. "The adoption of children by foreigners has almost halved since 2006, while the adoption of children by Ukrainians has doubled," Mr. Pavlenko said. He also said the number of Ukrainians who want to adopt a child continues to grow. (Ukrinform)

Real earnings fall almost 10 percent

KYIV – Real earnings of Ukrainians, taking into account a price factor, decreased in the third quarter of 2009 by 9.9 percent, the State Statistics Committee reported on December 30, 2009. Nominal incomes of the population grew by 3.2 percent in the third quarter when compared with the year before. The available income that may be used by people for purchasing goods and services increased by 3.8 percent, while the real available income (taking into account a price factor) fell by 9.9 percent. The available income per capita in the third quarter of 2009 was 3,998.2 hrv – 4.3 percent more as compared with the prior year. (Ukrinform)

98 freed from pirate captivity

KYIV – Ninety-eight Ukrainian sailors, crewmembers of 14 ships, have been freed from pirate captivity with the assistance of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Petro Poroshenko said at a yearend press conference in Kyiv on December 30, 2009. He said four Ukrainian sailors currently remain in pirate captivity aboard two ships of foreign countries. Mr. Poroshenko said that Ukraine should amend laws on defending the rights and interests of Ukrainian citizens abroad. He also expressed hope that amendments to laws submitted by the Foreign Affairs Ministry would be adopted by the Verkhovna Rada, and that this would help protect 40,000 Ukrainian sailors who work aboard the ships flying the flags of other countries. Mr. Poroshenko said Ukraine's participation in the European Union's anti-piracy Operation Atalanta would help provide greater assistance to Ukrainian sailors. (Ukrinform)

Russia buys holding company IUD

DONETSK – The Industrial Union of Donbas (IUD), one of Ukraine's largest industrial holdings, has been bought by the Russian government in a thinly veiled deal being operated through the Russian government-owned bank, Vneshekonombank, Ukraine Business Online reported on January 5. Reports from sources believed to be reliable said that Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who serves as chairman of Vneshekonombank's supervisory board,

(Continued on page 15)

CAMPAIGN...

(Continued from page 2)

Ukrainian citizens and "is by no means aimed at Russia, Romania, France or the United States, and other countries, until they have no hostile intentions with respect to Ukraine." He said the document is very urgent, as the issue concerns a decisive fight against piracy at sea, the prevention of terrorist attacks and the avoidance of any provocation and force with respect to Ukrainian troops deployed abroad. The bill foresees the possibility of using Ukraine's armed forces abroad in line with the generally accepted principles and standards of international law and international agreements signed by Ukraine, as well as the possibility of protecting another state that appealed to Ukraine for such assistance. (Ukrinform)

CEC registers 55 more observers

KYIV – The Central Election Commission on December 22, 2009, registered another 55 observers for the January 17 presidential election in Ukraine. The commission registered 39 observers from For Fair Elections, an international public organization on assisting the development of electoral processes, 10 from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and six from Hungary. Previously, the commission had registered 337 foreign observers. The member-states of the European Union are planning to send around 700 observers for the presidential election in Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

President wants more OSCE observers

KYIV – Presidential candidate and incumbent Viktor Yushchenko met with Heidi Tagliavini, the chief of the Election Observation Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). President Yushchenko said, "Ukraine is interested in a civilized process of the political struggle and unbiased assessments of the election process by the leading democratic institutions of Europe." Mr. Yushchenko emphasized that securing a democratic, transparent and open election process is a crucial priority of cooperation with international observers. The president said he appreciates the role of the OSCE institutions, namely the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), in ensuring the compliance of the election process in Ukraine with the international standards. He asked the OSCE to increase the size of the OSCE Election Observation Mission. In addition, Mr. Yushchenko said he insists that the Verkhovna Rada harmonize legal acts on the election of the president with the Constitution of Ukraine and a judgment of the Constitutional Court as soon as possible, taking into consideration the general conclusions of the ODIHR, the OSCE and the Venice Commission. (Ukrinform)

CEC registers foreign monitors

KYIV – The Central Election

Commission on December 25, 2009, registered nine monitors of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and one of the ENEMO European election observation network, the CEC press service reported. The CEC also registered two German representatives on December 28, 2009, bringing the overall number of observers from foreign states to 55 and observers from international organizations to 384. (Ukrinform)

OSCE funds for election training

KYIV – The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is planning to allocate 1.5 million euros for nationwide training seminars for election commission members ahead of the January 17 presidential election in Ukraine. Senior Project Officer at the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine (PCU) Rene BeBeau said at a press conference on December 28, 2009, that the training seminars had started on December 25 and would last until January 12, 2010, in the framework of cooperation between the Central Election Commission (CEC) and the OSCE. A total of 800 training seminars on organizing and holding the vote on election day and the vote count are to be held. The seminars focusing on voting procedures will target the heads, deputy heads and secretaries of precinct election commissions. For other election commission members, the PCU and the CEC have developed a special educational film that will be delivered to every precinct election commission. Mr. BeBeau said that the PCU and the CEC had already conducted training sessions for more than 2,600 district election commission members. (Ukrinform)

Finance Ministry assures funding

KYIV – Acting Finance Minister Ihor Umanskyi said on December 23, 2009, that the presidential election campaign in 2010 will be financed in full. "Under conditions of the next budget year, if the state budget [for 2010] is not adopted and if the budget is implemented in an operational format under the 1/12 formula [foreseeing that expenditure in 2010 will be financed only at a level of a twelfth of the state budget for 2009], the presidential election will be financed in full," he said. President Viktor Yushchenko sent a letter to Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko asking her to help ensure that the funds for the presidential election are allocated from the state budget on time and in full. In his opinion, the "implementation of the electoral rights of voters has been jeopardized." According to the Central Election Commission, expenditures for preparing for and holding the presidential election were less than 0.6 percent financed as of December 18, 2009. (Ukrinform)

CEC sets up 113 foreign polling stations

KYIV – The Central Election Commission reported on December 23, 2009, that it has set up 113 election centers in the foreign election district for the presidential election on January 17. It was pre-

viously reported that the CEC set up 114 foreign polling stations for the election. However, a decision was made that election district No. 28 in Iraq would be abolished, and its territory and electors will be attached to election district No. 37 in Jordan. (Ukrinform)

Reporting of poll results prohibited

KYIV – Any reporting of the results of sociological surveys on the election of the Ukrainian president was prohibited in Ukraine as of January 2, according to the website of presidential candidate Yulia Tymoshenko. "The media of all forms of ownership currently operating in Ukraine should stop reporting the results of public opinion polls regarding candidates for the Ukrainian presidency from January 2, i.e., 15 days before election day," reads the statement. Election campaigning for or against presidential candidates ends at midnight on January 15. Election day is January 17. (Ukrinform)

Exit polls on January 17, February 7

KYIV – Over 30 independent and politically unbiased public organizations have supported the idea of conducting a two-stage exit poll during the upcoming presidential election in Ukraine – on January 17 and February 7. Ukraine's three leading sociology services – the Democratic Initiatives Foundation, the Oleksander

Razumkov Center and Kyiv International Institute of Sociology – are expected to conduct both stages of the exit poll, it was reported on January 4. Over 13,000 respondents are to be questioned at 240 polling stations. In the opinion of the organizers, the exit poll will be the most objective and effective barrier to political cheating. The exit polls will be partially financed by a forum of international donors, including the Dutch Embassy in Ukraine, the International Renaissance Foundation and the National Endowment for Democracy. Talks are also being held with other donors. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko blasts top rivals

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said during his visit to the Lviv region on January 3 that a "Moscow project" should be prevented from winning the January 17 presidential election in Ukraine. Mr. Yushchenko, who repeatedly said there was "no difference" between his election rivals Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich, ironically described them as "the best representatives of a united Kremlin coalition." He said that both politicians, who want to remain in power, would always be together, also after the presidential election, and that they would not support the idea of a sovereign and independent state, democracy and a united Orthodox Church in Ukraine. (Ukrinform)



В глибокому смутку повідомляємо родину, приятелів і знайомих, що дня 1 січня 2010 р. відійшов у Божу вічність наш найдорожчий МУЖ, БАТЬКО, ДЗІДЗІО та РОДИЧ

СВ. П.

ЯРОСЛАВ КУРОВИЦЬКИЙ

нар. 22 жовтня 1932 р. в Городенці, Україна.

Ветеран Корейської війни при летунських відділі. Власник відомої м'ясарні Куровицьких. Довголітній голова Українського Спортивного Клубу в Нью-Йорку, довголітній член New York City Community Board 3. Голова Комітету збереження назви вулиці в імені Тараса Шевченка.

Залишив у смутку:

- дружину – Ірину
- сина – Ярослава мол. з дружиною Ізєю
- дочку – Оксану з мужем Орестом Комарницьким
- внуків – Юрчика і Діянну Куровицьких
- Ксеню і Катю Комарницьких
- брата – Зеновія з дружиною Веславою та донькою Евою з мужем Кевином Одит
- двоюрідну сестру – Тамару Панкевич
- швагерку – Наталію Думу
- племінників – Юрка Пастернака з дружиною Нусею та сином Кристофором
- Зеновія Панкевича з дружиною Лорою та дітьми Адамом і Наталкою
- д-ра Олега Панкевича з дружиною Єлизаветою
- Лесю Лебедь з мужем Орестом та доньками Андрією й Аріанною
- Андрія Менцінського з дружиною Лорі та синами Ґавином і Тревором
- Тамару Менцінську Лащик
- Маркіяна Думу з дружиною Лорі та дітьми Васильком і Касандрою
- Дарка Менцінського

та ближчу й дальшу родину в Америці, Канаді й Україні.

ПАНАХИДА буде відправлена в п'ятницю, 8 січня 2010 р. в похоронному заведенні Петра Яреми в Нью-Йорку о год. 7:30 веч., а похоронні відправи відбудуться в суботу, 9 січня о год. 11:30 ранку в церкві св. Юра в Нью-Йорку. Відтак Покійний буде похований на цвинтарі св. Андрія в С. Бавнд Бруку, Н. Дж.

Вічна Йому пам'ять!

Замість квітів просимо складати пожертви на журнал СУА „Наше Життя“ та на Український Музей в Нью-Йорку.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

has been hands-on in the deal. The bank will pay \$1 billion for the stakes of IUD's Vitaly Gaiduk, Sergei Taruta and Oleg Mkrchian, who hold 20 percent, 40 percent and 40 percent stakes in the company, respectively. The reports say that IUD had no choice but to agree to the takeover bid since it had run up huge debts to Vneshekonombank and other foreign banks. The sale was said to be the only way that IUD could avoid bankruptcy. The deal had been kept secret since both the Russian and the Ukrainian principals believed that dis-

closure prior to Ukraine's presidential election on January 17 might result in a negative reaction for the election chances of Viktor Yanukovich, generally regarded as the candidate Russian political leaders want to see win the Ukrainian presidency. The deal effectively places the largest metallurgical works of Hungary, Poland and Ukraine in the hands of the Russian government. The properties now held by the Russian government through the thin veil of Vneshekonombank include Hungary's Dunafer in Dunaújváros, Poland's Huta Czystochowa, as well as facilities formerly owned by the Industrial Union of Donbas in Dnipropetrovsk and Alchevsk. (Ukraine Business Online)

A model...

(Continued from page 10)

memory of World War II. That formation, one should add, is taking place against the background of internal and external conflicts. The former include, above all, the conflict of various Ukrainian identities that is being exploited by Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian political forces alike. (An example of the antithesis of the rehabilitation of nationalist heroes is the erection of a monument to the victims of the UPA, "Shot in the Back," in Symferopol. Luhansk, Yevpatoriia and Kharkiv also want to erect something similar.) Donetsk took a different tack, erecting a monument to Gen. Nikolai Vatutin, "killed by the Banderites."

Objectively speaking, the politics of memory being instituted by President Yushchenko is aggravating relations with Russia. An almost overt information war is now going on between the two countries with the involvement of their foreign ministries, security services, media, etc.

In actual fact, the opposition to the Ukrainian president's politics of memory is not intellectually powerful. The Communists employ nothing but the old Soviet rhetoric, as does the Party of Regions of Ukraine. The latter celebrate the heroic epos of the triumph of good over evil (in their scenario, Stalinism is good) and offer no critique of totalitarianism/Stalinism. "Counter-memory" in Ukraine (i.e., the "Anti-Orange" Internet sites) plays a destructive role and does not act as a Foucauldian defender of freedom but as a breeding ground for the creation of negative stereotypes and social confrontation.

As for reaction to President Yushchenko's politics of memory in Ukrainian society, we have the results of recent sociological surveys. They indicate that change has occurred where purposeful work has been accomplished. By the same token, nothing has changed where nothing has been done. Thus, Mr. Yushchenko has made no effort to displace the GFW narrative, and nothing has happened in that regard. In recent years, there has been practically no change of attitude to Victory Day and the term GFW. More than half the population of Ukraine supports that term and holiday.

But there has been change with regard to the UPA. More than half of those interviewed are no longer hostile to it.

With regard to the Holocaust, there has been a growth of awareness, but it has not become part of Ukrainian memory and is unlikely to do so in the immediate future.

It is not news – and this was again confirmed by the surveys – that eastern and southern Ukraine, which is under the influence of Russian media and the Party of Regions, does not accept the new model of war memory proposed by the president.

It thus remains an open question which model of war memory Ukraine should choose. The European experience may prove useful here. Social changes under way in Europe since 1989 have been canalized in two directions. After years of Communist rule, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe seek to form their memory with an emphasis on the national cultural narrative.

Western Europe, on the other hand, basing itself on the legacy of the ideas of the Enlightenment and humanism, has created a new culture of memory – a "culture of contrition." While the Holocaust and repentance have become central to the Western European concept of identity, a victimizing interpretation of history in the post-Communist countries of Eastern Europe tends to overshadow the centrality of the Holocaust.

A scholar from Estonia, Siobhan Kattago, proposes the adoption of a conditional agreement between Western and Eastern Europe: to "agree to disagree," that is, to retain the right to abide by one's own opinion without imposing it on others. And this may be a way out for United Europe.

At the most general level, I see three approaches or models for the formation of a concept of war memory in Europe.

The first – let us call it Baltic (East European) – entails equal condemnation of the crimes of Hitlerite and Stalinist totalitarianism, a radical renunciation of the Soviet legacy and civilized nationalism.

The second or liberal-democratic (German) model comes down to repentance and the denunciation of war and nationalism as such, with the Holocaust at the epicenter of the model. (The assertion that Germany lost the war but won the war for memory looks attractive but remains contentious, as it is hardly likely that this model can be imposed on Europe as a whole.)

The third or post-Soviet model is now being actively exploited by the authoritarian regimes in Russia and Belarus. It comes down to the nationalization of the GFW myth, with very little, if any, space for the acknowledgment of Stalinist crimes, and it highlights imperial values (victory fanfares, military parades, excessive heroization, panegyrics to victory and sacrifice, a cult of chieftains, great states and the like).

Which of these models applies to Ukraine? Despite President Yushchenko's radical measures, the Ukrainian model remains somewhere between those of Russia and Eastern Europe, and very far from that of Western Europe.

The basic questions to be raised in creating a model of historical memory are these: What do we want to remember and forget; what are to be the building blocks of our memory? With what values are we to infuse the commemoration and memorialization of war? It is my firm opinion that these should not be the values of the old Soviet empire. Ukrainians are not its heirs. This (neo-Stalinist) model must be completely eliminated. For Ukraine, the creation of its own model of memory is not just a question of reviving national identity, as well as democratizing and humanizing society, but also of solving the problem of emerging from under the influence of Russia, for which the GFW is a powerful means of exerting pressure on Ukraine and keeping it within its own geopolitical space.

In my opinion, a combination of the Baltic and German models might prove most useful to Ukraine. From the first we have already borrowed condemnation of Stalinist and Hitlerite totalitarianism and the maintenance of a cultured, civilized nationalism,

and now, from the Western European model, Ukraine should take the concept of repentance, humanism, seeking mutual understanding between former enemies and allies, honoring all who perished and condemning the heroization of war as such.

The foundations of this new model should be the values of freedom and democracy, which have never been part of the Stalinist myth, past or present, and the value of human life, which Stalinism disregarded.

The difficulty of renouncing the GFW myth consists (aside from everything already mentioned) in the fact that Ukraine has not undergone the catharsis of decommunization. Despite the terrible crimes of Stalinism, which took millions of human lives, we have never had our own version of the Nuremberg trials, which inoculated the German nation against Nazism by condemning its crimes against peace, humanity and the laws of war.

However, as the well-known historian Norman Davies has quite justly noted, the supreme leaders of the Stalin regime could have been arraigned at the Nuremberg trials along with the Hitlerites and charged with the same crimes: against peace – complicity in starting the second world war; crimes against humanity – large-scale deportations of peoples; war crimes – the execution of Polish prisoners of war in 1939-1940; the mass rape of women by soldiers both in their own country and in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and so on. In gravity and extent of crimes, the Stalin regime could well have given the Nazis a handicap, but that regime was never brought to trial. Ukraine has never come to terms with its past; hence freeing itself of the Communist legacy is an urgent need.

A principled rejection of the Stalinist legacy and of excessive heroization does not by any means entail forgetting and ignoring the memory of those who won the victory. But all this should be balanced by sorrow for the victims of Stalinism and denunciation of the crimes committed by the Red Army itself, including its crimes in Ukraine. This is the important aspect missing from our culture of memory. The path from triumph to trauma is one that every nation must walk by itself. Demythologizing and deheroizing warfare is not a simple matter of replacing holidays, names and the like. A fundamental rethinking of the whole war narrative is required.

The conception of equal responsibility of the two totalitarian regimes must be balanced by repentance for crimes committed by Ukrainians who fought on behalf of those regimes, as well as in the ranks of a third force, the UPA.

The Western European tendency, which gained its impulse from the Germans – to proceed from covering up and distorting the truth about unpleasant pages of history to the uncovering and objective interpretation of the dark pages of the war – must become the guiding principle of Ukrainian historians. We should renounce the mistaken tendency to replace old myths with new ones. On the contrary, we should proceed from the politics of memory to history.

And here it is precisely the task of historians, analyzing the interaction of history with the politics of history, to define clearly "what history becomes and what becomes history" (Richard Ned Lebow).

– Translated from the Ukrainian by Myroslav Yurkevich

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

majority of respondents believed that people entered political careers for financial benefit, and noted that the number of college graduates entering government service had grown during the previous few years.

The study also found that many citizens had grown so accustomed to bribe-giving that they could no longer discern what was a bribe. One in six didn't consider it a bribe to pay a doctor for what should be free, government-subsidized medical service. And one in 10 didn't consider it a bribe to pay a

plumber employed by the municipal communal services to assure the plumber's timely arrival and completion of the job.

The survey indicated that 73 percent had offered money to medical workers, 25 percent had bribed police officers, 24 percent had bribed teachers or professors, 23 percent had bribed government service workers, 13 percent had paid to receive special telephone services and 10 percent had bribed tax inspectors.

Source: "Nationwide survey reveals culture of corruption in Ukraine," by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, January 26, 2003.

The Demjanjuk saga...

(Continued from page 9)

included that he was in Sobibor, and allowed him to return to the United States.

In the meantime a U.S. Federal Appeals Court had opened up his case after determining that U.S. prosecutors were guilty of prosecutorial misconduct in failing to earlier reveal to the defense certain exculpatory evidence they had in their files. Mr. Demjanjuk's U.S. citizenship was reinstated and he was allowed to

go free once again.

As it turned out, John Demjanjuk was definitely not Ivan the Terrible of Treblinka. But those who had pursued Mr. Demjanjuk for 15 years, swearing for certain he was in Treblinka and not anywhere else, then declared – no, he was not in Treblinka, but rather he was in Sobibor. The process started all over again in 2002 and in 2009 Mr. Demjanjuk was once again on an airplane headed out of the country, this time to Germany. That brings us to now.



In the spirit of Christmas, we ask you to consider giving a tax-free donation to the Ukrainian National Foundation for the support of Soyuzivka Heritage Center, the newspapers Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, or the general fund, providing scholarships and funding for various community endeavors here and in Ukraine.



COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

North Port parish celebrates 25th anniversary with week of special events

NORTH PORT, Fla. – Momentous occasions bring joy and enrich our lives. Presentation of the Most Holy Mother of God (St. Mary's) Ukrainian Catholic Church in North Port, Fla., its pastor, the Rev. Dr. Severyn Kovalyshin, and parishioners celebrated such a momentous occasion this year – the 25th anniversary of the parish.

This anniversary year has been celebrated with Molebens and Akafistos of thanksgiving and culminated in a week of special events.

From November 28 through November 30, 2009, numerous volunteers presented an Exhibit of Ukrainian Religious and Ethnic Art for the general public. On Friday, December 4, the parish attended a Moleben to the Holy Mother of God followed by a concert, and on Sunday, December 6, there was a divine liturgy and a celebratory anniversary dinner.

North Port city commissioners and heads of local organizations were present at the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the art exhibit. Under the direction and leadership of Neonillia Lechman, the exhibit was a great success. Over 800 people attended the exhibit, including groups of schoolchildren, members of local clubs such as embroidery and quilting guilds, and church organizations. The event was extensively covered by local newspapers, The Sun and Herald Tribune, and by the local ABC television station.

Visitors enjoyed exhibits of antique and contemporary icons, embroidered ecclesiastical vestments, Ukrainian church architecture, traditional Ukrainian costumes, contemporary embroidered Ukrainian dress, embroidered ritual cloths (rushnyky), merezhyvo, ritual breads, inlaid and embellished wood carvings, traditional and contemporary Ukrainian pottery and ceramics, and, of course, pysanky.

Along with the exhibit, tours of St. Mary's Church were offered and visitors received a pictorial booklet compiled by Dr. Michael Yarymovich in which he depicted and explained the artwork, icons and stained glass windows of the church. Seminars and lectures on iconography, Eastern church architecture, pysanky and Ukrainian embroidery were presented in the library. A gift shop was open to the public.

The highlight of the exhibit was the unveiling and blessing of a five-by-seven-foot wall hanging, lovingly hand-embroidered by several dozen ladies of the parish with squares of embroidery representative of a specific region of Ukraine. This quilt-like work, ties together the culture and tradition of the national Ukrainian heritage and that of America, which has welcomed all, offering us freedom and hope. Mrs. Lechman and countless volunteers worked ceaselessly to ensure the success of this beautiful event.

On Friday, December 4, a moleben of thanksgiving to the Holy Mother of God was



The Rev. Dr. Severyn Kovalyshin addresses the public. Seated (from left) are: Jim Blucher, vice-chair of North Port City Commission; Tom Jones, North Port city commissioner; Myron Radzykewycz, secretary of the Church Council; Oksana Lew, president of UNWLA Branch 56 and; Omelan Hrab, church trustee. In the background are icons by Christine Dochwat of Philadelphia.

offered by the Rev. Kovalyshin and Msgr. Martin Canavan. A concert followed in the parish center. Roman Maluk, head of the concert committee and master of ceremonies, introduced the performers, including the choir, directed by Lubow Ingram with soloists, Christyna Bodnar Sheldon and Dr. Wolodymyr Korol. Orest Lazor performed a piano solo of his own composition, while Nadia Iwanczuk and Myron Radzykewycz recited original works composed by them especially for this anniversary.

Lubow Wolynetz spoke of the history of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America and Bohdan Lechman spoke on Ukrainian Catholic spirituality. Dr. Yarymovich gave the closing remarks.

Solemn divine liturgy was celebrated on Sunday, December 6, with the Rev. Kovalyshin, Msgr. Canavan and Deacon Richard Wilhelm officiating and the church choir, directed by Mrs. Ingram, singing the moving and beautiful responses. Afterwards a jubilee dinner was held at the parish center.

Lidia Bilous, head of the jubilee dinner committee served as mistress of ceremonies. Guests of Honor included Bishop Frank Dewane of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Venice, who addressed the guests with warm words of greeting and congratulations; Dr.

Wolodymyr Smerek, chancellor of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Venice; the Very Rev. John Fatenko; and Dr. Andrea Molinari, President of the Edmund Rice School for Pastoral Ministry at Barry University.

Children of the parish catechism classes gave a heartwarming mini-concert under the direction of Nadia Sawa-Veremchuk and Omelan Hrab gave a brief history of St. Mary's Parish.

Members of the Initiating Committee, the founding fathers of the parish, were acknowledged with certificates of appreciation. Mrs. Bilous offered her closing remarks with sincere thanks to all who contributed to this jubilee celebration, after which the guests enjoyed a dinner of traditional Ukrainian cuisine prepared by the parish kitchen, "Nasha Kukhnia," under the leadership of Slava Khomyk.

In speaking to the assembled guests, the Rev. Kovalyshin expressed gratitude for the selfless commitment, dedication, hard work and talent of the individuals who made this 25th anniversary celebration a success. He noted that this celebration is all about each one of us and the gift we offer through our prayers and works – the visible sign of our dedication and commitment to this holy church under the protection of the Most Holy Mother of God.



The center section of embroidered wall hanging.

Candidate profile...

(Continued from page 3)

notably signing the "Letter of Three" immediately after becoming Verkhovna Rada chair in December 2007. He joined President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in asking NATO to admit Ukraine into the Membership Action Plan at the April 2008 summit in Bucharest – a move that cost him support among pro-Russian forces in Parliament. Mr. Yatsenyuk's new foreign policy is based on a "Greater Europe" concept that includes the Russian Federation, the Caucasus republics and the Central Asian republics, with Ukraine playing the role of the region's leader. He doesn't support membership in the Single Economic Space either. "We always oriented ourselves towards foreign interests," he said. "As a result, we didn't become a player in politics, but remained a pawn. The world is becoming multipolar and regional centers with their own leaders will emerge, such as China, Brazil and India. And we have the chance to become such a regional leader."

International Night at USAF base features display about Ukraine

NORTH PORT, Fla. – The Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida and Ukrainian American Veterans Post 40 in North Port were invited by the U.S. Central Command in Tampa and by the Ukrainian armed forces liaison team there to participate in the Coalition International Night at MacDill Air Force Base.

Military representatives from more than 55 coalition countries and their families displayed and discussed their native customs while providing traditional cuisine for all to sample.

Members from the UAC and UAV helped the Ukrainian officers with the Ukraine table, serving traditional Ukrainian delicacies such as borsch, kovbasa, varenyky and nalysnyky. A traditional "korovai" (ritual bread) made by Slava Stefanyshyn was greatly admired by all the guests who stopped at the Ukrainian table. UAC member Vladymier Szpiczka played lively Ukrainian music on his accordion to the delight of the more than 2,000 guests.



At the Ukraine table at Coalition International Night at MacDill Air Force Base (from left) are: Gene Tomashosky, Lt. Col. Oleh Nechiporenko, Vladymier Szpiczka, Klara Szpiczka, Lt. Col. Dmytro Krasilnikov, Daria Tomashosky, Lt. Col. Yuriy Chernikh, Leida Boyko and Cliff Heiser.

The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America
Philadelphia Chapter

cordially invites you to attend the

56th Annual Engineers' Banquet and Ball with Presentation of Debutantes

Saturday, February 6, 2010

at the

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Cocktails at 6:00 PM
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Dr. Larysa Zaika at 215-635-7134

Send mail, reservations and payments to:
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Please refer to the Ukrainian Engineers' Ball for special room rates

St. Nicholas Parish begins its centennial celebration

by Nataka Doblosky

PASSAIC, N.J. – On Sunday, December 6, 2009, the parish of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church marked the opening day of its centennial, which was kicked off with a celebration of the Feast Day of St. Nicholas and the parish school's annual Christmas concert.

The Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, pastor, said the opening prayer, and a beautiful, large icon of St. Nicholas, donated by the Znak family to the school, was dedicated by Bishop William Skurla of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, N.J.

In attendance also were the Rev. Leonid Malkov, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J.; Sister Anne Roman SSMI, school principal; the Rev. Jody Baran, eighth grade teacher; Sister Charlotte, sixth grade teacher; and

guests from the order of Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate.

Over 300 people attended the celebration, which included a festive sit-down dinner and holiday show. The Christmas concert was given by the school's Pre-K through eighth grades.

Students sang Ukrainian and English Christmas carols and recited holiday poems. They were directed by Ukrainian teacher Tanya Fedak and music director Maria Bereza. Grades 3 and 4 performed a production of "The Little Christmas Tree" directed by fourth grade teacher Lecia Peltyszyn. All acts were accompanied by the school's music teacher, Olesia Hrynak, on piano.

The evening concluded with a visit from the beloved patron saint of both the church and the school, St. Nicholas, and his angels,

(Continued on page 19)



St. Nicholas pays a visit to St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Passaic, N.J., for the beginning of the parish's centennial celebrations.



Arianna Katrina Szkilnyk



Deanna Andrea Lawrin



Alexandra Maria Fedorak



Natalie Serdiuk



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Justine Dominique
Marie Nestorowich



Ivanna Olena Murskyj



Hannah Marie Soroka



Maria Nadia Klepach



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Larissa Ivana Taras

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Philadelphia UECC re-elects president and elects new executive board

by Andrea Zharovsky

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – The board of directors of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center met and elected its new executive board on November 4, 2009.

The 2009-2010 UECC board unanimously re-elected Borys Pawluk to a fourth term as president and chief executive officer of the corporation.

Also elected unanimously were the following officers: Secretary Natalia Griga, Treasurer Sophia Koropeckyj, Vice-President of Administration Sector Lubomyra Kalyta, Vice-President of Communication Sector Andrea Zharovsky, Vice-President of Finance Sector Sophia Koropeckyj, Vice-President of Programs and Events Sector Natalie Firko, and Vice-President of Property and Utilization Sector Orest Wirstiuk.

The board of directors immediately proceeded to address the two critical issues and priorities by creating two ad-hoc committees: the Executive Director Search Committee and the Long-Term Rental Committee.

The Executive Director Search Committee's task is to find potential candidates and replace long-serving Executive Director Orysia Hewka, who is no longer

with the UECC. The Executive Director Search Committee results would be presented to the board of directors for eventual approval and hiring.

The Long-Term Rental Committee's assignment is to search for potential tenants for available UECC rental space. The UECC currently has 7,000 square feet of space available for long-term rental; the space was previously used as a day care facility.

The Strategic Planning/Capital Campaign Committee, an ad-hoc committee of the executive board was created on November 5, 2008, in direct response to the desires of UECC members concerned about planning and fund-raising for renovations and future expansion, was charged to continue its work. The heads of the committee are Lubomyr Pyrih and Borys Zacharczuk.

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. Visit us on the website at www.ueccphila.org.

St. Nicholas Parish...

(Continued from page 18)

the youngest members of the parish. A brief history of the saint was read by parishioner Helen Loden.

The Rev. Dudkevych thanked everyone for their participation in the momentous occasion, and wished everyone a blessed

Christmas and happy and healthy New Year. The clergy, the school and the parish had a truly wonderful day to start off the jubilee year.

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church is located at 217 President St.; telephone 973-473-7197; and the school is located at 223 President St.; telephone, 973-779-0249. For information readers may log on to <http://home.catholicweb.com/stnicholasukrainian/>.

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Olena Stasula
Chicago, IL

Yara to celebrate 20 years with festival of music, poetry and art

NEW YORK – On January 22-24, Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Institute of America will present “Yara 20 Years of Theatre: A Festival of Music, Poetry and Art.” The festival, which will include an art exhibit, readings by poets, performances by Yara actors, as well as music, will take place at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. at Fifth Avenue in New York City.

For 20 years Yara Arts Group – under the direction of Virlana Tkacz – has staged original theater productions at La MaMa Experimental Theatre, Harvard Summer School and throughout Ukraine, as well as regularly holding festivals and events at the Ukrainian Institute and The Ukrainian Museum in New York. Its latest festival celebrates its continued success in providing a forum for cross-cultural and cross-generational genre-bending arts.

By Yara’s invitation, a dozen artists – Anya Farion, Annette Friedman, Maya Hayuk, Roman Hrab, Petro Hrytsky, Peter Ihnat, Shu Kubo, Margaret Morton, Andrea Odezynska, Marko Shuhan, Marybeth Ward and Andrea Wenglowskij – have created new, exciting art and installa-

tions inspired by such past Yara shows as “Waterfall/Reflection” with Nina Matvienko; “Blind Sight” about Vasyl Yeroshenko, who traveled to Japan in 1914; and “Still the River Flows,” which featured the Hutsul “Koliada” traditions.

The art exhibit will open on Friday, January 22, at 8 p.m. with performances on the move. The audience will be guided through the three floors of the mansion into rooms which will fill with poetry and dance as they enter. Olena Jennings, Krystia Lucenko, Oksana Lutsyshyna, Vasyl Makhno, Askold Melnyczuk and Candace Tarpley will read their own works. Dancer Inka Juslin will perform to music

by harpist Odarka Polanskyj-Stockert, while Katja Kolcio will dance to bandura played by Julian Kytasty, and Francois Nnag will play the balafon, an instrument from Africa. Afterwards, guests may enjoy a wine and cheese reception with the artists. The art exhibit will be open to the general public on Saturday and Sunday, January 23-24, at 1-4 p.m.

The special gala concert will take place on Saturday, January 23, at 8 p.m. President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine has recognized the importance of Ms. Tkacz’s work with Yara, distinguishing her with the Order of Princess Olha. The consul of Ukraine will present this significant award to Ms. Tkacz and Yara Arts during the celebration. The evening will feature Yara actors performing poetry from the shows in their signature style, interweaving the original text with its translation, the two languages entering into dialogue with each other.

Wanda Phipps will read her own works. Musicians Julian Kytasty and Bandura-New York, and John Guth will perform works from Yara’s shows. The evening’s entertainment will conclude with music by Marusia Sonevytsky and the



Watoku Ueno

Yara Arts Group with Mariana Sadovska in “Song Tree” (2000) based on Malanka songs.



Watoku Ueno

Andrew Colteaux in Yara’s “Swan” (2003) based on poem by Oleh Lysheha.

Debutante Hour. Finally, culinary artist Olesia Lew will welcome the audience to marvel at and taste a series of dishes inspired by Yara’s dreams and destinations.

On Sunday afternoon, January 24, Shu Kubo will conduct a workshop in the art of traditional Japanese paper-cutting. Mr. Kubo is an official special advisor for cultural exchange with Japan. He is highly regarded among Japanese modern artists, and his work has appeared on postage stamps. This will be a hands-on workshop appropriate for school-age children and adults. The workshop is free, but pre-registration is required since space is limited. (To register for the workshop contact Yara at 212-475-6474 or yara@prodigy.net.)

Yara Arts Group is a resident company at the internationally acclaimed La MaMa Experimental Theatre in New York. The group has created 20 original theater pieces. “Yara 20 Years of Theater” is the 16th major cultural event that Yara has presented at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

Tickets for “Yara 20 Years of Theater” are available for each event at the door: Friday \$15; Saturday, \$25; or \$30 for both evenings.

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OUT AND ABOUT

January 15
Scranton, PA
Sixth annual Malanka, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Parish center, 570-563-2275

January 15-17
New York
Film festival, "Orange Weekend in Film," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110

January 16
Dedham, MA
Malanka, featuring music by Na Zdorovya, Ukrainian American Educational Center of Boston, St. John of Damascus Church hall, 508-245-1890

January 16
Yardville, NJ
Malanka, featuring music by Fata Morgana, St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 609-585-1935

January 16
Ansonia, CT
Malanka, featuring music by Vox Ethnika, John J. Sullivan's, 203-735-8233 (no tickets sold at door)

January 16
Mississauga, ON
Malanka, Ukrainian American Youth Association - Mississauga Branch, Mississauga Convention Center, www.cymmssmalanka.com

January 16
Ottawa
Malanka, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Church, ottmalanka@gmail.com

January 16
Carnegie, PA
Malanka, Ukrainian American Citizens Club, 412-276-9681 or 412-429-1684

January 17
Miami
Christmas program, featuring carols, poetry, traditional greetings and dinner, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church hall, 305-798-0190

January 22
Warren, MI
Malanka, featuring music by Svitank, Ukrainian Youth Organizations of Metro Detroit, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 586-757-8130 or 586-558-8508

January 22-24
New York
"Yara 20 Years of Theater: A Festival of Music, Poetry and Art," Yara Arts Group, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660

January 23
Montreal
Malanka, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and Ukrainian Youth Association in Canada, Crown Plaza

Hotel - Montreal Airport, 514-502-6237

January 25
Washington
Lecture by David Kramer, "Ukraine After the First Round of Elections," Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4000

January 30
New Britain, CT
Malanka, featuring music by Zolota Bulava and Hrim, Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, St. George Greek Orthodox hall, 860-452-4023 or 860-676-2790

January 30
Carteret, NJ
Malanka, featuring music by Fata Morgana, St. Demetrius Community Center, 609-655-4468 (prepaid tickets only)

January 30
Chicago
Debutante Ball, Ukrainian Medical Association of North America - Illinois Branch, Palmer House Hilton, 312-282-7017 or umanaDeb@aol.com

January 31
Lansdale, PA
Blessing of church iconostas and wall iconography by Chrystyna Dochwat, led by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church, 215-715-4871

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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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

A dream comes true at Immaculate Conception School

by Marta Korol

WARREN, Mich. – The seventh and eighth grade girls' volleyball "Dream Team" at Immaculate Conception has truly captured a spot in the history of Immaculate Conception athletics. The team not only won its Catholic Youth Organization division title with an undefeated 12-0 record, but it also won the CYO district title, remaining undefeated at 14-0.

The team had the best record of any school in the CYO Detroit Archdiocese, beating out 42 teams for the honor. All this with only seven players – seven really, really good players – Natalia Boyko, Natalie Rudnitsky, Oksana Doubrovski, Valerie Kachnij, Leanna Bolde, Andrea Hnatievych and Laura Prior, and a great coach, Adriana Stebens.

It should be noted that there are only five girls in the eighth grade at IC, and all of them were on this vol-

Marta Korol-Skalchuk is athletic director at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Schools in Warren, Mich.

leyball team. The IC team played much larger schools, most of whom had 12 or more girls on their squads.

The IC team defeated Guardian Angels, St. Anne, St. Thecla, St. Clemens, St. Lawrence and St. Germaine to win the Division E Title. On October 17, 2009, IC went on to the play-offs for the district title, beating St. Patrick and St. Regis to become district champions with a 14-0 record.

On October 19, 2009, the regional play-offs began, with the IC Team facing St. Mary Mt. Clemens. The IC Dream Team easily defeated its opponent, increasing its record to 15-0, and earning a place in the final eight of the best teams in the CYO Detroit Archdiocese. No other Immaculate Conception volleyball team, grade school or high school, had ever made it to the top eight.

The IC team faced a formidable opponent, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs. In the three-game match, OLMQ won the first game and IC won the second, forcing a third tie-breaker game. Unfortunately, OLMQ won the tie-breaker and the



The seventh and eighth grade girls' volleyball team of Immaculate Conception School.

match, but the IC girls held their heads high knowing that they had accomplished what was thought to be unbelievable – by reaching the final eight.

On October 24, 2009, the IC team was honored at the CYO Prep Bowl at Ford Field. There they received their championship plaque for winning the division title.

Natalie Boyko and Valerie Kachnij were also honored as CYO scholar-athletes during the halftime ceremonies at the Prep Bowl.

In short, it was an amazing season for athletics at Immaculate Conception. The "Dream Team" proved that, with practice, perseverance and heart, dreams can come true.

Hillside children perform for a special visitor

by Joe Shatynski

HILLSIDE, N.J. – St. Nicholas was very pleased to visit the children and parishioners of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillside (Union County), N.J., on Sunday, December 13, 2009.

In honor of St. Nicholas, several children and adults presented a bilingual holiday entertainment program. Performances included: carols by the Parish Children's Choir (Sonya Khedr, Julia Pelesz, Julianna and Ariana Shatynski, Sophika and Ariadna Stockert, and Nicholas Senyk); a tap dance (Sonya Khedr); carols performed on the keyboard (Julia Pelesz) and violin (Julianna Shatynski); the Ukrainian Basket Dance (Julianna and Ariana Shatynski); a skit, "Miracle in Bethlehem," including songs (Sofia, Maria, John and Paul Soroka); a play, "The Mitten" (with all the children in the audience invited to participate); and singing, with harp

accompaniment (Tom, Odarka, Sophika and Ariadna Stockert).

Mike Szyphulsky served as emcee. Russ Pencak served as liaison to St. Nicholas. The Very Rev. Joe Szupa, pastor, and the Rev. Vasyl Vladyka, assistant pastor, led the group in prayer and koliady (Christmas carols).

Before leaving, St. Nicholas challenged all of the children and adults to think about something special they could do to help others during this blessed Christmas season – "above and beyond" what they typically do each year.

Based on that challenge, the parish children prepared delicious cookies after liturgy on Sunday, December 27, 2009, and sang beautiful Christmas carols in Ukrainian and English on Monday, December 28, 2009, for the retired Sisters of Mercy of McAuley Hall Center, located on the campus of Mount St. Mary Academy in Watchung, N.J.

The Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy were so appreciative of the



St. Nicholas poses with children, the Very Rev. Joseph Szupa and the Rev. Vasyl Vladyka.

singing and cookies that they clapped very hard and exclaimed loudly, "Thank you for brightening our day!" One of the audience members was 108 years old; she said she is still able to dance and loves to

hear singing.

This was a very special gift that the parish children shared with this very special group of sisters – very much in the spirit of St. Nicholas' challenge.

St. Nicholas makes his annual visit to Ukrainian school in Stamford

by Tania Sawa-Priatka

STAMFORD, Conn. – The children were exuberant when the sound of sleigh bells rang out and beautiful angels escorted Sviaty Mykolaj (St. Nicholas) into the auditorium of St. Basil Seminary here on December 19, 2009. The School of Ukrainian Studies at the Cathedral Parish of St. Vladimir hosted the heavenly guest at the school's annual program dedicated to St. Nicholas.

Over 50 children in pre-school through grade 7 performed songs, poems and a short play called "Lyst do Mykolaya" or "Letter to St. Nicholas." At the culmination of the program, St. Nicholas arrived, bringing myriad gifts for all the good little children. He spoke to each of them, asking whether they had listened to their parents, worked hard in school and regularly went to church this past year.

Some of the littlest ones, when asked by Sviaty Mykolaj, recited short poems in his honor or demonstrated prayers they knew. After distributing the gifts, Sviaty Mykolaj had to depart to visit children in other towns and cities. He left the children with sage advice to continue working hard and being respectful of their elders. He said he looked forward to visiting with them all again next year.

Despite an impending snowstorm in the region, clergy, parents, family and friends filled the auditorium to support and applaud the children on stage. They were also treated to a delicious array of sweets and coffee prepared by the Parents' Committee, which was also responsible for transforming the hall with enchanting lights and Christmas decorations.

(For information about the Ukrainian school, readers may contact Tania Sawa-Priatka at 203-340-9783.)



A youngster receives his gift from Sviaty Mykolaj.

Caroling for Chicago's cardinal



CHICAGO – The St. Nicholas Cathedral School choir was invited to sing at the annual Christmas reception at the residence of Cardinal Francis George in Chicago. More than 250 guests were present. The students sang traditional carols, holiday songs and a unique rendition of "Chicago My Home Town" prepared by choir director Irene Dychyj. Cardinal George, who heads the Archdiocese of Chicago, thanked the students, and their principal, Maria Klysh-Finiak, for their beautiful performance. Above, the cardinal is seen with the young choristers.

Sviaty Mykolai visits "Ptashata"



Christine Gorski-Makar

NEW YORK – St. Nicholas, or Sviaty Mykolai, visited the New York City branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization on December 19, 2009. The youngest in attendance, the Ptashata (age 4-6) are seen above in the photo with their honored guest.

The next edition of Ukelodeon will appear on February 14. To have your stories and photos published, send them to staff@ukrweekly.com by February 5.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Mishanyna

Below is the third part of our series of Mishanynas highlighting states of the U.S. Previous installments appeared on November 8 and December 13, 2009.

MONTANA	NEW MEXICO	OHIO
NEBRASKA	NEW YORK	OKLAHOMA
NEVADA	NORTH CAROLINA	OREGON
NEW HAMPSHIRE	NORTH DAKOTA	PENNSYLVANIA
NEW JERSEY		

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A	A	O	E	E	R	T	O	D	A	V	E	N	E	O
K	I	R	S	W	E	S	T	E	R	N	T	E	N	R
O	N	T	T	H	J	O	A	D	A	V	E	N	N	T
T	A	O	E	A	E	E	R	E	T	S	A	M	A	H
A	V	R	A	M	S	D	R	S	O	U	T	A	C	C
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, January 22

NEW YORK: Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Institute of America present the festival "Yara 20 Years of Theater." An exhibit of contemporary art inspired by Yara theater pieces and texts will feature works by: Anya Farion, Annette Friedman, Maya Hayuk, Roman Hrab, Petro Hrycyk, Peter Ihnat, Shu Kubo, Margaret Morton, Andrea Odezynska, Marko Shuhan, Marybeth Ward and Andrea Wenglowksyj. Poets Olena Jennings, Krystia Lucenko, Oksana Lutsyshyna, Vasyl Makhno, Askold Melnyczuk and Candece Tarpley will read their own poetry, and dancers Inka Juslin and Katia Kolcio will perform in all the rooms of the Fifth Avenue mansion that is home to the UIA. General admission: \$15. Program begins at 8 p.m. at the UIA, 2 E. 79th St. at Fifth Avenue. For information call 212-288-8660.

Saturday, January 23

NEW YORK: Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Institute of America present "Yara 20 Years of Theater." A gala concert will feature Yara Arts Group performing poetry and songs from Yara shows throughout the years. They will be joined by Julian Kytasty and Marusia Sonevytska's Debutante Hour. Yara's poetry texts will be interpreted by food artist Olesia Lew. General admission: \$25 (or \$30 for both Friday and Saturday programs). The program begins at 8 p.m. at the UIA, 2 E. 79th St. at Fifth Avenue. For information call 212-288-8660.

WARREN, Mich.: The Ukrainian youth organizations of the Detroit area (USC Chernykh, ODUM, Plast and SUM) invite the community to their annual Malanka at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. Live entertainment will be provided by Svitanok from New York. Cocktails are at 7 p.m.; the dance begins at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 for the dinner and dance; dance only — \$40 for adults, \$20 for students up to age 21. Tickets are available from the Ukrainian Cultural

Center, 586-757-8130; for table reservations contact Larysa Hnatiuk 586-558-8508 by January 13.

Saturday, January 30

CARTERET, N.J.: St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka, which will be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave. Entertainment will be provided by Fata Morgana. Tickets are \$55, which includes admission, choice of sirloin beef or chicken capon dinner, open bar, midnight hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast. The St. Demetrius Center is located just blocks from Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike. There is a Holiday Inn right off the exit. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and music starts at 8 p.m. For table and tickets reservations contact Peter Prociuk, 609-655-4468 or pprociuk@aol.com. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Outside liquor is prohibited. Deadline for tickets is January 24. For more information visit www.stdemetriusuo.org.

Sunday, January 31

LANSDALE, Pa.: The Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church (1564 Allentown Road, Lansdale, Pa.) invites all to attend the blessing and dedication of its new iconostas and wall iconography. The blessing and dedication will take place during an 11 a.m. pontifical divine liturgy at which Archbishop Metropolitan Stefan Soroka will be the chief celebrant and homilist. At 1 p.m., in the social hall next to the church, the parish will host a banquet. All will have an opportunity to meet master iconographer Chrystyna Dochwat and to view a display of her works in the church and in the hall. A Ukrainian folk ensemble will provide entertainment. Admission to the banquet is only \$25 (\$10 for children under age 12). For tickets or additional information call or e-mail Mike at 215-715-4871 or PresentationUCC@gmail.com, or visit the website www.PresentationUkrainianCC.com.

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.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

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

Information should be sent to: preview@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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