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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXIX

No. 47

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2011

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Tymoshenko's health failing in prison, daughter says

RFE/RL

KYIV – The daughter of jailed former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko says her mother has fallen seriously ill in prison and is confined to her bed as prosecutors interrogate her on fresh charges, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on November 11.

Yevhenia Carr, Ms. Tymoshenko's 31-year-old daughter, said in an interview with RFE/RL that she feared her mother's life is in danger. She added that the authorities continued to refuse to allow Ms. Tymoshenko to be examined by her personal physician.

"At the moment my mother is in a very critical state; she is kept in a cell, she cannot get up from the prison bed," Mr. Carr said.

"And for the first time in the history of imprisonment, in criminal history, or [in the history] of the prisons of Ukraine, the investigation is carried out in a cell when the person is lying on a prison bed and cannot move," she added.

Ms. Carr said she last saw her mother on November 4, shortly before her attorney, Serhiy Vlasenko, and the Penitentiary Service reported a worsening of the former prime minister's health.

The service announced the next day that, during her morning walk, Ms. Tymoshenko injured her back "due to her own negligence," but did not elaborate.

Denies all charges

Ukrainian prosecutors on November 11 charged Ms. Tymoshenko with tax evasion, theft and concealing foreign-currency revenues. The charges stem from her tenure in the 1990s as head of the gas-trading firm United Energy Systems of Ukraine.

Ms. Tymoshenko is currently serving a seven-year sentence after being convicted on October 11 of abusing her powers as prime minister in connection with a 2009 gas-supply deal between the Ukrainian state energy company, Naftohaz, and Russia's Gazprom.

The former prime minister's lawyers say they expect a preliminary hearing in her appeal of that conviction to take place on December 13.

Ms. Tymoshenko has denied the charges against her and described them as part of a vendetta waged by President Viktor Yanukovich, who narrowly defeated her in the 2010 presidential election.

Ms. Vlasenko, a lawyer for Ms. Tymoshenko, dismissed the new charges as baseless.

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Rada votes against reprieve for Tymoshenko

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian Parliament on November 15 voted against a proposal to downgrade the abuse of power offense in the country's Criminal Code under which former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has been jailed. Decriminalization of the offense could have led to her early release.

Four days earlier, Ukraine's tax authorities said that Ms. Tymoshenko, who is already serving seven years in prison for abuse of office, has been charged with tax evasion, theft and concealing foreign currency revenues.

Her lawyer Serhiy Vlasenko said she is likely to remain imprisoned for many months, as President Viktor Yanukovich is intent on keeping her in jail to keep her from running in Ukraine's elections. He predicted that the appeals court that is to hear her case next month would uphold the verdict, adding that the appeals process usually takes up to two months.

He also noted that the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, which Ms. Tymoshenko hopes will overturn her verdict, can take 10 months or longer to make a ruling.

"Tymoshenko is a very personal issue for Yanukovich. It's very emotional: she is his personal, political enemy," Mr. Vlasenko told foreign reporters, including a correspondent of the Associated Press. "And, according to the logic of Mr. Yanukovich, the enemy must be in jail."

The State Tax Administration (STA) said on November 11 that the newly filed



Yulia Tymoshenko's lawyer Serhiy Vlasenko on November 14 holds a copy of the defense's appeal of the new charges filed against the opposition leader. He stated that the charges are without merit as there is absolutely no evidence that Ms. Tymoshenko committed any crime.

charges are linked to Ms. Tymoshenko's activities as the head of United Energy Systems of Ukraine, a position she held in the 1990s. The STA said she had been charged with concealing about \$165 million in revenues and failing to pay nearly \$6 million in taxes.

Ms. Tymoshenko previously faced cor-

ruption charges in Russia and Ukraine related to her role in the gas company; the charges in Ukraine were dismissed about five years ago, apparently for lack of evidence.

Mr. Vlasenko said the new charges are "absolutely false." He also said Ms. Tymoshenko

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Archives reveal eastern Ukraine resisted Soviet rule, says researcher

by Tamara Olexy

UCCA



Roman Krutsyk speaks at New York University's Torch Club.

NEW YORK – On November 10, at New York University's Torch Club, scholars, community leaders and the general public had an opportunity to learn that, following World War I, an active liberation movement existed not only in western Ukraine but also in the eastern half of the country.

The special "Ukrainian Historical Encounters" series event, titled "The People's War: National Liberation Struggles in Eastern Ukraine (1917-1932)" was opened by Dr. Walter Zaryckyj who provided a brief overview of the series and then introduced the evening's guest speaker, Roman Krutsyk, president of the Kyiv Memorial Society and director of the Museum of Soviet Occupation.

Accompanied by a slide show presentation, Yuri Symczyk, first vice-president of the Organization for the defense of Four

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ANALYSIS

Putin is ready for problems with the United States

by Pavel K. Baev

Eurasia Daily Monitor

The traditional meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on November 11 lasted long into the night, but still was an indubitable letdown. The privilege of raising direct questions with the real master of Russian politics was diluted by the awkward awareness that there was not much to ask about.

Those experts who did not see Mr. Putin himself as the answer to all questions tried to impress upon him that the potential of his monocentric political system was exhausted, and he reassured them that it was not (RIA Novosti, www.newsru.com, November 12). They tried to probe whether new experience had altered his political preferences and prejudices, and he demonstrated that all the familiar spots were in the same places. "Stagnation" is the word that marks the bottom line of experts' warnings but Mr. Putin, soon to once again hold the Russian presidency, appears ready to embrace it, while granting Dmitry Medvedev some leeway to act on his agenda of "modernization" in the post of prime minister (www.gazeta.ru, November 12).

Mr. Putin definitely tried his best to convince the influential messengers gathered for the global forum on Russia that Russia was on an even keel and open to cooperative work with the West, and it was only once that he mentioned problems looming in the relationship with the U.S. – and his readiness to face them (RIA Novosti, November 12).

The issue in question was the deployment of a ballistic missile system, on which no agreement is even probable, but the disagreement could be dramatized or played down as political expediency dictates (*Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, November 7). The necessary precondition for escalating this quarrel is restoring Russia's rusting nuclear arsenal, and Mr. Putin did a walkabout on the deck of a new strategic submarine last week after finalizing the package of contracts between the Defense Ministry and the consortium of shipbuilding corporations on laying new keels for the navy (*Kommersant*, November 10).

On the same day, the fiasco over launching the Fobos mission to Mars proved yet again that Russian missile technologies had become dangerously unstable (www.lenta.ru, November 11). No amount of money can restore quality control in the cyclopean Soviet-era shipyards and missile plants, and the astronomical sums that Mr. Putin has solemnly promised to allocate for rearmament will be – as the former Finance Minister Aleksei Kudrin keeps arguing – slashed and eaten by inflation (www.gazeta.ru, November 12).

Strategic armaments with all their expensive deadlines are merely playthings in the old show-biz of deterrence, but one real controversy with the U.S. that Mr. Putin appears ready to play up is centered on Iran. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report on the Iranian nuclear program was released last week, and Moscow had little to say on the substance of the new evidence of the program's weaponization, so it tried to undermine the credibility of the agency by blaming it for leaking the confidential annexes (RIA Novosti, November 8).

Another questionable point in the report is the allegedly crucial contribution to the Iranian program of Russian physicist Vyacheslav Danilenko, who denies any involvement in nuclear matters (*Kommersant*, November 10). The Russian Foreign Ministry cut short any discussions on possible new sanctions against Iran, and Mr. Putin has instructed Rosatom, Russia's nuclear agency,

to prepare the contract on constructing new nuclear power reactors to follow up on the recently completed Bushehr project in Iran (*Vedomosti*, www.gazeta.ru, November 10).

There is definitely more in this denial of a massive challenge to the non-proliferation regime than just the mercantile interest in this contract, particularly since the prospects for entering the nuclear market in the Arab Gulf states are more enticing. Mr. Putin's implicit message to the United States appears to be that nothing short of a massive air war could stop the Iranian program – and Russia would then righteously condemn this aggression and harvest the profits from skyrocketing oil prices (*Moskovskiy Novosti*, November 9).

This by no means hypothetical scenario looks far more interesting for Moscow than it does for Beijing, since China is deeply worried about any interruption of oil supplies from the Gulf. Mr. Putin had an opportunity to discuss the joint stance against Iranian sanctions with Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao at the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in St. Petersburg (*Kommersant*, November 8).

Despite the limited achievement record of this 10-year-old organization, several countries, including Turkey, are negotiating accession, and this fits perfectly into Mr. Putin's new (or rather recycled) vision of Eurasian cooperation. He eagerly elaborated on this theme for the Valdai experts, but it is hard to take this seriously against the background of a nasty quarrel with Tajikistan, in which Russia has found no better way to prevail than by expelling hundreds of illegal Tajik migrants from Moscow (*Moskovskiy Komsomolets*, November 12).

Mr. Putin is confident that the severe and still deepening financial crisis in the European Union secures for Russia's foreign policy a position of strength, and that the U.S. cannot escape from the path of setbacks and retreats, including those related to the escalating domestic political discord. The cordial meeting between Russian President Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama in Honolulu is of little import as Mr. Putin is keen to exploit the perceived weakness of the troubled world leader (www.newsru.com, November 13).

This opportunistic course may bring some moments of personal gratification but it is self-defeating for Russia, which misses opportunities to connect better with the West through joint efforts to contain the crisis and finds itself isolated even in such peripheral positions as over Syria where "principled" support for Bashar al-Assad has damaged Russia's reputation (www.gazeta.ru, November 9).

The "reset" with the U.S. may have exhausted its drive, but it has deleted anti-Americanism from the list of exploitable political topics, and Mr. Putin has not quite internalized this effect. He still presumes that his firm foreign policy course would mobilize public support for his monocentric system of power but, in fact, the fast-eroding respect for this corrupt system makes Russia's external behavior ambivalent and erratic.

In the coming farcical elections, Mr. Putin could establish the Russian variation of the Pareto principle, where by 20 percent of the supporters of his United Russia party score 80 percent of the votes, but that would only signify a big leap in destroying the credibility of Putinism. The Valdai experts concur that forceful regime change is not a probable scenario in Russia, but Mr. Putin is set to disprove them.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Rada decriminalizes some crimes

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on November 15 passed on its second reading and in full the presidential bill amending certain legislative acts of Ukraine on decriminalization of responsibility for violations in the sphere of economic activity. The Party of Regions refused, however, to decriminalize Article 365, under which former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was convicted. As a result, representatives of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc-Batkivschyna Party faction walked out of the evening session in protest. The issue was amending Article 365 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes abuse of power or authority by an official only in the case of corrupt practices in order to obtain benefits. The majority of national deputies did not support any of the more than 200 amendments made by opposition deputies and supported by the committee in charge. After none of 100 amendments from the opposition was adopted at the morning meeting, National Deputy Andriy Parubii of the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense faction said that the day's ineffective vote for decriminalization of Article 365 of the Criminal Code in fact puts an end to Ukraine's European integration. "Not only did the legalization of political repression take place in the session hall today, but also the abandonment of Ukraine's European integration idea," he stressed. The Party of Regions faction is of the opposite opinion. As explained by its leader, Oleksander Yefremov, the party did not support the amendment to the bill on the decriminalization of economic crimes under Article 365, as it would be a "rewrite of the law for one person." He added, "We will not change legislation for one person, because it is dangerous and could set a precedent for irresponsible officials to take advantage and jeopardize the situation in this country, with which our group strongly disagrees." (Ukrinform)

Ukrainian tree in St. Peter's Square

KYIV – A 30-meter fir tree has been chosen from the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine to decorate St. Peter's Square in Rome and the Apostolic Palace at Christmas, accord-

ing to November 16 press reports. Continuing the tradition that was introduced during the pontificate of John Paul II of installing Christmas trees from different countries on the square, Ukraine will for the first time present a tree to the Holy See. The giant fir tree will be transported by a Slovenian carrier. (Ukrinform)

853,000 Ukrainians in green card lottery

KYIV – Ukrainians were in third place in terms of the number of participants in the current green card lottery, the winners of which receive permanent U.S. residence, it was reported on November 11. This year, the three countries that submitted the most entries were Nigeria, with 1.36 million; Ghana, with 909,000; and Ukraine, with 853,000. Only 8 million people tried to win a green card in the latest U.S. Diversity Visa Lottery, compared with a record 15 million last year. The drop in the number of entries this year was attributed to the fact that Bangladeshis – for many years the most numerous applicants – weren't eligible to participate. Last year, Bangladesh accounted for 7.6 million entries. The diversity-visa lottery is an immigration program that offers a quick path to permanent U.S. residence for 50,000 people each year who are selected randomly by the U.S. government from countries that send relatively few immigrants to the U.S. (Ukrinform)

Culture Ministry against cutting quotas

KYIV – The Ministry of Culture of Ukraine does not support the law on the reduction of quotas for Ukrainian broadcasting from 50 to 25 percent, First Vice-Minister of Culture Yurii Bohutsky told journalists on November 16. The official believes that national deputies did not fully realize what they had voted for. In particular, the very term "national product" is ambiguous. "There was a misunderstanding. Not everyone understood what they voted for. The document is about a national product, which means music written by Ukrainian citizens – not only in the Ukrainian language but the languages of all

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

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

Yearly subscription rate: \$65; for UNA members – \$55.

Periodicals postage paid at Caldwell, NJ 07006 and additional mailing offices.
(ISSN – 0273-9348)

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

UNA:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:

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

Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
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e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, November 20, 2011, No. 47, Vol. LXXIX

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Yulia Tymoshenko's imprisonment: The Yushchenko factor

by Taras Kuzio
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Former President Viktor Yushchenko is an important, but underestimated, aspect of the sentencing of opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko to seven years imprisonment and a three-year ban from government work.

Our Ukraine Honorary Chairman Mr. Yushchenko's support for the sentence was in contradiction with the Our Ukraine political party, which condemned it as a return to authoritarianism. Every other opposition political party also condemned the sentence.

Party of Regions Deputy Taras Chornovil said in a recent interview with Radio Svoboda that "Mr. Yushchenko was the only well-known public person in Ukraine who supported the sentence." Mr. Yushchenko was the only person who "applauded and said that he supported it and was satisfied with it" (Radio Svoboda, October 17).

In interviews given to the BBC's Ukrainian service on October 12 and Der Spiegel on October 18, Mr. Yushchenko publicly supported Ms. Tymoshenko's sentence. Speaking on the Inter television channel on October 23, Mr. Yushchenko stated his opposition to the decriminalization of the 1962 Soviet Criminal Code articles that were included in the 2001 Ukrainian Criminal Code used to sentence Ms. Tymoshenko. Officials, he argued, should be held responsible for their actions.

The European Union, it must be noted, had sought to use decriminalization as a compromise for Viktor Yanukovich to release Ms. Tymoshenko.

Former U.S. Ambassadors to Ukraine William Taylor and Steven Pifer described the trial as a "farce" (Interfax-Ukraine, August 29; Kyiv Post, July 28, September 20). Mr. Yushchenko, in contrast, said it was "rather a normal judicial process," believing the charges arose from her "treason."

Mr. Yushchenko continued, "I do not see a show trial, but rather a normal judicial process. Even politicians are not above the law. Was not the former French President Jacques Chirac also forced to stand trial?" he asked.

Former Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko, who was elected to Parliament on the pro-Mr. Yushchenko Our Ukraine-People's Self Defense bloc, said he believes that Mr. Yushchenko's support for the sentence is a product of his personality, as he showed himself to be a "very low moral person" who "betrayed tens of millions of people."

Mr. Omelchenko and other "Orange" politicians have pointed to Mr. Yushchenko continuing to live in the president's dacha as a "reward" for his anti-Ms. Tymoshenko vendetta. Mr. Yanukovich lives in his palatial Mezhyhiria, a former Soviet complex illegally privatized when he was

prime minister in 2006-2007, and does not need the president's official residence.

A Razumkov Center opinion poll conducted one week after the sentence confirmed Mr. Omelchenko's views, finding Mr. Yushchenko to have the highest negative rating of any Ukrainian politician. Indeed, 80 percent of Ukrainians did not support his actions – that's higher than Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko's 69 percent negative rating. Only 1.5 percent of Ukrainians expressed support for Mr. Yushchenko (Interfax-Ukraine, October 18).

Party of Regions deputies have pointed out that the criminal investigation against Ms. Tymoshenko was launched in 2008-2009 by President Yushchenko and they have merely brought the case to its logical conclusion.

The Tymoshenko case has had three stages. The first stage in the summer of 2008 was the collection of a dossier on Ms. Tymoshenko's alleged "treason" by the Presidential Secretariat (Mr. Yushchenko has continued to use her "treason" to justify his support for the sentence). The "research" operation was led by the chief of staff, Viktor Baloha, who resigned in May 2009 after which he defected to the Yanukovich camp. During the 2010 presidential elections Mr. Baloha organized the first-round victory for Mr. Yanukovich in Zakarpattia, the only western Ukrainian region that he won. In October 2010, Mr. Baloha was appointed as the minister of emergency situations (www.kmu.gov.ua).

During the second stage, Mr. Yushchenko undermined his prime minister's 2010 election campaign. He signed into law increases in populist social benefits that led to a suspension of the 2008 IMF stand-by agreement and signed last-minute changes to the election law that increased opportunities for election fraud. In his final press conference, President Yushchenko revived criminal charges from the Kuchma era related to Ms. Tymoshenko's chairmanship of United Energy Systems in 1995-1997.

The same charges were revived on October 12; the day after Ms. Tymoshenko was sentenced by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). The intervention by the SBU Chairman Valeriy Khoroshkovsky is the latest in a string of similar steps that seek to destroy Ukraine's European integration.

In the second round of the 2010 presidential election Mr. Yushchenko called upon Ukrainians to vote against both candidates, which only reduced Ms. Tymoshenko's vote. Between the first and second rounds of the election, Mr. Yushchenko posthumously awarded nationalist leader Stepan Bandera with a state medal – an act that increased the anti-nationalist turn-out of eastern Ukrainian voters.

The third step, in January 2009, was marked by Mr. Khoroshkovsky's promotion by President Yushchenko to

first vice-chairman of the SBU. Three months later Mr. Khoroshkovsky ordered the SBU's Alpha Spetsnaz unit to raid Naftohaz Ukraine's offices over the January gas contract. The contract became the basis for the charge of "abuse of office" against Ms. Tymoshenko.

Our Ukraine leader and former SBU Chairman Valentyn Nalyvachenko said in an interview with Komentari on March 5, 2010, that "it would be personal satisfaction" if Khoroshkovsky was promoted to the post of SBU chairman, "which he had recommended him for." Mr. Khoroshkovsky became the SBU Chairman shortly afterwards.

Mr. Yushchenko's anti-Ms. Tymoshenko vendetta has brought three negative consequences for Ukraine.

First, it has led to widespread voter disenchantment and disillusionment in Ukrainian politicians, especially among former "Orange" voters. This has generated passivity among Ukrainians, making it easier for President Yanukovich to roll back the democratic gains achieved in the 2004 Orange Revolution. Only 3,000 Ukrainians protested against Ms. Tymoshenko's sentence – fewer in number than the Berkut riot police who had been drafted into Kyiv.

Moreover, Ukraine fatigue undermined Ukraine's integration into NATO, which looked promising in 2005-2006. Mr. Khoroshkovsky's SBU is a major factor in contributing to Ukraine's democratic regression. Mr. Yushchenko's support for Ms. Tymoshenko's sentence undermines his claim that he is a supporter of Ukraine's European integration as the case has derailed the chances of Kyiv signing an Association Agreement.

Finally, Ukraine fatigue led most countries to initially welcome Mr. Yanukovich's victory because they believed it would end Orange chaos and bring stability. Mr. Yanukovich was therefore given a long honeymoon period for most of 2010, during which criticism of democratic regression was muted and phrased diplomatically. Political repression of dozens of opponents led to negative consequences in EU-Ukraine relations only after August 5 of this year when Ms. Tymoshenko was imprisoned for contempt of court.

Mr. Yushchenko's support for Ms. Tymoshenko's sentence reveals political immaturity, a lack of dignity and a willingness to prioritize personal revenge over Ukraine's national interests. Thus, in 2006 and 2011, respectively, he has supported policies that have undermined Ukraine's paths to NATO and the EU.

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Crimean Tatar leader skeptical about Crimea's new prime minister

RFE/RL

SYMFEROPOL, Ukraine – The leader of the unofficial Crimean Tatar Assembly (Mejlis), Mustafa Dzhemilev, has questioned the choice of Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister Anatolii Mohyliov as prime minister of Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported.

President Viktor Yanukovich officially approved Mr. Mohyliov's new appointment on November 7. Mr. Mohyliov was named internal affairs minister in March 2010. Before that, he headed the Internal Affairs Ministry's General Directorate in Crimea since 2007.

Mr. Dzhemilev told RFE/RL on November 7 that Mr. Mohyliov's track record in Crimea leads him to conclude that his appointment as Crimean prime minister was "not a thoughtful decision" and could fuel interethnic tensions.

"Police opened fire at unarmed people near the peak of Ai-Petri in Crimea, when Mr. Mohyliov was in charge," he said. "But the major concern is, of course, his attitude to the mass deportation of Crimean Tatars [to Central Asia in 1944]. In his statements, he tried to justify the atrocities of Stalin's regime against the Crimean Tatars and



Anatolii Mohyliov, Crimea's new prime minister.

other ethnic groups deported purely because of their ethnicity."

On May 18, 1944, Soviet Army and Internal Affairs Ministry troops deported the entire Tatar population of Crimea – some 180,000 people – to Siberia and Central Asia. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin ordered the deportation on the grounds that the Crimean Tatars had allegedly collaborated with Nazi Germany. Thousands of people died en route.

In 1991, the Crimean Tatars received official permission to return to Crimea. They currently account for more than 12 percent of the peninsula's population of some 2.1 million.

Crimea's previous prime minister, Vasyl Dzharty, who died in August, was known for his support for the Crimean Tatars' efforts to establish a dialogue with local and central government on the restitution of their land and property.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov was expected to introduce Mr. Mohyliov to the Crimean government and Parliament on November 8. The Parliament of Crimea must formally approve his appointment.

U.S. congressman pledges to push for ICC indictment of Lukashenka

by Richard Solash
RFE/RL

WASHINGTON – The chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission has pledged to call on the Obama administration to push for the indictment of hard-line Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

While the chances of an indictment are unlikely, the pledge by Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) was a clear sign that U.S. lawmakers have not forgotten the egregious human rights situation in the country ruled by the man some dub “Europe’s last dictator.”

At a Helsinki Commission hearing that focused on Minsk’s continuing crackdown on political opposition and civil society, Rep. Smith said he would send a letter to members of the Obama administration and the United Nations Security Council asking them to push for the indictment.

In an interview with RFE/RL, he later said, “When you commit atrocities for 17 years, as [Lukashenka] has done, the time has come.”

“[Although] Belarus is not a signatory to the ICC, to the Rome Statute – and nor are we, frankly – we’ve done this before, and we did it with [President Omar al-] Bashir in Sudan. It will take a lot of work, but we need to begin that effort now to get the Security Council to make a special referral to begin that process,” he said.

“I’m sure China and Russia will object, but that’s worth the fight, because this man commits atrocities on a daily basis against his own people,” Rep. Smith added.

The congressman made his pledge following the testimony of former Belarusian presidential candidate Ales Mikhalevich, who is in Washington for the first time since his release from a detention center in Minsk on February 19.

Mr. Mikhalevich was one of seven opposition candidates and more than 600 people arrested during the regime’s violent crackdown on protesters following President Lukashenka’s disputed re-election in December 2010. The official reaction to demonstrations drew widespread international condemnation and a coordinated sanctions program by Brussels and Washington.

The financial and travel restrictions were accompanied by a boost in funding for the country’s beleaguered civil society, journalists and activists.

As the one-year anniversary of the election approaches, watchdogs say the jailing and harassment of human rights defenders and protesters continues, while the independent media and judiciary face intense, often institutionalized, pressure.

Mr. Mikhalevich says he had to sign agreement on collaborating with the Belarusian state security forces, which are still called the KGB, in order to secure his release. He has since been granted political asylum in the Czech Republic.

Ahead of meetings with State Department officials and Washington-based NGOs, he told U.S. lawmakers that supporting Belarusian civil society – and not holding out hope that Mr. Lukashenka will reform – is the only way to effect change.

“I’m absolutely sure that Lukashenka is ready to defend his power by all possible means. Unfortunately, we can compare Lukashenka with [former Libyan leader Muammar] Qaddafi. So I urge the United States, the European Union and the international community not to trust another game of liberalization badly played by the regime,” he said.

“Cooperate only with independent civil society in Belarus: non-governmental organizations, both unregistered and registered, independent newspapers and

media, and democratic activists.”

Analysts say Mr. Lukashenka has long employed the tactic of pledging to loosen to grip on the country in exchange for a reprieve from sanctions – a tactic that has worked in the past.

Observers say he has also sought to capitalize on rifts between the United States and the European Union, as well as between neighboring Russia and the West, to inhibit united action against his regime.

After testifying, Mr. Mikhalevich told RFE/RL that he hoped the United States would more fully take on the role of “bad cop” if the EU, which borders Belarus and relies on it as a transit country for gas from Russia, hesitates to do so.

“I’m absolutely sure than in order to succeed, the international community should have both the good cop and bad cop. Someone should play the role of the bad cop and, unfortunately, the European Union would not play this role. So I hope that the United States will be ready to do it,” Mr. Mikhalevich said.

Mr. Mikhalevich also offered a harrowing account of what he called “constant mental and physical torture” during his two months in custody, including being “stripped naked and forced to assume various positions.”

“Our legs were pulled apart with ropes and we could feel our ligaments tear,” Mr. Mikhalevich said in his prepared remarks.

Rep. Smith appeared visibly moved by the account.

“Rather than calling them the KGB, it ought to be called the KGB ‘P’ for ‘perverts.’ Masked men who strip other men naked, and women, presumably, as well – those are acts of perversion that should not go unnoticed by the international community,” said the congressman.

In July, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a bill sponsored by Rep. Smith that would strengthen existing sanctions against Minsk. It is awaiting consideration in the Senate.

Rep. Smith told RFE/RL that Western attention on the situation in Belarus had been “observed” to some extent by the events of the Arab Spring, and especially by the global economic downturn. He said that pushing for ICC action would be a sign that human rights are not “taking a back seat.”

“I’ve been very much involved for years in the special [U.N.-backed] court that [U.S. prosecutor] David Crane oversaw for Sierra Leone, and what I learned from that, and from the Rwandan court, and of course from the Yugoslav court, which held [Slobodan] Milosevic and [Ratko] Mladic and [Radovan] Karadzic to account, is that these thugs are frightened by the fact that they may be held to account. And Lukashenka will fear it, I believe, if we make a very serious effort to hold him to account at the International Criminal Court,” said Rep. Smith.

Mr. Mikhalevich told RFE/RL that he thinks the chances of ICC action against President Lukashenka are slim, but that the prospect of such a move could help pressure the regime to release its political prisoners.

“I think that definitely, it’s very difficult to organize any [such] political process unless thousands of people are being killed, but still, it’s necessary to do all attempts,” he said.

“And you never know how this regime will develop – and how many victims we will have next year.”

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Ukrainian civil liberties groups hold joint conclave in Saskatoon



Members of the UCCLA and UCCLF executives at a joint annual conclave in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (from left): Andriy Harasymiw, Andrea Malysh, John Gregorovich, Roman Zakaluzny, Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk, Ryan Boyko and Borys Sydoruk.

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan – Representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) and officials from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) spoke during UCCLA’s annual conclave, held this year in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

“We were very pleased that Stuart Murray, CEO of the national museum, arranged for our teleconference with museum content experts Dr. Rhonda Hinthner and Dr. Clint Curle,” said R.W. Zakaluzny, chair of the UCCLA. “Both they and Communications director Angela Cassie assured us that the CMHR remains dedicated to reaching out and consulting with all Canadians.”

“In response, the UCCLA confirmed that we remain dedicated to ensuring all 12 galleries in this publicly funded museum are inclusive, comparative and thematic in their treatment of the many episodes of crimes against humanity and genocide that occurred before, during and after the Second World War. We will continue to insist upon that, even after the museum opens next year,” Mr. Zakaluzny explained.

The UCCLA executive began three days of meetings with a public lecture at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada by Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk, the UCCLA’s director of research, who gave a fulsome speech on Canada’s first national internment operations, and how those operations related to the human rights museum.

The UCCLA met with Slawko Kindrachuk, president of the Saskatchewan Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and Catherine Schabel, chair of its Holodomor Awareness Committee. Both groups shared information and vowed to work together on several projects of mutual interest.

Members of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation (UCCLF) also met for their annual general meeting in Saskatoon, initiating a series of new book prizes for academic achievement at five universities in Canada.

It is hoped that book prizes will be created in memory of Kari Moore at the Slavic Studies Department of the University of Victoria; to honor Yevhen

(Continued on page 7)

Group places KGB man under surveillance

OTTAWA – Concerned about the failure of the Canada Border Services Agency to remove a known veteran of the notorious Soviet secret police, the KGB, from Canada, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association on October 14 announced that it has engaged the services of a private investigation firm to put a Lutheran church basement in east Vancouver, British Columbia, under surveillance:

“According to the Minister of Public Security, the Honorable Vic Toews, this KGB man had no right to enter Canada, and he has no right to remain. He is not a refugee, as confirmed by the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB). His appeal of that finding was dismissed by the Honourable Mr. Justice R. Zinn of the Federal Court of Canada,” the UCCLA noted in a statement. “He should have been removed immediately, but he claimed ‘sanctuary’ in a pre-prepared bolt-hole in a church basement, even though no right of sanctuary exists in Canadian law.”

“He remains there to this day, nearly

three years later, openly defying our country’s laws. Repeated calls upon the government of Canada to enforce the decisions of both the IRB and the Federal Court of Canada have not been acted upon,” the UCCLA state. “As a result, we have begun another campaign calling upon Mr. Toews to instruct the CBSA [Canadian Border Services Agency] to do their job while letting all MPs and senators in Parliament know about what needs to be done and why. Until this KGB man is returned to his country of origin, we are placing the site under surveillance. If he attempts to leave his cellar, he will be apprehended and turned over to the RCMP/CBSA.”

“This man was a part of the Soviet apparatus, a willing and promoted enabler of a corrupt, undemocratic and violently ruthless secret police force. We must, at a minimum, ensure that the freedoms we enjoy in Canada are shared with the tens of thousands of real refugees who wish to come here,” the UCCLA underscored.

Washington conference focuses on Ukraine's relations with Poland and Turkey

UCCA

WASHINGTON – The 12th annual “Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood Roundtable” was held in Washington on October 19-20.

This year’s forum explored two relationships that carry deep strategic significance and powerful cultural and historical meanings for Ukraine. The roundtable’s theme was “Compelling Bilateral Ties: Poland-Ukraine and Turkey-Ukraine,” focusing on interrelations of Ukraine and Poland (which presently holds the presidency of the European Union), as well as Turkey (which has been a very important player with a growing economy in the Middle East).

As noted during the two-day conference, strengthening these bilateral relations is very important to Ukraine’s political and economic development, as well as Ukraine’s stated goal of integration into the European Union.

The conference’s host moderator, Dr. Walter Zaryckyj (Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations), opened the proceedings by asking representatives of the forum’s three focus countries – Ukraine’s Ambassador to the U.S. Olexander Motsyk, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Poland to the U.S. Maciej Pisarski and Counselor of the Embassy of Turkey to the U.S. Huseyin Dogan – to deliver opening remarks.

Several speakers then addressed the spotlighted bilateral relationships in the broader context of “seeking a Europe whole, free and prosperous.”

The U.S. perspective was elaborated by Baxter Hunt, director of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus at the U.S. Department of State. He underscored that the United States is pursuing a policy that encourages Ukraine to choose a democratic future, because, “Ukraine’s political and economic development as an independent nation is a vital part of our efforts to realize the dream of a Europe that is whole, free and prosperous.”

“We support Ukraine’s European integration in part because it will lead to long-term stability for Ukraine and the region as it did for Ukraine’s formerly communist neighbors to the West, such as Poland,” he continued. “We also support it because the Ukrainian people want freedom and prosperity, and even during this period of financial crisis, we are convinced of the EU’s transformative power and that a Ukraine that is closer to Europe will be a Ukraine that is freer and more prosperous.”

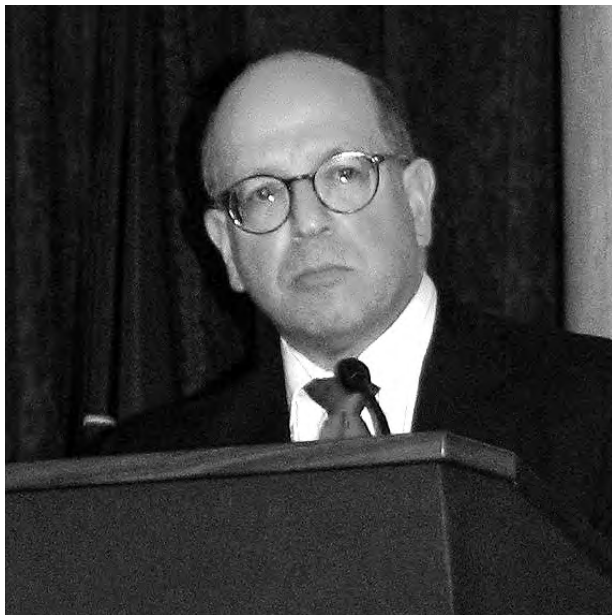
James Sherr, director of Eurasia Programs at the London-based Chatham House, addressed the question: Is Europe still interested in seeing itself whole and free? He underlined the ambiguity of Europe’s position and made it clear that Europe would soon have to take a decisive stance.

The evening concluded with the presentation of the UCCA’s prestigious Mykhailo Hrushevsky Award in commemoration of Ukraine’s 20th anniversary of independence to John Herbst, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine (2003 to 2006). Michael Sawkiw, director of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), and Tamara Olexy, UCCA president, presented the ambassador the award for “his efforts in advancing Ukraine’s cause.”

In his eloquent remarks Ambassador Herbst thanked the UCCA for bestowing upon him this honor, and thanked those with whom he has worked to promote democracy in Ukraine.

Jason Bruder, senior policy advisor on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, greeted the participants of the conference in its opening session on Thursday, October 20.

Mr. Bruder read a statement from Sen. John Kerry, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in which the senator noted: “Ukraine is a dynamic country with a strong civil society, and our relationship with its people is important to the United States. I’m delighted that Vice-



James Scherr, director of Eurasia Programs at the Chatham House, addresses the conference.



Lesyk Balaban

At the conference on “Compelling Bilateral Ties: Poland-Ukraine and Turkey-Ukraine” (from left) are: former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Borys Tarasyuk, panel moderator John O’Keefe from the Open World Leadership Program and Janusz Onyszkiewicz, former minister of defense of the Republic of Poland.

President Biden was able to visit Ukraine in 2009, and I hope that similar bilateral visits are possible in the future... Ukraine needs and deserves trade and investment, and the United States could be an important partner in that effort. But that cannot happen until the Yanukovich government takes steps to improve the political climate in the country and restore confidence in its institutions.”

The second day continued with the presentation of Yevhen Burkat, deputy head of Eurointegration in Ukraine’s presidential administration. Outlining the government’s reforms to bring Ukraine closer to European standards, he said, “a potential gap exists between general European aspirations of the society and actual awareness of how everyday life should change to improve its values for each and every Ukrainian home.” He added, “Education is key, but it takes time and resources, resources which we are still short of.”

The morning panels addressed Ukrainian-Polish relations in the past, present and future. Both Krzysztof Bobinski (Unia & Polska) in reviewing the past, as well as Janusz Onyszkiewicz (former minister of defense of Poland) and Borys Tarasyuk (former minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine) in assessing the present made it clear that a Polish-Ukrainian entente would have enormous positive consequences for the region. However, all stressed that without Ukraine’s full acceptance of European standards such an entente would not be possible.

Jan Pieklo (Polish American Ukrainian Cooperation Initiative/PAUCI) and Oleh Rybachuk (New Citizen, Ukraine) in looking at the future bilateral relationship reiterated the previous panel’s sentiments but added, in the spirit of the conference, that a Polish-Ukrainian-Turkish entente would have global consequences.

The roundtable also provided a forum for leaders of Ukraine’s opposition to address many of the concerns about events transpiring in Ukraine. Chaired by Nico Lange from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, panel participants such as Mykhaylo Sokolov (member of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc), Volodymyr Ariev (leading member of the National Self-Defense bloc) and Valentyn Nalyvaichenko (head of the Our Ukraine Political Council) shared their views on the current political situation and Ukraine’s future prospects.

All three speakers highlighted the current backsliding of democracy in Ukraine, as well as the political repressions that have led to the arrest and detention of political opponents of the current regime, specifically Ukraine’s former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and former Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Lutsenko.

The opposition panelists emphasized that hope still exists, as the citizens of Ukraine see their future in Europe. They all agreed that reversing the anti-democratic tide in Ukraine lies is dependent upon the upcoming parliamentary elections, and they appealed to the international community to ensure that the 2012 elections are free and fair.

The most anticipated speaker of the Conference was Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former U.S. national security advisor under President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981). Addressing “The Global Benefits of Achieving a Europe Whole, Free and Prosperous,” Dr. Brzezinski stressed that, if Ukraine hopes to join the EU, it must meet the standards of European democracy. He pointed out that nations such as Poland became EU members only after first becoming NATO members. Dr. Brzezinski also noted that, though the West has assisted and will assist Ukraine in its transition to the Euro-Atlantic community, Ukraine’s leader must show determination and provide effective means of governance to achieve this goal.

Following Dr. Brzezinski’s remarks, many questions were posed regarding the possibility of Ukraine turning away from Europe and towards Russia and about the effects on U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relations of the official U.S.

“reset” policy with the Russian Federation. Dr. Brzezinski shared his belief that there was no danger of this happening as he felt Ukraine would not be willing to isolate itself from the European Union nor the United States.

The Thursday afternoon panels concentrated on the past, present and future relations between Turkey and Ukraine. In assessing the past, Dr. Lubomyr Hajda of Harvard University and Dr. Hakan Kirmli of Bilkent University explored the historic inter-relations and cultural similarities of the two countries, even pointing out that the Ukrainian word “Kozak” is a Turkish word meaning “free person.” They also maintained that the two nations had traded and maintained friendly relations for centuries, from the time of the Kozak Sich, and that in 1914 the Ottoman Empire was one of the first four states to recognize the independence of Ukraine.

With Andrew Bihun of The Washington Group moderating, Diba Nigar Goksel of the Turkish Policy Quarterly and Serhiy Korsunsky, Ukraine’s Ambassador to Turkey, shared their thoughts on the present and future bilateral relationship, stressing the importance of building the economies of both nations, as Turkey is a vital ally of Ukraine for trade and energy diversification due to its geographical location.

One of the critical points reiterated was the importance of Turkey as a strategic partner in light of the many challenges facing Ukraine, including energy security, the Black Sea Fleet, and the need to expand Ukraine’s economy through infrastructure projects. Also discussed was how Turkey can serve as a facilitator for opening up third world markets for Ukrainian businesses.

The final speaker of the conference’s focus sessions was Stefan Romaniw, general secretary of the Ukrainian World Congress. Addressing the global Ukrainian “Hromada’s” community’s viewpoint on “seeking a Europe whole, free and prosperous,” Mr. Romaniw underscored that such conferences are important vehicles in highlighting issues of importance to Ukrainians worldwide.

In sharing his recent travel experiences in eastern Ukraine during the summer of 2011 he reaffirmed his belief that eastern Ukrainians ardently wish for a united and strong Ukraine. However, one of the main challenges that Ukraine faces is the establishment of a strong people’s movement, covering all sectors of society that would teach the citizens to “believe in themselves and be prepared to take responsibility so as not to be manipulated by politicians and political parties.”

He continued by stating that if Ukraine is to go down the European route, “parties must agree to focus on the building and development of nationhood, statehood and everything that stands behind this.”

Mr. Romaniw added that Ukraine has a very long road ahead, but as the conference proceedings have shown, Ukraine does not need to take that road alone – Poland and Turkey can be its companions.

* * *

The roundtable conference co-sponsors were: American Foreign Policy Council, Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations, Embassy of Ukraine to the United States, Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation International Republican Institute, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung/UA, Library of Congress/Open World Institute, Polish Ukrainian Cooperation Initiative, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian National Information Service.

Financial support was provided by the following sponsors: Self Reliance (NY) Federal Credit Union, Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union, Cleveland Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, SUMA Yonkers Federal Credit Union, Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union, Ukrainian Home Dnipro Federal Credit Union, The Heritage Foundation of 1st Security Bank, the Ukrainian National Association and the American Foreign Policy Council.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Holodomor memorial days

In November, Ukrainians worldwide commemorate the Holodomor, or Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 – one of the world's most brutal examples of genocide, a crime that is almost beyond human comprehension. Many Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian Canadians will light candles of remembrance for the 10 million victims who died as a result of forced starvation – in other words, they were deliberately killed.

Here in the United States, the day that most communities focus on is the Saturday before Thanksgiving – this year that date is November 19 – when the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) holds the annual requiem service at the landmark St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Many communities throughout the U.S. hold other special events around that time to focus attention on the Holodomor. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress has announced that the annual Holodomor Awareness Week will be observed on November 21-27, with Holodomor Memorial Day to be marked nationwide on Saturday, November 26. Indeed, Holodomor Memorial Day has been established by both federal and provincial legislation in Canada.

As these memorial days approach, it behooves us to note some recent developments regarding the state of Holodomor awareness.

There is progress to report regarding the construction of a Holodomor memorial in Washington, as the first of several required hearings has approved the memorial's design, the beautifully engaging "Field of Wheat" project by Larysa Kurylas. In the state of Massachusetts, community activists continue their mission to have the Holodomor enshrined as part of the state curriculum on genocide and human rights. Ukrainian Canadian filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy has had much success promoting his feature-length documentary about the Holodomor, called "Genocide Revealed," at various film festivals – where it has already won 12 international awards – and at screenings throughout North America. And he is preparing a 52-minute version of the film specially geared to schools and universities.

But... there is much more we need to do to tell the story of the Holodomor to a largely uninformed public.

For example, the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, N.J., recently held a teachers' workshop titled "Learning from the Nation's Experts: New Resources for Holocaust/Genocide Education." We decided to attend in order to see for ourselves how the Ukrainian Genocide – which the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education has suggested as one of the genocides to be studied in the state's schools – fares at such teacher-training programs. As was to be expected from a look at the conference agenda, 99 percent of the program was about the Holocaust; other genocides were mere footnotes. The conference offered a bounty of handouts and catalogues of resources for elementary and secondary school teachers (books, films, maps, curriculum units, posters, activities, etc.), as well as information about museums and exhibits. And that is where we really fall short. Among the resources offered in catalogues were materials about the genocides in Rwanda, Armenia, Cambodia, Darfur – but not the Holodomor.

Clearly, we Ukrainian Americans have our work cut out for us if we want our homeland's genocide to be known. And we will need funds. But what we need most of all is some sort of structure – perhaps within an umbrella organization like the UCCA – that could coordinate our efforts (utilizing the work already being done by dedicated activists on the state level, for example in Massachusetts, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut) to create a Holodomor curriculum and teachers' materials appropriate for use in various states.

This year, as we remember the Holodomor and pray for the repose of the millions of souls murdered in those dreadful years, we must also remember that it is our moral obligation to share and preserve their story.

Nov.
26
1941

Turning the pages back...

Seventy years ago, on November 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill officially establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day in the United States.

The origins of Thanksgiving can be traced to harvest festivals, with one of the earliest recorded festivals dating to the Biblical Canaanites, and a similar one celebrated by the Hebrews, called the "Feast of the Tabernacles."

Similar festivals and their origins were described according to Greek (Feast of Demeter), Roman (Feast of Ceres), Druid and Native American traditions.

In the New World, as it was called, the first Thanksgiving was noted as probably occurring on May 27, 1578, by the Martin Frobisher expedition on the shores of New Foundland, with the feast officiated by an English minister, Robert Wolfall. And in the United States, the earliest record of Thanksgiving was held by the Popham colony, located on the coast of Maine in August 1607.

The Pilgrims held the first Thanksgiving ceremony in December 1620 soon after the arrival of the Mayflower. Thanksgiving Day, as it is currently celebrated, was originated by Gov. William Bradford of Plymouth, Mass. Following a harsh winter, the springtime crops were carefully monitored and the resulting bumper crop ensured that the Pilgrims would endure another winter more comfortably. This first Thanksgiving was observed for three days, and local Native Americans were invited to join in the harvest celebration.

In 1623 a drought had nearly destroyed that year's crops, but a rain that lasted for several days saved the harvest. In addition, Captain Miles Standish returned from a trip in

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Let's talk about it

BY YARO BIHUN

Remembering our veterans



Yaro Bihun

These two of 19 stainless steel statues representing a U.S. military squad on patrol in Korea are part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, which was dedicated by President Bill Clinton in 1995.

Unlike most veterans, I don't look forward to Veterans Day. Yes, it is that special day for remembering and honoring those who – willingly or otherwise – put their lives on the line for this country in times of war. Most of them lived to pass on their experience to the next generation; many never returned. But that experience is something that we – and all of mankind – would be better off without.

While President Barack Obama was marking Veterans Day on November 11 by laying a wreath and expressing this nation's gratitude "where our heroes come to rest," at Arlington National Cemetery, our country's oldest living Medal of Honor recipient – 94-year-old Ukrainian American World War II veteran from New Jersey Nicholas Oresko – was honoring his comrades-in-arms on New York's Fifth Avenue. The former master sergeant who fought in the Battle of the Bulge was asked about his experience in combat by a reporter from the New York Daily News. "It's difficult to talk about," he responded, adding, "I'm happy to come to these things as a survivor. Thank God for America."

Sgt. Oresko was one of three Ukrainian American Medal of Honor winners honored at the 64th annual national convention of the Ukrainian American Veterans on September 30-October 2 in Willow Grove, Pa. The other two – also of New Jersey – were Pvt. Nicholas Minue of Carteret, who died during a charge against a German machine-gun position in Tunisia in 1943, and 1st Sgt. John Dutko, of Riverside Township, who was killed while storming a German artillery and machine-gun position in Italy in 1944.

I, meanwhile, was on the other side of the Potomac River from Arlington, on the Capital Mall between the Washington and Lincoln monuments, visiting our nation's memorials to those who fought in the four major 20th century conflicts in which many of our veterans perished: World Wars I and II, and our conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. The veterans of our latest overseas "operations" have yet to be collectively memorialized in stone.

My normal gloominess on this day intensified over breakfast when Spec. Mark J. Downer stared at me from the small headshot photograph on top of page A6 in that morning's The Washington Post. The 23-year-old African-American from Warner Robins, Ga., was the first of 99 faces in a two-page photo-montage titled "Faces of the

Fallen" presenting the most recent available list of those who died in "Operation Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan and in "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Downer was killed by a rocket-propelled grenade in Kandahar province in Afghanistan on August 5. The last headshot in the montage was that of Spec. Adrian G. Mills, 23, of Newnan, Ga., who was killed by mortar fire in Kirkuk, Iraq. That installment of "Faces of the Fallen" brought the totals of our soldiers killed in those operations to more than 1,800 in Afghanistan and 4,400 in Iraq.

My encounter with "Faces of the Fallen" was not coincidental. Since The Washington Post began periodically running this list of war fatalities (which also includes those who died from friendly fire, accidents, homicides, suicides and natural causes) I have made it a point to personally acknowledge – and not ignore – each of their passing.

In so doing, I have also tried to determine if any of them may perchance be of Ukrainian American origin. I found none.

I may have missed a list or two, because other sources, including The Ukrainian Weekly, reported that there was at least one, Army Sgt. Yevgeniy Ryndych of Brooklyn, who was killed in December 2006 in Iraq by an improvised explosive device. He was part of the most recent wave of Ukrainian immigrants to the United States. His family came here from Kyiv in 1998.

Also serving multiple tours of duty in Iraq around that time – and surviving, as far as I could determine – was another recent Ukrainian immigrant: Pvt. 1st Class Stanislaw Mykhaylichenko, 20, of New York.

"I just care about my friends – this platoon, that everybody will come home," was how he expressed his feelings about the war to Washington Post correspondent Bill Murphy, whose story appeared February 23, 2007. Mykhaylichenko's participation on the U.S. side of this regional conflict has an ironic twist: his father served in the Soviet army battling the mujahideen in Afghanistan in the 1980s, when the United States was clandestinely helping the mujahideen.

As I approached the most-recently constructed World War II memorial – the only one I dislike, because it looks like something one would expect to find in Moscow or Peking – I thought about how many thousands of Ukrainian Americans fought and died in that war. In our extended family in Pennsylvania most everybody served: both of my aunt

(Continued on page 16)

NEWS AND VIEWS

A KGB man in Canada

by Lubomyr Luciuk

This particular KGB man arrived in September 1997. He was found out in 2002. He said he was a refugee, but he failed to convince the Immigration and Refugee Board of that in May 2006. So he appealed. In June 2009 the Justice Russel Zinn of the Federal Court of Canada upheld the deportation order. (The same judge, on June 4, 2009, ruled Ottawa must return Abousfian Abdelrazik from Sudan, a decision applauded by those who otherwise studiously ignore his contemporaneous decision in this KGB man's case.)

Justice Zinn wrote: "The applicant has had the benefit of every procedure available to him under the act. At some point, a deportation order must be carried out, otherwise the integrity of the process is called into question." He also cited Mr. Justice Evans: "...the balance of convenience does not favor delaying further the discharge of either the applicant's duty...to leave Canada immediately, or the minister's duty to remove them as soon as reasonably practicable... This is not simply a question of administrative convenience, but implicates the integrity, and fairness of, and public confidence, in Canada's system of immigration control."

The applicant's duty was to leave. Instead he decamped into a pre-prepared suite in Vancouver's First Lutheran Church, asserting a "right of sanctuary." There is no such thing.

Minister of Public Safety Vice Towes is responsible for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). On January 28, 2010, he insisted: "The Immigration and Refugee Board and the courts have determined that Mr. Lennikov is not admissible to Canada under our laws." He has done little since.

Supposedly, Conservatives favor a "law and order agenda." Yet, someone openly defying our laws remains untroubled. Recently Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government circulated descriptions of alleged "war criminals," encouraging snitches to help the CBSA deport bad guys (a few were). Since this KGB man's whereabouts are known, why wasn't he removed?

The Conservatives also cater to ethnic communities. Over 1.2 million Canadians are of Ukrainian heritage; many thousands more are of other eastern European origins, and more than a few have family members who suffered persecution by the Communist secret police,

Lubomyr Luciuk, Ph.D., is director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (www.uccla.ca)

Ukrainian civil...

(Continued from page 4)

Harasymiw at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law; to recall the service of 1st Lt. Bohdan Panchuk at the Prairie Center for Ukrainian Heritage at the University of Saskatchewan; to mark the valor of Cpl. Filip Konowal at the Royal Military College of Canada; and to remember internee survivor Mary Manko Haskett with a prize through the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto.

known variously as the Cheka, NKVD, Smersh and KGB. Some victims were even Lutherans. Giving "Captain KGB" the boot would earn "ethnic votes."

Supporters argue that this former Soviet agent should stay because he is a well-educated family man and Mozart aficionado who only worked as a translator. They say he poses no security threat since the USSR collapsed more than two decades ago. Would they rally behind someone with a Ph.D. who treasured Tchaikovsky and was "only" a Russian-language translator while in the Gestapo or SS? Not likely. Whether someone personally "pulled the trigger" is not the point. Simply being part of an organization that perpetrated crimes against humanity, even if you were "only" a cook, bottle washer or translator, renders you inadmissible. All KGB veterans fit that description. That's Canadian law, like it or not.

Of course, our KGB man is a white European. Most other n'er-do-wells being hunted down are Third Worlders, people of color. And although Communists are atheists by definition, this one was clever enough to steal away into a church. Since the remarkably delicate souls of the CBSA won't enter a place of worship to do their jobs, God forbid any of Canada's other most wanted read this. Any law-breaker who absconds into a mosque, synagogue or temple can apparently chortle "home free!"

Offering citizenship to KGB or Gestapo veterans is unconscionable. And Canadians want federal laws upheld. Yet that's not happening. Deploying the usual remedies – chiding ministers, sending protest cards to members of Parliament, alerting the media – has had little consequence. The taxpayer-funded CBC even broadcast reports sympathetic to this bogus refugee claimant and illegal alien, obfuscating the KGB's murderous role. Those claiming there's no left-wing bias at the CBC must be joking.

So we hired a private investigator and put this KGB man's bolthole under surveillance. If he leaves, the authorities will be alerted immediately and will deport him. Alternatively, he can spend the rest of his days in his hidey-hole at First Lutheran. That's fine with us.

Some hint that this once loyal servant and beneficiary of the Soviet regime "found God" in their midst. How nice, if true. As Christians we might have "turned the other cheek" if there was credible evidence this KGB man genuinely sought forgiveness for what he was, made public his repentance. He hasn't. So we say: "No wolf in sheep's clothing will ever be welcome in the flock."

The UCCLF also elected a new executive. Andriy Harasymiw of Edmonton has taken over as chair, assisted by Ryan Boyko of Toronto as a director, with Calgary's Borys Sydoruk continuing in the role of treasurer.

The next joint UCCLA and UCCLF conclave will be on September 27-30, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where the groups will hold a commemoration ceremony at The Citadel, site of one of the 24 internment camps that held Ukrainians and other Europeans during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920.



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

A willing stereotype

I know I'm not the only one. There are quite a few of us out there, and we recognize, admire, and appreciate each other. No, this has nothing to do with the X-Files. This is much closer to home.

I'm talking about the women, and some men, who are fans of a touch of Ukrainian in contemporary clothing – the embroidery on a dress or blouse, the coral or amber necklace, the earrings, the sunflower or poppy or paisley shawls. The possibilities are endless. I am guilty of all of the above.

For me, that touch of something "ridne" (my own, in the Ukrainian sense) just comes naturally. My various coral earrings are part of my everyday outfits. I am just drawn to the shawl or silk scarf or fabric with something that's "mine." I get excited over my finds, be they in a store, in a market, in a vintage shop or at a garage sale.

In Winnipeg, you never know what you'll find at the estate or garage sale or at Value Village, Goodwill or Sally Ann. A full Bukovyna outfit? Korali? A "kylym" or "lizhnyk"? Fine openwork embroidery on old linen? Hah, even the "embroidered" ceramic dishes are considered collectibles here! And if you ever need a Shevchenko or Franko carved plaque for the wall, just wait a while, it will show up.

What a thrill it is to find even-weave or fine-weave linen or hempen fabric – only a soul-sister would understand. When it comes to clothing patterns, I look for the Vogue one with just the right neckline or seam that would be suitable for embroidery. But – and I'm sure I'm not the only one – the outfits have been designed, embroidered, sewn and already worn – in my imagination.

Sadly, in reality the fabric and patterns are still in their boxes. But it is still enjoyable to dream. I'll be organized in my next life. At least I can rely on my super sister Nusia Denysyk, who is a designer who sews. Her motto is, "If you can find it in a store, don't come to me."

For the gentlemen, a tradition in Winnipeg for a long time, especially for Malanka (embroidery) and weddings, is the wearing of a vyshyvanka with a tuxedo, and sometimes even a woven poyas (sash) instead of the cummerbund. Many men wear their "sorochka" (embroidered shirt) with a suit jacket for special occasions. Priests often wear embroidered shirt fronts, which really look good. My son Dobryan took a handwoven kraika I brought back from Staryi Kosiv, Ukraine, had it backed with leather and now has a unique guitar strap.

I confess that I am a stealth photographer – I collect traditional and contemporary styles and designs wherever I can. Ukraine is a feast for the vyshyvanka lover, where for every feast and on Sundays people wear their embroidered and woven finery. Where possible, I ask for permission to photograph a particular sorochka. Or, if the person is in the distance, I just try to zoom in.

One year, in Lviv on the Feast of Spasa (Harvest Feast, in August) on Virmenska (Armenian Street), I saw a lovely sight in

the distance. A family was strolling down the middle of the street; the beautiful woman and her daughter and mother were carrying the blessed baskets of fruit, flowers and medicinal plants. The whole family was so attractive, with the man and his female family members all dressed in embroidery, with the raven-haired woman especially striking. She was dressed in a white-on-white sorochka, long black skirt, black shawl and a bosom-full of namysto (coral, dukachi, and other necklaces).

I pretended I was photographing the architecture, but zoomed in on them. As they approached, I realized that I knew the family and they had recognized me! It was Taras and Roksoliana Lozynsky, the Hutsul antique folk art collectors!

There is some reverse thinking going on. A new style is to wear the rough unbleached off-white or natural linen – something no self-respecting selianyn or selianka (peasant) would do (linen was sun-bleached). The sorochka must be "bila-bila" (as mentioned in so many songs, for example, "Chom na tobi, chumachenku, sorochka ne bila?" – Why are you not wearing a white shirt, chumak/salt trader) – but times change, and now the natural unbleached color indicates to those who may not know that it is indeed linen.

Ukrainian designers have been creating lovely linen machine-embroidered shirts and outfits, with either traditional embroidery, or more contemporary Ukrainian-styled flowers such as poppies and sunflowers, or Trypillian-motif designs. But there is still a difference between wearing one of these and a real vyshyvanka. It depends upon the occasion.

When it comes to jewelry, there are so many choices. I feel good with that one strand of coral around my neck. Or, I can pile many more on. Amber is lovely in its

(Continued on page 11)



Dress with embroidery designed and sewn by Heirloom Transformations by Anna Denysyk, based on a design idea by Orysia Tracz.

Orysia Tracz may be contacted at orysia.tracz@gmail.com.

RESEARCHING UKRAINIAN HISTORY

Erroneous methods in a scholar's challenge to "Ukrainian myths"

by Roman Serbyn

PART I

For some time now, Prof. John-Paul Himka has been campaigning against what he calls "Ukrainian myths about traumatic aspects of the 20th century." Back on March 28, he explained his chosen mission in an address at the University of Alberta. An abridged version of his text can be found on the Internet under the title "Interventions: Challenging the Myths of 20th Century Ukrainian History" (http://www.foa.ualberta.ca/Research/~media/University%20of%20Alberta/Faculties/Arts/Faculty%20Site/Research/celebration_jph_march28.pdf).

Regrettably, what Prof. Himka has produced in this article is not a good history of the tragic events. And, his analysis of the myths that they engendered is flawed. His paper does not help to set the historical record straight, nor does it contribute to the formulation of positive myths of national consolidation, crucial for newly independent states like Ukraine. In fact, Prof. Himka's approach tends to reinforce anti-Ukrainian mythologies.

Prof. Himka feels that, both as an academic and a public intellectual, he has a responsibility and a moral duty to challenge what he regards as myths, and because of his "self-identification as a Ukrainian," he can do it "from the inside." The two "core myths," as Prof. Himka sees them, that have become the objects of his indignation are: (a) the claim that the Ukrainian Famine of 1933 was genocide, and (b) the denial that the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) participated in the Holocaust.

What bothers the historian is that these myths are instrumentalized and exploited in tandem. Prof. Himka complains: "The genocide argument is used to buttress another campaign, to glorify the anti-Communist resistance of the Ukrainian nationalists during World War II." Since he regards the nationalists, i.e., OUN and UPA, as being implicated in the Holocaust, he considers their glorification unacceptable. Rejecting the nationalist (in his opinion) view of Ukrainian history, Prof. Himka concludes that "a revisionist treatment" is "not only appropriate, but obligatory."

If Prof. Himka's presentation gives the impression of a *déjà vu*, *déjà entendu* – there are good reasons for it. Anybody who remembers the Soviet war on the Ukrainian diaspora in the 1980s will recall Douglas Tottle's "Fraud, Famine and Fascism: The Ukrainian Genocide Myth from Hitler to Harvard" (Toronto, 1987). Mr. Tottle's pseudo-scholarly treatise left a similar impression. Only his accusations were more blatant and thoroughly mendacious with regard to the Soviet Famines of 1921-1923 and 1932-1933. With Soviet aid, and echoing Soviet propaganda, Mr. Tottle accused Ukrainian nationalists of criminally collaborating with the "fascists" and then fleeing to the West where, as refugees, they promoted the "myth" of a man-made Famine in Ukraine in order to deflect attention from their own crimes and to gain sympathy as victims of Communism.

Unlike the Soviet propagandists, but like

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Prof. Himka today, Mr. Tottle did not deny the Famine: the gradual opening of Soviet archives was making that argument untenable. The similarity in Messrs. Tottle's and Himka's positions resides in their rejection of the Ukrainian Genocide and their paramount interest in the Ukrainian involvement in the Holocaust.

Calling on his training as a historian, Prof. Himka writes: "Once I took up the project of clarifying the history of the Holocaust, I submitted the topic [to] the usual disciplinary procedures, which include researching in primary sources and rethinking in relation to existing research." In line with such sound scholarship, he pledges to "uncover the truth," because "truth is a value in and of itself." These are laudable qualities. What is regrettable, however, is that the author, despite linking the two issues in tandem, seems to pursue only one of the two selected "myths" – the wartime activities of the OUN and UPA.

Prof. Himka gives no assurance of the same attention to the Ukrainian Genocide. He tells us that his interest in the Famine flowed out of his work on the Holocaust, and seems to keep it limited to that initial motivation. Thus, while he has conducted "a number of undergraduate and graduate seminars on the Holocaust," he only led one seminar on the Famine of 1932-1933. He gives no indication that he has done extensive archival research on the Ukrainian Genocide or even read the main published documents and scholarly literature on the subject.

His claim, therefore, that he exposed his students to different perspectives and "tried to find the best presentations of the varying points of view" rings somewhat hollow, especially after one learns from his course outline that the first seminar meeting was devoted to Mr. Tottle's fraudulent book. Raphael Lemkin's seminal article on the Ukrainian Genocide did not even figure in the course bibliography. Prof. Himka's accusation that his opponents have avoided "serious and honest confrontation" with his arguments or "with the sources on which they rest" seem to be a mirror image of his own attitude in the Ukrainian Genocide debate.

Prof. Himka's essay deals with facts and ideas (interpretation, definitions and conceptualizations) about "Holocaust," "Holodomor," "genocide" and "myth." All of these subjects demand a rigorous methodological approach and precise formulation. Unfortunately Prof. Himka often treats his facts and ideas loosely, evasively, and irresponsibly. It may be, as he admits, that writing short texts results in oversimplification and that they tend to be sloppier.

Since it is only 3,500 words maybe one should indeed be more indulgent when criticizing Prof. Himka's essay. But it seems to me that the author must honor his claim of rigorous truth-seeking scholarship and profound inside knowledge of Ukrainian realities. I do not think that these qualities are reflected in such statements as the following two examples: "While [President Viktor] Yushchenko pursued his campaign to have every country recognize the Famine of 1932-1933 as a genocide, he [was] simultaneously suppressing the history of the other genocide, the Holocaust."

The accusation against Viktor Yushchenko's suppression of the history or the commemoration of the Holocaust is serious: it reflects badly not only on the president of Ukraine, but also on that country's national policy. Unless Prof. Himka can show that such state policy actually existed, he is contributing to the creation of an anti-Ukrainian myth.

In another passage, Prof. Himka leaves it to the reader to guess whether or not there were Jewish doctors in the UPA: "The myth maintains that Jews served as doctors in UPA, and therefore UPA rescued, rather than killed, Jews." A logical interpretation of this sentence leads to the conclusion that since the UPA killed Jews, there could not have been any Jews in its ranks. Other historians, however, claim otherwise. Was it to dissimulate these and other ambiguities and apparent falsities in his text that Prof. Himka offers this confusing explanation: "In speaking of the views I oppose as mythologies, I do not always mean to make truth claims?"

The Holodomor: History or myth?

Before answering the question whether the Holodomor should be considered a genocide in fact or a myth, it is necessary to clarify the terms we are using – "the Holodomor," "genocide" and "myth."

Prof. Himka fails to elaborate on the meaning of "Holodomor" and "genocide," and he only makes a cursory comment about his use of the term "myth." Since he does not define genocide, we are left unaware whether Prof. Himka accepts Lemkin's comprehensive definition of the Ukrainian genocide as a four-pronged attack by the Communist regime against the Ukrainian nation.

He defines myths as "unexamined components of an ideologized version of history." In other words, he does not distinguish myths from history, but considers myths to be bad history, which are used for an unworthy purpose.

By contrast, the Oxford online dictionary gives other usages of myth – "an exaggerated or idealized conception of a person or thing" – and makes no connection with history. Similarly, in the Merriam-Webster dictionary we read: "a popular belief or tradition [...] embodying the ideals and institutions of a society or segment of society." It follows that myths are not history, and that all myths are not bad or necessarily used in a harmful way. There is interesting online literature on the positive characteristics and beneficial uses of myths.

Genocides, including the Holocaust and the Holodomor, have been written up in good and bad historical narratives and also have become overgrown with a lot of mythology. Some of the myths are noxious and some benign. The mythical elements accompanying the Holocaust and the Holodomor do not impinge on their characterization as genocides. That qualification depends on other criteria.

On the issue of the Ukrainian Genocide, Prof. Himka writes: "In the mythicized version, Stalin unleashed the Famine deliberately in order to kill Ukrainians in mass and thus to prevent them from achieving their aspirations to establish a national state. I, however, point out that the precondition for the Famine was the reckless collectivization drive, which almost destroyed Soviet agriculture as a whole. [...] My somewhat more nuanced view is a problem for the mythologists, who want the world to recognize that the Famine, or as they call it – the Holodomor, was a genocide as defined by the United Nations in 1948." Contrary to Lemkin's definition, Prof. Himka erroneously limits the notion of genocide to the starvation of Ukrainian peasants, and so he has a conceptual problem with the Holodomor.

The "more nuanced view" that Prof. Himka offers for explaining the Famine is the specious argument that "the precondition for the Famine was the reckless collectivization drive, which almost destroyed Soviet agriculture as a whole." In other words, the starvation was caused by collectivization, which

was the same throughout the Soviet Union.

There are two problems with his argument. First, as Prof. Himka himself admits, there were local and specific conditions in Ukraine: "particularly severe measures applied in those regions." The Famine there "was connected with a major offensive against perceived nationalism in the Communist Party of Ukraine"; as a result "the Famine in Soviet Ukraine and in the Ukrainian-inhabited Kuban region of Soviet Russia was more intense than elsewhere in the Soviet Union." Prof. Himka even quotes a clause from the U.N. Convention on Genocide to show that "what happened in Ukraine in 1932-1933 could fit" the description in the document.

Second, Soviet documents show that collectivization and the opposition to it did not reduce the quantity of cereals and other food products in the USSR to below Famine levels. Students of Soviet economic history agree that in 1932 and 1933 the USSR had enough foodstuffs to feed the whole population. It was only necessary to stop confiscating all grain and other foodstuffs, open the stockpiled reserves, stop exporting and accept offers of aid from abroad.

The Soviet law of August 7, 1932, condemned peasants to death for "stealing" from the fields the grain they sowed, and Stalin's letter to Lazar Kaganovich, written four days later, in which he anticipates the Famine ("the moment things get worse"), warns of the possibility of a revolt and the loss of Ukraine. Detailed, comprehensive reports from Ukraine by Bolshevik leaders and GPU functionaries before and after the "five ears of corn law" clearly show that it was Stalin and the Communist regime that unleashed the Famine with a conscious intent and precise motives.

Prof. Himka has a problem with the term Holodomor ("as they call it"). He could have gotten a better idea of the word and the concept if he had tried to understand it by analogy with the Holocaust, of which he is an expert.

When the term "holocaust," whose basic meaning is sacrificial offering by immolation, is capitalized and preceded by the definite article, it refers to the genocide against the Jews. In a similar way, the Holodomor has evolved beyond its original sense of forced starvation and now embraces the notion of a Soviet-led genocide against the Ukrainians. Prof. Himka's shortcoming here is his insistence on treating the Holodomor according to the old peasantist interpretation (intentional starvation of the peasantry). He fails to see what Lemkin saw 68 years ago – namely, that the Famine was only one component of the genocidal acts that the Soviet regime perpetrated against the Ukrainian nation.

Prof. Himka is right to affirm that "whether the Famine constituted a genocide is a matter of interpretation." But he fails to explain the criteria on which the interpretation must be based. The only generally accepted definition of genocide, which provides such criteria, is the 1948 U.N. Convention on Genocide. Article II declares that genocide means "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such." Prof. Himka does not like the document because it only recognizes four groups and "excludes victims of social and political murder." That may be a valid criticism, but it is irrelevant to the question of the Ukrainian genocide.

The (partial) destruction indicated in the document applies to ethnic Ukrainians as a national group in general, of which the peasants form an integral part, not according to their socio-economic function, but to their national-ethnic characteristics.

EARLY SURVIVOR TESTIMONY ON THE HOLODOMOR

The voice of a Ukrainian settler in Alberta from 1933

by Bohdan Klid

Considering the scope and magnitude of the 1932-1933 Famine in Ukraine, the unfathomable tragedy of human suffering associated with it, and the fact that it was caused by the criminal actions and policies of the Soviet government, information published in English about the Holodomor in North America and Western Europe was relatively sparse until the late 1980s.

This dearth can be explained in part by the Soviet government's cover-up and disinformation campaign, complicity in the cover up by some Western journalists and writers, and decisions of Western governments not to publicize the considerable information they had gathered on the Famine.

The lack of documents and dearth of authoritative writings on the Famine, which lasted into the 1980s, acted in a sense to stimulate and give great weight to the publication of survivor testimonies. These testimonies became important evidence in making the wider public, government officials and scholars aware of the fact that this Kremlin-engineered apocalypse had indeed taken place. The Ukrainian community outside of Ukraine – especially in North America – spearheaded efforts to collect and publish these testimonies.

Survivor testimonies tend to be more accurate and detailed, and thus valuable, if they are given by adults soon after the event they lived through has taken place. One of the earliest testimonies published in North America (in the form of an interview) was given in early September 1933 to the co-workers of the newspaper *Ukrainskyi holos* (Ukrainian Voice) by Marie Zuk [Maria Zhuk] from southern Ukraine, who was passing through Winnipeg with her two small children to join her husband, Walter, who lived near Consort, Alberta.

Maria Zhuk's testimony is valuable for a number of reasons. It pointed to the artificial nature of the Famine and its causes (actions by Soviet officials, who took away all grain at the direction of the Kremlin); it portrayed the cynical and criminal character of secret police officials, who knew their actions would lead to the peasants starving; and it confirmed that certain areas of the Soviet Union, like Moscow, had plenty of food. It also allows one to ask the question: What kind of a regime would allow its citizens to descend to such a state of despera-

tion in which cannibalism would become commonplace?

Zhuk's testimony was so compelling that it was used by the leadership of the Ukrainian National Council in Canada (a predecessor of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress) as the basis for composing Bulletin No. 1, which was issued to inform Canadians and others about the Famine.¹

The leaders of the Ukrainian National Council in Canada appended the Bulletin to letters appealing for aid for the Famine victims, which were addressed to Canadian Prime Minister R.B. Bennett and British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald. Information from the Bulletin, largely Zhuk's testimony, also served as the basis for a short article on the Famine, "Starving Parents Eat Own Children" published October 10, 1933, in the *Edmonton Journal*.

Zhuk's testimony (an excerpt of which follows, below) is to be reprinted in the survivor testimony section of a planned book, co-edited with Alexander Motyl and this writer, tentatively titled "The Holodomor Reader," to be published by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. Orest Martynovych provided the bibliographic reference to the Maria Zhuk interview; Dr. Motyl translated it from Ukrainian into English.

* * *

"Zhinka z Ukrainy opovidaie pro holod i liudoyidstvo" (A Woman from Ukraine Tells about Famine and Cannibalism), Ukrainskyi Holos, Winnipeg, September 13, 1933. Excerpts, pp. 1, 5.

The wife of Ivan (Walter) Zhuk (Zuk), a farmer in Consort, Alberta, came to him from the First of May district near Odesa, Ukraine. On the way, she made a stop in Winnipeg for a few days, and was brought to the editorial offices of the *Ukrainian Voice* by some good people. We have to admit that it was interesting to see this woman; she seemed like someone from another world. It'll be best to convey our conversation in the form of questions and answers.

When did you leave home?

On August 5.

How were people living in Ukraine at that time?

There was a terrible famine. People were dying of hunger like flies.

Did many died of hunger?

As far as I could learn, 25 versts [about 17 miles] in either direction about one-quarter of the population survived. Three-quarters died.

Are people suffering the Famine quietly or are they rebelling?

How are they to rebel and what will they achieve by rebelling? They suffer, because they've lost all hope. They walk like the blind, and they fall wherever death strikes them. No one pays attention to the corpses lying on the streets. People either step over or sidestep them and keep on walking. From time to time they're collected and buried in common pits. Seventy and more people are buried together.

Have you heard anything about instances of cannibalism?

Why not? It happens all the time. There have been cases of a mother starving with her children and then killing and eating them when she sees they're about to die. Or you're walking along the street and you see a corpse. You look around to see if anyone's watching, and then you cut off a piece of flesh and then bake or cook it.

What's the reason for the Famine? Has there been a drought or a bad harvest, or aren't you sowing anything?

There's been a harvest, we sow and we plant, but as soon as anything grows, they take it away and pack it off to Moscow. We had a good harvest this summer, but so what? They sent in the machines, cut everything, ground it up, and didn't leave us a single kernel. They took everything. People were weeping. They asked, "What will we eat?" But the Chekists [members of the secret police] laughed and answered: "You'll find something." What people won't do in order to hide some grain for themselves. They hide it in their hair; they hide it in their mouth, beneath their tongue, but they [the Chekists] search it out and take it too.

Do the people in the collective farms live better?

At first they had it better, but now they take everything from them as well. I myself was in a collective farm, and if I haven't died thus far and could leave, it's only because my husband in Canada sent me money and I could buy things in the Torgsin shops [state-run hard currency stores].

Don't people expect something better in the future?

They used to, but now things get worse and worse with every year. And now they've reached the limit. No one expects anything anymore; everyone just expects death. Even the officials don't know what the future holds and only shrug their shoulders. Some tell the people, "Rebel, and we'll join you." And the people respond: "You rebel first."

How did you come to Canada? Through Romania?

No, that's impossible. You have to go through Moscow.

And how do people live in Moscow? In the Moscow region? Is there also a famine there?

No, there's no famine there. There's enough of everything. When I arrived in Moscow, I could buy everything I wanted at the bazaar – bread and meat and vegetables.

And how much did your passport to Canada cost?

283 dollars.

Rubles or dollars?

No, dollars, American dollars. My husband had to send them from Canada. If someone wanted to earn them, it could never be done. See these slippers on my feet? They cost me 90 rubles last year. I had to work three months in order to buy them.

They take your wheat and grain, and you have no bread, but may you keep your animals? Cows, horses, chickens, pigs?

The famished people ate everything. If anyone still has a horse or cow, they guard it like the greatest treasure. People caught field mice and ate them like the greatest delicacies. The cats and dogs have been eaten long ago. Some collective farms still have pigs, but the Chekists guard them and seize and take them away as soon as they grow fat. People have already forgotten how pork tastes.

¹ A facsimile of Bulletin No. 1 appeared in Mykhailo Marunchak's "Natsiia v Borotbi za Svoie Isnuvannia 1932 i 1933 v Ukraini i Diaspori" (1985). The text was printed in the collection "The Foreign Office and the Famine: British Documents on Ukraine and the Great Famine of 1932-1933" (1988), edited by Marco Carynnyk, Lubomyr Y. Luciuk and Bohdan Kordan.

Early reports about the Famine from The Weekly, October 1933

The following report, headlined "Ukrainians Protest Deliberate Starvation of Ukraine by the Bolsheviks," was published in the premiere issue of *The Ukrainian Weekly* on October 6, 1933.

A series of mass meetings are being held by the Ukrainians throughout America and Canada, protesting against the barbaric attempts of the Bolshevik regime to deliberately starve out and depopulate the Ukrainian people in Ukraine.

The purpose of this intentional starvation by the Bolsheviks is to forever quell the Ukrainian struggle for freedom.

Since the overthrow of the Ukrainian National Republic by the Bolsheviks 15 years ago, the latter have used every conceivable terroristic weapon to stamp out the Ukrainian attempts to free themselves. Thousands of Ukrainians have been summarily shot for the slightest political offense: other thousands were sent to certain death to Siberia and the notorious Solovetsky prison islands. But to no avail, the Ukrainian spirit of independence still burned on.

The Reds, therefore, finally hit upon the most inhuman plan ever conceived, in order to achieve their end, and that is the deliberate carrying out of Ukraine prac-

tically all of the grain and other foodstuffs, with the result that over 5 million Ukrainians have died during the past year from starvation.

The Bolsheviks are trying to screen this deliberate starving by declaring that poor crops are responsible for this great Famine. This excuse is rather a grim jest when we consider that Ukraine the home of the famed "chornozem," is one of the most fertile lands on this earth.

Scenes of extreme horror are described by eyewitnesses. There is absolutely nothing to eat. Even the rodents have all been eaten up. People die in their tracks, and are left to rot. Many instances of cannibalism have been reported.

Dr. Ewald Amende, secretary of the Congress of National Minorities at Bern, Switzerland, has recently described this Famine in Ukraine as the "shame of the 20th century." His Holiness Pope Pius XI has recently expressed his deepest sympathy and offered to help. Cardinal Innitzer, archbishop of Vienna, issued on August 19 a protest against the Bolshevik barbarity and an appeal for help for the Ukrainians to the International Red Cross. The head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, together with Ukrainian archbishops and bishops has issued a protest against this persecution of unprece-

dent and inhuman character.

At the present time the Bolsheviks have forbidden Ralph B. Barnes of the *Herald Tribune*, W.H. Chamberlain of the *Christian Science Monitor*, the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* and many other leading correspondents to enter Ukraine. Only a few extreme Bolshevik sympathizers such as Walter Duranty of *The New York Times* are permitted to do so. Even Mr. Duranty has admitted that the Famine has decimated the Ukrainian population.

Practically all of the leading press of England and the Continent has been filled for the last four or five months with descriptions of the pitiful scenes throughout Ukraine.

Appeals are being made to the Red Cross to establish a base in Ukraine in order that all Ukrainians can send their aid through this base. At the present time such aid is impossible, as the Bolsheviks will not permit it.

Further appeals are being made to the U.S. government not to recognize this Communistic dictatorship, as it is founded upon principles that are contrary to all rules of humanity and civilization. Appeals are also being made to the government to send a special mission to Ukraine in order to study the conditions under which the Ukrainian people are living under this tyrannical and oppressive Bolshevik dictatorship.



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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011

DEFENSE OF AUTONOMY AND FREEDOM

Ukraine's system of education has become politicized with proposals that limit autonomy and academic freedom. The "Draft Law on Higher Education" proposed by Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk sounded an alarm. Aggressive steps to control education for political reasons continue and Kyiv-Mohyla Academy has been singled out for disproportionate reductions in funding. But the University responded with an immediate

call for action and received support from alumni, parents of students and others, who raised needed funds to prevent cuts in academic programs. Students protested the Ministry's actions and protests are growing. Kyiv-Mohyla Academy stands firm to defend the rights of the people of Ukraine for equal access to education and for reforms to achieve the highest level of education and integrate Ukraine into the world community.



EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Timothy Snyder – "Bloodlands". Yale University professor R. Snyder lectured at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy on "The Link Between National-Socialism and Stalinism".

Norman Naimark – "Stalin's Genocides". At the initiative of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, the university's Publishing House received exclusive rights for the Ukrainian translation and publication of this acclaimed book.

Round Table "The Lithuanian and Ukrainian Farewell to the USSR". Lithuania's ambassador, leading academics and historians from Lithuania and Ukraine participated in this important discussion and study group, supported by the Center for Research of the Ukrainian Independence Movement and the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania.

Discussion on the Processes of Nation-Formation in Ukraine - A program sponsored by the Center for Polish and European Studies under auspices of the Austrian Embassy in Ukraine with renown participants: Andreas Kappeler, Heorhiy Kasyanov, Ya-

roslav Hrytsak, Mykola Ryabchuk, Volodymyr Maslychuk and Moderator – Olena Bently.

International Conference "Collaboration between the Soviet Union and Germany During the Interwar Period and During World War II", with the participation of leading scholars from Ukraine, Georgia, Finland, Czech Republic, Germany, England, Hungary and Serbia.

Stanford University Alumni Hold Their Annual Meeting at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. This year the Stanford Alumni Association chose to familiarize its members with the political and economic problems of the Post-Soviet countries and elected to hold its meeting in Ukraine at Kyiv-Mohyla Business School.

Mortimer Sellers - "Evolution and Goal of the Rule of Law Principle". Professor Sellers of the School of Law and the Center for International and Comparative Law at the University of Baltimore delivers a public lecture at Kyiv-Mohyla Law School, sponsored by the Open Society Institute.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

NaUKMA was awarded 1st place in Ukraine for Best Graduates in 2011 and for European Studies in Ukraine by the European Commission's TEMPUS program.

Kyiv-Mohyla Business School was awarded 1st place by Kyiv-Post's ratings by 20 international and Ukrainian companies.

NaUKMA PhD Programs Ranked N. 1 in Ukraine in Social and Political Sciences by EU Study of Doctoral Programs in EU Neighboring Countries. The study stated that "...The first structured approach... has been implemented at Kyiv-Mohyla Univer-

sity. The objective of the NaUKMA doctoral program is to become a model for reform throughout the country..."

Kyiv Mohyla Business School – was chosen by the United Nations Office in Ukraine to sign an agreement of partnership with the UN's Global Compact Network to promote corporate responsibility in Ukraine.

NaUKMA received numerous awards during the 2011 year. It is noteworthy that the awards were based on academic, research achievements and number of publications as compared with much larger universities.

The Kyiv-Mohyla Foundation publishes news and updates online in E-Newsletters, that can be accessed on the webpage www.kmfoundation.com.

ENDOWMENT FUND SUPPORT THE ENDOWMENT FUND

The importance of building a permanent Endowment Fund is now more important than ever. Faced with attempts to control universities through budgetary and other pressure, it is imperative to guarantee the future of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Your contribution to the Endowment

Fund will help build the University's independence for future years. More information about the Endowment Fund and opportunities to make contributions in the donor's name in perpetuity will be forthcoming. Contributions to the Endowment Fund may be sent to Kyiv-Mohyla Foundation.

ELECTRONIC LIBRARY OF UKRAINE - ELIBUKR

The Electronic Library of Ukraine (ELibUkr©) project was established by the Kyiv-Mohyla Foundation and Kyiv-Mohyla Library with initial funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). This nation-wide electronic library network that provides access to the world's digitized network of academic and research information began in 2009 began with 3 university libraries and expanded to 15 major academic libraries representing universities from all areas of Ukraine. In 2 years, more

than 200,000 students and faculty used the centralized network through 53 data bases. Member universities create and share their own digital repositories of academic and research work through the ELibUkr network. The ELibUkr portal also makes available the KGB archives that were transferred for public use. Financial support from the Ukrainian government is sought. Support is needed from individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations for this nation-wide endeavor for the benefit of all universities of Ukraine.

KYIV-MOHYLA ACADEMY HOSTS "ROADS TO FREEDOM" CONFERENCE

Academic, political, media and civil society leaders from various countries and Ukraine met on October 7-8 at the Conference "Roads to Freedom", held at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. The ambassadors of the United States, Canada, Poland, Germany, France, Austria and the European Union attended the conference. Discussions focused on Ukraine's development, achievements and problems education,

freedom of the press, and recommendations for reforms. United States Ambassador to Ukraine John Tefft stated, "The fate of Ukraine and its universities are intertwined... Universities cannot be barricaded. They play a leading role in society". This major international conference underscored Kyiv-Mohyla Academy's role as a nationbuilding institution, a reformer and leading educational institution.



NaUKMA President Sergiy Kvit and speaker from USA William Gleason during the Conference round table

RESTORATION PROJECT

The launch of the four year project to renovate the XVII-XVIII century historic buildings held its first fundraiser in January 2011. The first stage is to restore the University Archival Library built by Hetman Ivan Mazepa. The event was attended by numerous ambassadors of Western countries, members of Ukraine's Presidential Administration and Parliament, leading intellectuals, publishers, alumni, and parents of students. Held in January during

heated debates over the draft law on education, the event became a declaration of support for the University at a politically controversial time. The University seeks donations for this major restoration project. Donations may be sent to Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America and noted for the Restoration Project. www.kmfoundation.com/p2_1_english_publications-ian-alan-en-id-386-a.html

KYIV-MOHYLA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Association created several endowments, such as the Alumni Endowment Fund for an Annual Grant for the Best English Language Course, and Endowment for Scholarships. After the Ministry of Education cut funding for the School of Journalism and the Law School, the Alumni collected funds that pre-

vented cuts in academic programs in the university. Graduates of NaUKMA hold major positions throughout the country in all spheres of activities. Among the latest success stories are Taras Lukachuk, executive director of Kraft Foods for Central Europe and Asia, and Sviatoslav Komakha, head of Google Ukraine.

Ukrainian Technological Society honors Ukrainian of the Year Anatoli Murha

by Roksana Korchynsky

PITTSBURGH – The Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS) of Pittsburgh presented its 2011 Ukrainian of the Year Award to Anatoli W. Murha, president of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, at its 42nd annual award ceremony and dinner dance on Saturday, November 5, at The Club at Nevillewood in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Murha was honored for his dedication and leadership in preserving and perpetuating Ukrainian culture and heritage through the musical tradition of the bandura, which he describes as the “soul and voice of Ukraine.”

Mr. Murha has served as president of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus since 2000. At age 22, he was the youngest president voted into that office, and is currently the second longest serving president of the chorus.

The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus is a 50-member ensemble with membership located throughout North America. Founded in 1918, the world-renowned chorus has a long and proud history of representing Ukrainian bandura and choral music on the international stage. Today, the majority of Chorus members are second- and third-generation Americans and Canadians.

Mr. Murha has been an instrumentalist with the Chorus since 1993. As president of the Chorus, he has been responsible for maintaining the musical and historical integrity of the ensemble and the day-to-day management of the chorus – coordinating rehearsals, concerts and tours; recruitment; fund-raising; and public and community relations.

To share the music and tradition of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus with a worldwide audience, Mr. Murha has organized tours to Ukraine (2001), Europe (2003), Western Canada (2005 and 2011), the Eastern United States and Canada (2007), as well as numerous individual concerts and special events. Mr. Murha acted as Producer of four Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus CDs and one DVD documenting its 2003 European tour.



Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus

Bandurist Anatoli W. Murha, selected Ukrainian of the Year for 2011 by the Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh.



Cynthia Abbot

At the Ukrainian Technological Society's annual Ukrainian of the Year dinner (from left) are: Nickolas C. Kotow, Motria Hodowanec, Anatoli W. Murha, Dr. Hanna Dziarko, Dr. Roksana Korchynsky and George Honchar

Concert highlights include the 2004 joint concert with renowned Metropolitan Opera soloist Paul Plishka, and two performances at the Stratford Summer Music Festival in Stratford, Ontario (2004 and 2010).

On a local note, Mr. Murha brought the chorus to Pittsburgh in October for an important benefit concert in support of the Ukrainian language program at the University of Pittsburgh that played to a captivated audience of 350 people.

Mr. Murha's passion for the bandura and the tradition of the “kobzari” is evident in his deep involvement with the Kobzarska Sich Bandura and Vocal Program. Kobzarska Sich is the lifeline of bandura in the diaspora and is the only program of its kind. Mr. Murha was appointed administrator of Kobzarska Sich in 1996, at age 18, and remains in this position today. Under his direction, the program has grown from a two-week course to now offering four programs: Bandura Course (for participants ages 12 and up), the one-week Junior Bandura Workshop (ages 9-11), the Ukrainian Sacred Music Workshop and the Ukrainian Vocal Workshop.

Mr. Murha was born and raised in the Metropolitan Detroit area. He is the first generation of his family born in the United States to Wladimir and Vera Murha. His lifelong association with the bandura started prior to his birth. His father has been an active member with the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus since the mid-1960s.

In his early teenage years, Mr. Murha would attend Chorus rehearsals with his father just to observe, but at the age of 14 he auditioned for the chorus and was subsequently accepted as a bandurist. Prior to joining the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, Mr. Murha attended the Kobzarska Sich summer bandura camp that is sponsored by the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus.

Mr. Murha is a graduate of the University of Michigan (Dearborn) with a degree in public relations and corporate communications. Currently, he is the business development and marketing manager of Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union (USFCU) in Philadelphia.

Roksana Korchynsky, Ph.D., president of the UTS executive board, welcomed Mr. Murha, his family, clergy and the many guests who attended from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Canada.

Dr. Korchynsky provided an overview of the Ukrainian Technological Society and its key initiatives. She highlighted the fact that the society – now in its 42nd year – is one of the longest continuously active Ukrainian organizations in the tri-state area.

Dr. Korchynsky also highlighted the significance of the society's Ukrainian of the Year Award, which recognizes people of local, national and international stature who have made meaningful contributions to the Ukrainian community or Ukrainian scholarship, or who have demonstrated significant achievement which brings recognition and prestige to the Ukrainian community. She noted that the past recipients of this award have been exemplary role models – chosen not for their popularity or current appeal, but for the contributions they have made through sacrifice, dedication, perseverance and faith; and for the ideals they embody and reflect that make the Ukrainian community strong.

George Honchar, UTS board vice-president, made the nomination address honoring Mr. Murha as the 2011 Ukrainian of the Year. The award proclamation was read aloud in English by Motria Hodowanec, UTS executive board member, and in Ukrainian by Dr. Hanna Dziarko, UTS executive board member.

Mr. Murha accepted the award and thanked the UTS for this honor. He stated that he was deeply honored, and humbled, to be recognized alongside the society's past recipients. In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Murha recalled his earliest memories of the bandura – the centuries-old instrument that was taller than he was as he first accompanied his father to chorus rehearsals.

He noted that throughout his entire life, as he tried to figure out who he was and what he wanted to do with his life, he was always grounded by the bandura, which connected him to his family and to his Ukrainian identity. In remarks directed particularly to the many students in attendance, Mr. Murha encouraged them to remember that what is important is not the individual, but the cause or the “mission,” and to never lose sight of what really matters.

The beautifully designed award honoring Mr. Murha was created by Pittsburgh graphic artist Kathy Boykowycz.

The Very Rev. Timothy Tomson gave the invocation, and Msgr. George Appleyard gave the benediction. Following the dinner hour, musical entertainment was provided by the band Mosaic from Toronto.

* * *

To learn more about the UTS, the Ukrainian of the Year Award, past recipients of the award and other UTS activities, readers may visit the website at www.utsphg.org, e-mail the UTS at board@utsphg.org, or “friend” the society on Facebook at “Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS) of Pittsburgh.”

A willing stereotype

(Continued from page 7)

many varieties, and when you buy it in jewelry stores, the label indicates if it is Ukrainian amber (usually from Volyn), or Baltic, or Russian. The colors are endless, from opaque milky white and all shades of yellow, to the regular clear brown in many shades, green and cherry red (very dark red/brown, almost black).

Glass-beaded necklaces and earrings abound, and the

“gerdany” and “sylvianky” (too many regional names to be specific) range from traditional folk and museum copies, to amazing contemporary designs that just floor you. A few years ago I wore a large round gerdan in black, red and gold with a black dress to a political fund-raiser. I was pleased and amused that the women in diamonds were crowding around, asking me about my necklace!

A few, very few Ukrainians I know seem to eschew vyshyvanky, and are even proud not to wear the embroidery. Some will wear other nations' folk jewelry or embroidery, but not their own. I cannot even begin to understand.

Then there are some who think that any embroidery is

Ukrainian, as if no other people have had access to a needle and thread.

Don't get me started on the Rumanian blouses worn in place of Ukrainian ones for Ukrainian occasions (you've heard this rant before), or the fully-beaded gaudy ones! The latter may be pretty to some eyes, but they lack any tradition of the symbolism and designs of the old sorochky.

Yes, there is progress and change, but we need to know the origins and the meaning of why sorochky are so special and important to us.

(More on a new aspect of contemporary sorochky next time.)

San Diego congregation celebrates 50th anniversary

by Nadia H. Skop

SAN DIEGO – On an unusually cloudy and rainy November Sunday for climate-spoiled southern Californians, the parish of St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church celebrated its Jubilee 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1961, the small but vibrant parish has withstood the challenges of assimilation and general secularization to continue its mission to preserve and maintain the teachings and legacy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

The hierarchical divine liturgy was officiated by Bishop Daniel, presiding hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the UOC-U.S.A., together with guest pastor Protopresbyter Alexis Limonczenko, St. Mary's founding pastor, now of St. Michael's Parish in San Francisco, the Very Rev. Vasile Saucir of St. Vladimir Parish, Los Angeles; and St. Mary's current resident pastor the Very Rev. Myron Mykhayluk.

The service concluded with a presentation of certificates of merit to a select few



Parishioners and clergy with Bishop Daniel at the jubilee of St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church in San Diego.

parishioners, including original founding members whose dedication and hard work have spanned half a century and whose presence and diligence within the parish

continue to this day.

The parish hall was quickly filled with clergy and their spouses, parishioners and guests from neighboring parishes. All of the

food, beverages, flowers and linens were donated by the sisterhood, and the afternoon sped by in a warm and nostalgic atmosphere as all celebrated a noteworthy jubilee.

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Tymoshenko's...

(Continued from page 1)

"Europe and all civilized countries are following this case. And in these circumstances, they are carrying out torture," he said. "I cannot call it an investigation, because this is not an investigation. These are actions aimed at destroying a person."

The European Union has warned Ukraine that free-trade and political-association agreements with the bloc are in danger if Ms. Tymoshenko remains in jail.

Health concerns

Ms. Carr, who is married to the British rock singer Sean Carr, accused President Yanukovich and "his team, and judges, and courts, and prosecutors" of trying to "resurrect old cases that have no legal basis or proof" in order to persecute her mother.

"Now we can characterize this as torture on a person who is innocent, whose guilt has not been proven, and who is thrown into prison because of political reasons," she added. "So we as a family are very worried for the state of her health and the state of health of other political prisoners."

The exact nature of Ms. Tymoshenko's illness is unclear. According to her lawyers, she has suffered from health problems in the three months since her arrest. They say Ms. Tymoshenko had asked investigators not to interrogate her over the latest charges because of back pain that has left her unable to walk.

In August, she appeared in court with unexplained bruises and a pale complexion and requested to be examined by her personal physician – a request that was denied by prison authorities.

At the time, the European Union expressed concern and called on the Ukrainian authorities to "ensure a timely and independent medical examination and professional medical care."

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

nations and nationalities – and in Ukraine there are some 130 [nationalities]. This volume can not be confined only to 25 percent,” the vice-minister of culture emphasized. Mr. Bohutsky also expressed confidence that Ukraine has to show Euro 2012 guests all its ethnic richness and the complete flavor of folk music. “Those who travel to visit us should hear all of us,” he said. On November 3 the Verkhovna Rada adopted amendments to the law on television and radio broadcasting, reducing from 50 percent to 25 percent the share of Ukrainian audio and visual products on national broadcasts. Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn postponed the signing of the law regarding quotas for domestic products on TV and radio in order to eliminate inconsistencies in the text of the document. President Viktor Yanukovich said amendments to the law on broadcasting regarding a reduction in the quota of national audio-visual products will be reconsidered in Parliament. (Ukrinform)

54% say Tymoshenko case is political

KYIV – According to a survey conducted by the sociological group Rating and released on November 16, some 27 percent of Ukrainians surveyed believe that the criminal case against the former prime minister and leader of the opposition

Batkivschyna Party, Yulia Tymoshenko, abides by the rule of law, but 54 percent believe that the “gas case” is political persecution. Another 19 percent are undecided. The plurality of respondents (44 percent) believe Ms. Tymoshenko to be guilty of abuse of power or official authority in signing the gas agreements with Russia in 2009; 36 percent consider her innocent; and one in five is undecided. However, only 24 percent of respondents support the guilty verdict and the seven-year prison sentence. The majority (52 percent) insist on mitigation or cancellation of the sentence. More than half (51 percent) of Ukrainians polled also consider the new criminal charges against Ms. Tymoshenko – of placing the debts of the United Energy Systems corporation on the Ukrainian budget – to be political persecution. Only 28 percent believe that this new case is based on law. “Thus, the Tymoshenko case is ever more seen by citizens of Ukraine as political and may increase the regional split. This is indicated, in particular, by regional dynamics. Only in the Donbas area and in the south has the number of people who consider Yulia Tymoshenko guilty increased [compared to data for September]. In other regions, including in the east, it has decreased, and the number of respondents who do not accept the former prime minister’s guilt has correspondingly increased. Only in the Donbas region does the number of those who support Ms. Tymoshenko’s arrest exceed the number of those who

insist on a mitigation or cancellation of her sentence. In other regions the opposite is true. The perception of this case being an instance of political persecution dominates in all regions except Donbas,” sociologists noted. (Ukrinform)

Diplomats on Ukrainians in Libya

KYIV – Ukraine hopes for assistance from the international community in releasing Ukrainians in Libya, and the country’s diplomats continuously raise the question in negotiations with other countries, Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Oleh Voloshyn told reporters on November 15. “Recently, not a single meeting with representatives of the European Union, Israel, or the U.S.A. has been held without raising the issue to help us influence the Libyan side to ensure that we finally solve this problem,” he emphasized. “We are in a dialogue with the Italians, French, British, Americans, with NATO, who have specific methods of influencing the Libyan authorities,” he noted. Mr. Voloshyn described as “very difficult” the process of freeing the Ukrainian nationals who are detained in Libya. According to Mr. Voloshyn, Ukraine several times after talks with the Libyan government was ready to send an aircraft to pick up the Ukrainians, but the situation was unpredictable and circumstances were changing rapidly. Apart from this, he noted that Ukraine has done everything possible in order to show Libya its friendly intentions in relation to the Libyan government and Libyan people, in particular by providing financial and medical assistance to Libya. On September 5 Ukraine’s Foreign Affairs Ministry had confirmed reports about the detention of 23 Ukrainians in Libya, one of whom has since been released. According to the ministry, these citizens are civil engineers who had arrived in Libya on contract with a private company. Libyan authorities suspect them of being mercenaries fighting for the forces of former Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. (Ukrinform)

Chernobyl veterans seize Kharkiv premises

KYIV – Five hundred participants in the clean-up of the 1986 Chernobyl accident on November 15 occupied the assembly hall of the Kharkiv regional administration of the Pension Fund. “We demand that court decisions be implemented and pensions be paid in full,” Volodymyr Proskurin, chairman of the city committee of Chernobyl cleaners, said. He added, “This is a legal requirement, although it has not been met for several months in a row. We will not leave the premises until we achieve guarantees of payment.” However, the local pension fund says its budget currently has no funds for the execution of relevant court decisions, and cash for the payment of pensions is under the management of Kyiv. The protesters are preparing an appeal to the government. A protest action with similar demands by Chernobyl clean-up workers was under way also in Donetsk. The workers there went on a hunger strike in the local pension fund building on November 14 to demand an urgent meeting with the prime minister and an end to proposed benefit cuts for this category of citizens. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich did not respond to UGCC

KYIV – The Synod of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) has sent many letters to President Viktor Yanukovich but has received no reply, according to the head of UGCC, Patriarch Sviatoslav, who spoke during a web-conference at tochka.net on November 8. Patriarch Sviatoslav also noted that neither he nor his predecessor, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, had a personal meeting with the president. “The only moment when I had an opportunity to meet him was during the meeting with him this year on Holy Thursday [within the framework of the All-

Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations]. At that time, the president greeted me on the occasion of my election and handed a large bouquet of white roses to me. After that meeting, there has been no contact,” said the patriarch. At the same time, Patriarch Sviatoslav said that, at the regional level, relations between the authorities and the Church are quite constructive. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Ukraine among most attractive to tourists

KYIV – Ukraine is on the list of the top three most attractive tourist destinations in the world for 2012, according to Lonely Planet’s Best in Travel 2012 ranking, as listed on its website on November 8. Lonely Planet describes Ukraine as “the great unknown of Europe” and the host of the upcoming 2012 UEFA European Football Championship. “It’s through the power of soccer that Ukraine is poised to showcase its charms to unprecedented numbers of visitors. It will co-host Euro 2012 (the European football championships) and the four match venues have been cunningly selected to encourage further travel by visiting football fans,” Lonely Planet notes. Lonely Planet experts added that “Lviv becomes the jumping-off point for Carpathian exploration, while Kyiv, which stages the final [match for Euro 2012], will become base for forays to the Black Sea coast and, yep, the grim tourist attraction that is Chernobyl.” Apart from Ukraine, according to the British experts from Lonely Planet, tourists in 2012 should also visit Uganda (ranked No. 1), and Myanmar (No. 2). Other top finishers were: Jordan, Denmark, Bhutan, Cuba, New Caledonia, Taiwan and Switzerland. Experts collated hundreds of ideas from everyone at Lonely Planet, including an extended family of travelers, bloggers and tweeters to find the best tourist destinations. The list of the top 10 countries for 2012 was voted on by a panel of in-house travel experts, based on topicality, excitement, value and “that special X-factor.” (Ukrinform)

Street named changed at U.S. request

KYIV – The Kyiv City Council on October 27 renamed Tankova Street in Shevchenkivsky District after Ukrainian-born aircraft design engineer Igor Sikorsky. The decision was favored by 97 out of the total 100 registered deputies. The decision was made at the request of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, which is planning to open a new office on this street. Sikorsky worked both in Ukraine and in the United States. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Schengen visas to be simplified

KYIV – The number of the categories of Ukrainians who will obtain Schengen visas, including multiple entry-exit visas under a simplified scheme, will soon grow, said the director of the Consular Service Department of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry, Andriy Olefirov. Speaking at a November 4 briefing, he said that a Ukrainian delegation would be in Brussels to introduce amendments to the visa facilitation agreement. Schengen visas are currently issued under a simplified scheme (fewer documents) to journalists, schoolchildren, students, post-graduates, members of official delegations, close relatives of European Union citizens, disabled persons and individuals accompanying them, people who travel for medical treatment, as well as participants in international competitions, research programs and exchange programs. The list can also include members of non-governmental organizations, religious communities and trade union associations. Mr. Olefirov predicted that the visa-free

(Continued on page 15)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

regime with Europe would be introduced in at most one and a half years. "The dialogue on the visa-free regime between the EU and Ukraine started on November 22 last year. There is a list of everything that we have pledged to do, but there are problems with legislation. The law on biometric documents has been vetoed, but the internal affairs minister assured that the introduction of biometric passports in Ukraine is a matter of a few months," he added. (Ukrinform)

Pecherska Lavra to open secret caves

KYIV – Secret caves of the Pecherska Lavra, or Kyivan Monastery of the Caves, will be opened to tourists. For hundreds of years these caves had been closed to outsiders. According to November 7 reports in the Segodnya newspaper, "These underground rooms and tunnels lie under almost the entire territory of the Upper Lavra and are unique, for they have been in existence for nine centuries, since the 11th century," said Pechersk Preserve research officer Yevhenia Cherednichenko. Researchers have examined nearly 1,000 square meters of the caves, including the narrow corridors leading to different corners of the preserve, and the vast underground galleries. (Ukrinform)

Weather threatens winter crops

KYIV – Ukraine may lose up to 30 percent of winter crops sown for the harvest of 2012 due to extremely adverse conditions this autumn, the head of agricultural meteorology at the Hydrometeorological Center, Tetiana Adamenko, said at a November 8 press briefing. She said the prolonged drought that began in mid-summer has been replaced by cold weather, which did not allow plants to develop enough for successful hibernation. Ukraine traditionally sows 7 million to 8 million hectares of winter crops, mainly winter wheat, and the loss of large areas means a significant reduction in wheat production in 2012. Ukraine, which consumes about 12 million tons of wheat in the season, in 2011 harvested more than 22 million tons of wheat. Ukraine intends to export 10 million tons of grain in the 2011-2012 season. (Ukrinform)

Venice Commission on Ukraine's elections

KYIV – The Venice Commission has proposed that Ukraine introduce a proportional electoral system with open regional lists, rather than switch to a mixed electoral system. "If we're talking about the introduction of a mixed system, Ukraine has [already] had a negative experience in applying such a system. A mixed system may lead to abuses [at elections]. Thus, the Venice Commission will propose changing the current system to a proportional one, with open regional lists, rather than switching to a mixed system," Venice Commission Secretary Thomas Markert said at committee hearings on the discussion of bills on parliamentary elections in Kyiv on October 31. (Interfax-Ukraine)

PRU slams Parliament's proposals

KYIV – The Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) slammed as inadmissible recommendations by European lawmakers concerning interference with the work of Ukrainian courts, but has on the whole approved the resolution passed by the European Parliament. "We are perfectly aware that the above recommendations [regarding the case of ex-prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko] are politicized and based on emotions on a personal attitude to Ms. Tymoshenko on the part of politicians who sympathize with her, and on the part of her political partners, including the European People's Party," PRU National Deputy Olena Bondarenko told reporters at a press conference on October 27. "We have concluded that it is unacceptable and inadmissible for Ukraine when we have to interfere in the work of courts on persistent recommendations from the European Parliament," Ms. Bondarenko said on behalf of her party. At the same time, she welcomed positive aspects of the resolution. "The resolution actually regrets that Mr. Yanukovich's visit [to Brussels] has been postponed and calls for speeding it up and for signing the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement before the end of the year," she said. "It's a positive sign that Ukraine has been the focal point of acute debates in the European Parliament in recent months," echoed PRU National Deputy Oleksii Plotnikov. "What has happened in the European Parliament shows that EU deputies support Ukraine's aspirations. They see Ukraine in Europe," Mr. Plotnikov said. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Sessions on Orthodox unification

KYIV – The first joint session of the committees set up by the Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) and the Hierarchical Council of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) to conduct a dialogue on unification was held on October 27 in a session hall within the Golden-Domed Monastery of St. Michael. On behalf of the Kyiv Patriarchate, the session was attended by Metropolitan Dymytrii of Lviv and Sokal, Bishop Epifanii of Pereyaslav-Khmelnytskyi and Boryspil, and Bishop Yevstratii of Bohuslav. The UAOC was represented by Metropolitan Andrii of Halych, Metropolitan Makarii of Lviv, Bishop Volodymyr of Zhytomyr and Polissia, Bishop Ioan of Lviv and Sambir, and Bishop Volodymyr of Vyshhorod and Podillia. According to a report of the UOC-KP press service, at the first session the participants exchanged ideas on a wide range of questions on the history and present state of Ukrainian Orthodoxy and discussed various proposals on ways to unifying the UOC-KP with the UAOC. At the second session the hierarchs of the two Churches considered and passed the text of the final document. The 10 paragraphs of the document present both the agreed-upon general vision of the unification process and concrete proposals on how to overcome the existing church divide. Upon approval of the document by the primates of the two Churches, it is to be submitted for consideration by the two Churches through discussion at eparchial sessions. The next joint session of the committees is to be held based on the results of that consideration. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Kyiv-Halych Metropolitanate's bishops meet

LVIV – The 54th session of the Synod of Bishops of the Kyiv-Halych Metropolitanate

of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) was held on October 27-28 in Lviv and Briukhovychi. According to the Information Department of the UGCC, the synod was also attended by Bishop Milan (Shashik), eparch of Mukachiv. Some sessions were attended by the following visitors: the new apostolic nuncio to Ukraine, Archbishop Thomas Gullickson; and the delegation of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The main theme of the synod was parish life. Bishop Bohdan (Dziurakh) presented the concept of "The living parish as a place of meeting with the living Christ" as part of the strategy of the UGCC's development for the next 10 years. Other reports dealt with modern pastoral care and catechetical ministry at the parish level, practical aspects of the parish life in its financial dimension, canonical and legal status of the parish, and the need to elaborate statutes of parish life. One of the reports on financial issues dealt with the activity of the non-governmental pension fund Pokrova founded by the UGCC and the question of the financial and economic life of the Church. The bishops paid considerable attention to the matter of celebrations of the 1,025th anniversary of the baptism of Rus'-Ukraine. In that context, the bishops considered and passed the Concept of the Year of the Holy Sacraments (the year 2012) and a draft plan of Bible readings for the first year of the preparations. The head of the Department of Church Committees, the Rev. Petro Rak, gave a general report on the activity of the Kyiv-Halych Metropolitanate's committees. The bishops also discussed practical questions of the campaign "Let Us Sing Carols for the Council" which is aimed at gathering donations for the completion of the Patriarchal Center in Kyiv and a program of preparations for the Euro-2012. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

search of provisions. A day of Thanksgiving was set aside on July 30, 1623, which incorporated religious as well as social aspects.

During the Revolutionary War, Thanksgiving observances were more national than local in nature, but the date was always changing.

Gen. George Washington issued a proclamation for a general thanksgiving by the Continental Army on Thursday, December 16, 1777 [following the Patriot victory at Saratoga], and also at Valley Forge on May 7, 1778.

President Washington issued a proclamation, following a motion by Congress, that designated Tuesday, November 26, 1789, as a day of general thanksgiving. This was the first Thanksgiving proclamation issued by a president of the United States, and may be considered the first national Thanksgiving Day.

"Several early presidents issued similar proclamations on special occasions, but it was usually left to governors of the states

to decide if there should be a day of thanksgiving and to fix the date of its observance," The Weekly explained.

By the 19th century, Thanksgiving Days in the northern U.S. were declared by state governors, but in the southern U.S., Thanksgiving was practically unknown until 1855 when Gov. Joseph Johnson of Virginia asked the state legislature to recognize the day.

President Abraham Lincoln declared in 1863 that Thanksgiving was to fall on the last Thursday of November. And subsequent presidents followed this tradition until 1939. In departure from tradition, President Roosevelt declared November 23, 1939, the next to last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day. This caused quite a bit of confusion and controversy, with some Americans refusing to honor the president's declaration. This was repeated for two years until it was corrected by the bill signed on November 26, 1941, making the fourth Thursday in November the national holiday of Thanksgiving.

Source: "Thanksgiving Day," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, November 17, 1941.



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Dr. Julian Kulas, president of the Heritage Foundation of the First Security Savings Bank, addresses guests at the banquet.



Oresta Fedyniak chair of the Selfreliance Foundation of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Credit Union addresses banquet participation.



Lydia Tkaczuk, second vice-president of the Ukrainian National Museum, gives a speech at the UNM's banquet.



NBC 5 News Reporter Natalie Martinez speaks about her upbringing in New York.

Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago begins 60th year

By Yaryna Klimchak

CHICAGO – September 2011 marked the 59th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago. To mark this milestone, banquet was held at the Ukrainian Culture Center in Chicago on October 23.

Lydia Tkaczuk, second vice-president of the Ukrainian National Museum, recognized the hard work of the many people that helped establish the museum.

"How often we wish [our founders] were still here to advise us, or just be able to take pleasure in seeing what became of the fruit of their labor," Ms. Tkaczuk said.

Olexa Hankewych, Julian Kamenetcky and Orest Horodyskyj founded the museum in 1952 with the help of philanthropist and community activist Dr. Myroslav Simynovych. At the time, the goal was to collect artifacts and documents that would be transferred back to Ukraine once it became a free country.

Today the museum aims to educate the public about the Ukrainian heritage and to preserve the Ukrainian culture.

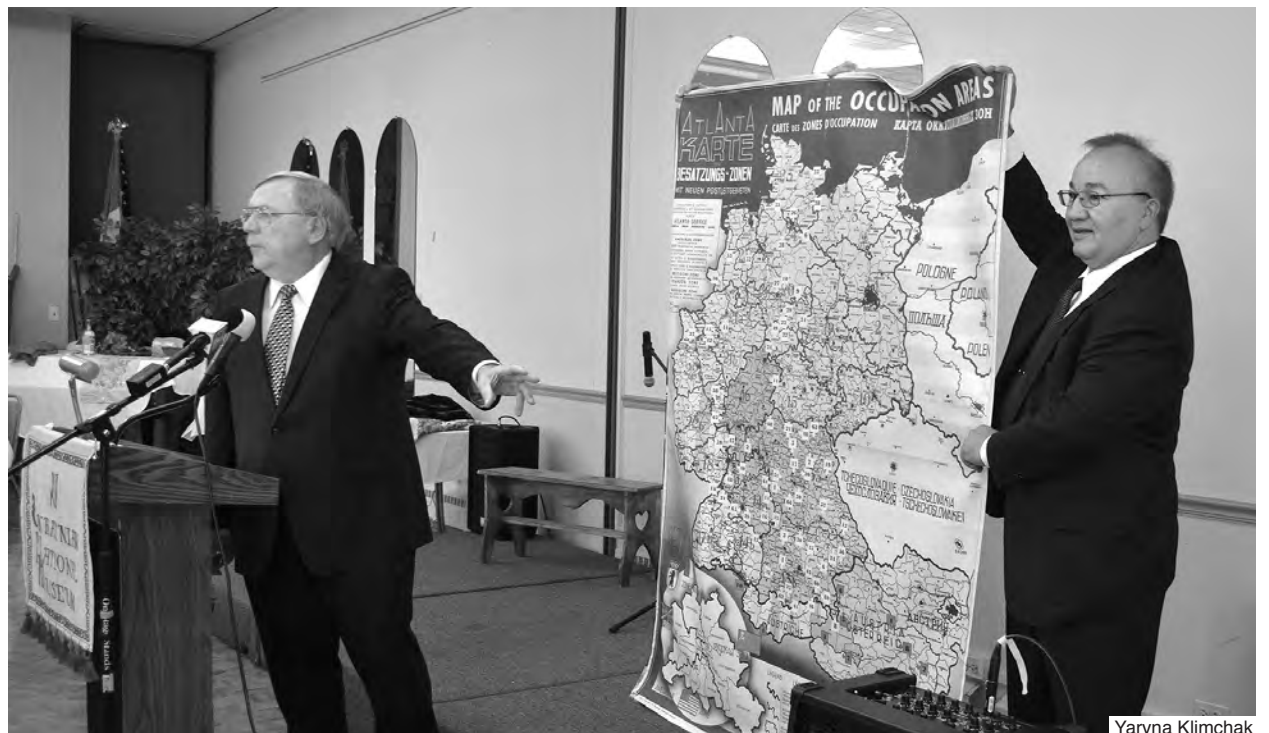
In the beginning, the museum survived on donations from community members; this tradition is still upheld today.

"In order not to lose our place in this so rich and diverse society, we must invest in the future, be more interactive, increase awareness, increase staffing, our space, modernize equipment and, most importantly, make a financial investment," Ms. Tkaczuk stressed.

The community made an investment that day. Close to \$11,000 was gathered from the community members themselves. The Heritage Foundation of the First Security Savings Bank surpassed all with a \$25,000 donation and the Selfreliance Foundation of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Credit Union made a generous donation of \$20,000.

Maria Klimchak, curator of the Ukrainian National Museum, was the master of ceremonies at the annual banquet. She spoke about the museum's founding and why it is important to continue preserving the Ukrainian heritage.

"The Ukrainian National Museum is an important cultural face of the city," Ms. Klimchak said. "It is an agent for social change which promotes intercultural understanding."



UNM Board Members Bohdan Dudycz and Steve Demitro introduce the museum's upcoming exhibit, "From DP to DC"

Different generations sat side by side tasting the array of Ukrainian food that was brought out to them. Some 175 people were in attendance from various immigration waves. Among them sat one of the original founders, Mr. Horodyskyj, who arrived in Chicago in 1950.

Natalie Martinez, news reporter for NBC Channel 5, was also present. She was born to a Dominican father and Ukrainian mother in New York.

"I am a mutt – and I am really saying it endearingly – half Ukrainian, half Dominican. You don't come by that mix very often, and it is a melting pot story," Ms. Martinez explained.

The Ukrainian National Museum has welcomed Ms. Martinez as a new member. "It's strong, it's solid and it seems like a very loyal community and I am happy to be

part of it," Ms. Martinez commented.

A theatrical group called Homin and Istyna provided entertainment at the banquet through various skits using the comedy of the well-known Mykola Ponedilok.

Bohdan Dudycz, UNM board member, presented information about the upcoming museum exhibit "DP to DC" and its opening on November 4.

Both Dr. Kulas of the Heritage Foundation and Oresta Fedyniak of the Selfreliance Foundation retold stories of their DP experiences.

To discover more about these camps and to hear first-hand stories, the Ukrainian National Museum encourages community members to come see the exhibit, which will be open through the end of January 2012.

Remembering...

(Continued from page 6)

Maria Fedorka's sons served in the U.S. Navy and her son-in-law in the Marines, while her daughter and daughter-in-law worked in military hospitals. All came home.

I have no information about how her family in Pennsylvania and other Ukrainians across the United States fared during World War I (which has a surprisingly small monument dedicated only to Washingtonians who died in that war), but we know that the initial immigration from Halychyna began at the end of the 19th century and there was a draft law in effect for the war, so there must have been many. Since our part of the family arrived here in 1950, no one has served in this country's subsequent conflicts – in Korea, Vietnam and its current military "operations."

My old friend and Washington-area colleague Roman Ferencevych was within the military draft age group when he arrived here in 1950 and received his "Greetings from the President of the United States" in 1951. Not being a citizen yet, he could have refused and would have been allowed to remain in this country on his "green card," but, if so, he could

not become a citizen. He accepted, as did most of his friends and acquaintances who served during the Korean War. And he almost got to Korea.

But when higher command realized that he was fluent in a few strategic European languages, he was taken off the plane in Hawaii and sent to Europe. As an added reward, when his service ended and he enrolled in college, the GI Bill covered his tuition costs.

Someone up above must have intervened in my behalf as well when 10 years later my three years of service in the U.S. Army concluded within a few days of the passage of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in August of 1964. That was when our conflict in Vietnam officially became a war. So when I entered college in September, I did not have to worry – as did most of my fellow male students – about getting and maintaining a draft deferment, nor did I worry that much about tuition costs; the GI bill was resurrected during my sophomore year.

And I guess I've been carrying this feeling of guilt ever since. A few days before Veterans Day, as I was fighting a losing battle with my brain to remain asleep for just a few more minutes, it won hands down when it recalled a soldier's letter we had read some years ago in the Ukrainian National Association's Jubilee Book commemorating its 40th anniversary.

I simply had to get up and read it again.

In the first section of the 750-page tome Luke Myshuha writes about how the Ukrainian immigrants formulated their world view. Also in the book there is a two-page critical analysis of the U.S.-Philippine war overlapping the turn of the 19th-20th centuries, quoting articles from UNA newspaper Svoboda that, among other things, characterizes that war as being conducted on behalf of American and English capitalists with huge investments in China who want to have an American military base nearby. It also includes an excerpt from a Ukrainian American soldier's moving letter from the front to Svoboda:

"Almost machine-like, I keep loading my rifle and shooting where I see smoke. And I think to myself: maybe among them is a very decent fellow. Back home he has had to leave behind his wife and a few small children. He left everything to defend his native land. Maybe that bullet I fire in his direction will hit him and he will fall dead. Oh, how his wife will cry for him and the children scream and condemn the one who killed their father. It's frightening when I think about how much harm I can cause with my rifle, and not just one but any number of families."

Reading this did not make me feel any better.

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Ukrainian center in Greater Philadelphia area holds annual meeting

by Petrusia Sawchak

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – Just one day before the 32nd annual meeting of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center on Sunday, October 30, the Greater Philadelphia Area experienced its first snowfall, but that did not discourage its faithful membership from attending the meeting held in the Alexander B. Chernyk Gallery.

During registration before the meeting, copies of the Annual Report were available for review.

President Borys Pawluk commenced the October 31 meeting at 2:15 p.m. after a quorum was determined. A moment of silence honored the memories of three newly departed individuals who contributed much to UECC: Iwanka Lucyszyn, Maria Olijnyk and Melanie Sarachman.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Pawluk, finishing his fifth year as president, reviewed the UECC's activities and accomplishments, as well as the finances from the past year. The highlights included both the gala banquet and the dedication of the auditorium as the Borys Zacharczuk Grand Hall held on September 25 and the publication of a 442-page commemorative book celebrating UECC's 30th anniversary.

Mr. Pawluk lauded the board of directors, Executive Director Marko Tarnawsky, Office Administrator Ivanna Biletska, newly hired office assistant Yuliya Tkachenko, Building Superintendent Nestor Tomalischak and the five members of the building staff. He also acclaimed the 16 Ukrainian community organizations that are the backbone of the center and the four non-Ukrainian renters that help provide needed revenue.

Lubomyr Pyrih, chair of the Strategic Planning/Capital Campaign Committee, outlined the seven plans of action developed by board members Yurko Danyliw, Natalka Firko, Sophia Koropecykj, Lesia Nowak, Mr. Pawluk, Petrusia Sawchak and Borys Zacharczuk, as well as Mr. Tarnawsky, executive director. The plan includes programs to improve social services for new immigrants, expand senior programs, improve relations with new immigrants, develop cultural outreach projects with the general public, establish a café, plan youth programs (dances, parties, etc.) and form a Capital Campaign Committee to raise funds.



Natalia Griga reads the minutes from last year's annual meeting.

Mr. Pawluk spoke of the work of the Administrative Sector (Luba Kalyta, chair), which takes care of the management of UECC, employee relations, personnel and information technology systems, and the Financial Sector (Sophia Koropecykj, chair).

He explained that the main source of funding for the UECC is from contracts with organizations, single-usage events, contributions/donations, fund-raising events, joint sponsorships with other organizations, radio ads and grants.

In addition, he said that \$73,000 was raised from the phonathon campaign and "koliada" efforts. A very generous bequeathal came from the estate of Dr. Yuri Rybak for \$70,000. Donations also came on the occasion of the 30th anniversary from the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union for \$50,000 and \$30,000 from Borys and Dzvinka Zacharczuk.

Mr. Pawluk continued saying that the Building Sector (Roman Cyhan, chair) was very busy this year with repairing the gallery roof, remodeling rooms 100 and 119, refinishing the main hall floor, changing the heating system, improving the HVAC system and other maintenance work. He also reported that plans for a handicap lift or elevator are still being considered once enough funds for it are raised. Plans for an office and

kitchen remodel are currently on hold.

As regards the Communication Sector (chaired by Andrea Zharovsky), Mr. Pawluk gave a few highlights from the work done in this sector: the committee redesigned and maintained the UECC website (www.ueccphila.org), prepared graphic design support for Ukrainian events, and created PowerPoint presentations for meetings and other projects.

The UECC's radio program airs on WWDB-AM 860, the Multicultural Voice of the Delaware Valley, www.wwdbam.com every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. It has generated and aired 52 one-hour programs. Plans are being considered to add an English-language segment to the program.

Mr. Pawluk congratulated the Program Sector (Natalka Firko and Nadia Petryk, chairs) for conducting 16 events this year, which raised more than \$30,000 for the center. The events appealed to different interests and for all ages.

In conclusion, Mr. Pawluk thanked everyone for their generosity in time and contributions to the UECC and all the organizations for their support. He emphasized, "We need to work together as a unified Ukrainian community. Your participation and fund-raising efforts are the key to the growth of our community."

Roman Petyk, chair of the Audit Committee, reported that the financial records of UECC were approved by the committee and an independent auditors' firm.

This year, seven board members out of 24 were up for re-election: Roman Cyhan, Borys Pawluk, Ivan Prasko, Nadia Petryk, Borys Zacharczuk, Andrea Zharovsky and Ihor Bilinsky. Members of the board represent a cross-section of the Ukrainian community and are dedicated to the center. Two board members decided not to run for reelection: Tatiana Husar and Marusia Shwed. In their place two more candidates were placed on the ballot for consideration each supported by three members of the UECC. They were Irina Galai, technical Ukrainian editor of America, and Olha Kostiv, director of the Ukrainian Heritage School at the Center. All nine candidates were overwhelming approved by the membership at the end of the meeting.

The By-Laws Committee, chaired by attorney Roman Petyk, submitted six proposals to amend UECC's By-Laws subject to approval by the membership.

The proposals that were approved included specifying that the UECC is focused on the Greater Philadelphia area; provided for announcement and public posting of voting results at annual meetings and also for secret ballots when requested by one or more members; renamed the Planning Committee the Strategic Planning Committee, requiring the committee to review strategic plans at least once a year; allowed the Nomination Committee, if it so chooses, to submit a list of nominees for directors that exceeds the number of vacancies.

Laryssa Krywusha, chair of the Nominating Committee, gave the list of candidates from the community for next year's Nominating Committee: Ivan Yaworsky, Walter Maruschak and Halyna Keller. Four more members from the Board of Directors will be added to the committee, at the next Board meeting.

The following individuals were nominated for the 2012 Election Committee: Wasyl Panczak, Bohdan Mizak and Vera Andryczyk. All candidates for both committees were approved.

After the election, the membership enjoyed a reception complete with canapés, sweets and coffee.

UECC re-elects president and elects new executive board

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – The board of directors of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, in keeping with its By-Laws, met and elected its new executive board on November 7.

The 2011-2012 UECC board unanimously re-elected Borys Pawluk to a sixth term as president and chief executive officer of the corporation. Also elected unanimously were the following officers: Secretary Natalia Griga, Treasurer Sophia Koropecykj, Vice-President of the Administration Sector Lubomyra Kalyta, Vice-President of the Marketing and Communication Sector Andrea Zharovsky, Vice-President of the Finance Sector Sophia Koropecykj, Vice-President of the Programs and Events Sector Natalka Firko and Vice-President of the Property and Utilization Sector Roman Cyhan.

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



The new executive committee of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (from left): Lubomyra Kalyta, Natalka Firko, Borys Pawluk (president and CEO), Sophia Koropecykj, Mark Tarnawsky (executive director), Natalia Griga and Andrea Zharovsky.

Archives reveal...

(Continued from page 1)

Freedoms for Ukraine, read Mr. Krutysk's remarks in English, opening with the compelling assertion that, after the re-establishment of independence in 1991, Ukraine began its new life without a political history. Elaborating on this thought, he explained that generations of Ukraine's citizens had been raised on a history that was written by their occupiers and that most archival materials pertaining to Ukraine's resistance to Soviet occupation were banned and marked "secret."

It wasn't until 1991, when Ukraine's Parliament passed a law "On the Rehabilitation of Victims of Political Repressions," that democratic members of the Verkhovna Rada frequently began to raise the question of recognizing the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) as World War II combatants.

Although some research in the early years of Ukraine's independence was accomplished, Mr. Krutysk credits former President Viktor Yushchenko and especially the former head of the Service of Ukraine (SBU), Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, for declassifying documents and providing access to the archival material.

Over a two-year period, from 2008 to 2010, Mr. Krutysk was able to study more than 1,300 archival files from approximately 350 collections held in state oblast archives and branch archives of the SBU in 18 regions of Ukraine.

Reviewing these documents convinced Mr. Krutysk and memorial's researchers that the armed national liberation movement in eastern Ukraine was proportionally just as large and widespread as the activities of the OUN and the UPA.

"These materials definitively reveal an interpretation of the struggle for state independence, known as the civil war, which absolutely differs from the official Soviet interpretation of this process," Mr. Krutysk asserted.

Based on the archival material located in the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, Mr. Krutysk resolutely refuted the Soviet myth that Ukraine "voluntarily" joined the USSR, stating that "the seizure of Ukraine was carried out exclusively by force."

Documents clearly exposed that, fact that because the Bolsheviks were utterly mistrustful of the rebellious Ukrainians, trained cadres from Russian military districts were dispatched to Ukraine to occupy positions in military units and military commissariats.

Moreover, if a military formation on the territory of Ukraine was composed of Ukrainians, it was quickly disbanded and replaced by people sent from Russia. In 1920 even Trotsky declared that the "Soviet power in Ukraine was able to hold its ground only with the aid of Moscow's forces, Great Russian Communists of the Red Army."

To substantiate this claim, Mr. Krutysk revealed that material provisioning of the occupation was centralized from Moscow, and in 1918, in the month of November alone, the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian SFSR allocated 22.5 million rubles to the commander-in-chief of the Soviet armies in Ukraine.

By late 1920 Ukraine was occupied by a total of 1.2 million Red Army troops from Soviet Russia; as a result, the annexation of Ukraine was carried out exclusively by forcible rather than legal means. And it was this Red Army that succeeded in crushing the Ukrainian national liberation movement and established a harsh

occupation regime.

Mr. Krutysk went on to mention that the Ukrainian nation's liberation struggles did not end, but were transformed into guerrilla warfare. The mass scale of the clandestine struggle against the Soviet occupiers is revealed in the criminal cases that were discovered in SBU archives located in various oblasts of Ukraine and exposed the fact that a "total of 642 clandestine organizations and their centers operated throughout Ukraine."

Moreover, practically every armed uprising – from 1918 to 1924, 155 uprisings took place, and between 1928 and 1932, 113 armed uprisings were recorded (this is not a definitive figure as the search for new documentation continues) – resulted in the destruction of Bolshevik administrations and the creation of self-ruling bodies. Often, territories newly liberated from Bolshevik rule were proclaimed as separate, local republics. In many cases, the peasant rebels called their elected self-ruling bodies temporary governments.

Memorial's research proves that, after various punitive actions, the first Holodomor of 1921-1922, and Lenin's introduction of the New Economic Policy, known as the NEP, armed uprisings in the period from 1924 to 1927 practically ceased. The armed resistance movement resumed with an extraordinarily high incidence of spontaneous peasant protests in 1928, following the Soviet government's announcement of total collectivization.

This resistance greatly alarmed the Communist leaders in Moscow, who feared they might lose Ukraine, and sparked Vsevolod Balitsky, the head of the OGPU in Ukraine, to report to Stalin on December 23, 1932, about the escalating resistance among Ukrainians and about the preparations for a nationwide Ukrainian uprising by "Petliurites." Five days later, on December 28, 1932, Stalin sent Balitsky's memorandum, together with his own accompanying letter, to every Ukrainian oblast, demanding that the state grain deliveries and accompanying repressions be intensified.

On January 1, 1933, Stalin sent a personal telegram of identical content to Stanislaw Kosior, who in turn sent a telegram on January 2, 1933, ordering the leading members of raion committees and collective farms to adopt all possible measures to fulfill the state grain deliveries, "including the use of repressions targeting the peasantry."

From years of studying government archives, Mr. Krutysk concluded: "The Ukrainians' resistance to the Communist occupation [in eastern Ukraine] and the numerous uprisings, spontaneous protests and terrorist acts against Communist functionaries explain why terror by famine was instituted against the Ukrainians. Numerous archival documents and eyewitness testimonies prove that the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine was an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation. It was carried out by the Russian occupiers with the goal of crushing the Ukrainian people's war and breaking their resistance to the forcible annexation of Ukraine to Bolshevik Russia."

A lively question and answer period followed the presentation. The event was sponsored by the American Conference in Support of Ukraine, Organization for Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, Women's Association for Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Society of Veterans of the UPA, National Tribune and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

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участь у святкуванні з нагоди благословення герба Блаженнішого
Патріярха кардинала Любомира Гузара та надання ступеня
доктора Патріярхові Святославу. Fordham University
– University Church, Rose Hill Campus, Bronx, NY

11 грудня 2011 р., неділя, о 1:30 год. по пол.
концерт колядок - St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth Avenue, NYC

18 грудня 2011 р., неділя, о 10:30 год.
Різдвяний концерт - Церква св. Івана Хрестителя
719 Sanford Avenue, Newark, NJ

8 січня 2011 р., неділя, о 11:30 год.
Різдвяний концерт,
Церква св. Духа, 161 N Fifth Street, Brooklyn, NY

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

STEMPNIAK TO FLAMES

In a significant late summer transaction, the Calgary Flames acquired forward Lee Stempniak from the Phoenix Coyotes in exchange for forward Daymond Langkow.

"This trade presents us with an opportunity to positively impact the organization in a number of ways," said Flames General Manager Jay Feaster. "It makes us younger and provides an opportunity to evaluate a player who may factor into our plans for the future. It provides [head coach] Brent [Sutter] with options as Stempniak can play either wing and can be used on both the power play and penalty kill. It also creates a healthy competition among the forward group for ice time."

A native of West Seneca, N.Y., Stempniak spent the 2010-2011 season with the Phoenix Coyotes where he tallied 19 goals with 19 assists for 38 points and 19 penalty minutes in 82 games. He was originally drafted by the St. Louis Blues in the fifth round (148th overall) of the 2003 NHL Entry Draft. He is scheduled to earn \$2.3 million in 2011-2012.

Fresh start in Calgary

On the afternoon of Monday, August 29, Lee Stempniak had an afternoon dentist appointment. It never crossed his mind he might be traded.

"It was definitely a surprise," Stempniak told CalgaryFlames.com. "I saw I missed a call from my agent and my brother called me right after. He said he had heard I had been traded to Calgary and he asked if I had heard anything."

The 28-year-old of Ukrainian descent was not sure if the rumor was true, so he quickly phoned his agent, who confirmed he had indeed been dealt to the Flames. Coming off his experience of playing in Toronto, where Canadian hockey media is quite intense, he knew to expect a barrage of interview requests when the trade became official. The procedure at the dentist's office concluded, it was time to deal with hours of telephone calls.

"I've got a few interviews to get through," he chuckled on the day of the trade. "I'm really excited. I spoke with Jay Feaster, and I'm really excited. I think it's a great organization. I have heard nothing but great things

about the city, and I really like the team. I'm really happy to be joining the team and having a successful season."

Feaster traded for Stempniak with the belief the winger can be a top-six forward for the club and a key offensive contributor. The GM expects his new addition to compete for a first- or second-line job during training camp. Stempniak confirmed his intention of earning a key spot and being an offensive force for the Flames.

"As a player you want to be counted on. You want to be a guy that is relied upon and make a difference every night. For me, I believe in myself. I want to go in and have a great training camp. I want to be a guy that's put in that position and make the most of my opportunity."

Playing a little over a year in Phoenix was fine, but returning to a major hockey market is so much finer.

"You want to play in a place where hockey matters," he asserted in his talk with Calgary Flames.com. "You love being in a market like that. That was one of the things I really enjoyed in Toronto. Being there and knowing the whole city cared about hockey. I've always liked playing in Calgary for that reason. There's a buzz in the city when the Flames are playing."

Along with the media attention in a major hockey market, there is the pressure to perform. It will be immediate and it will be intense. The first regular season game is the first day he will be judged by Calgary's hockey world. He'll be under the microscope, but he's understanding and comfortable with the situation.

"It comes with the territory. I put the most pressure on myself to be successful. I set high expectations of myself. I don't really rely on the outside pressure from fans or media to perform, but at the same time, I'm thrilled to be playing in a hockey market that is as passionate as Calgary."

Lee Stempniak: the numbers for 2010-2011

- 82 – Games played
- 19 – Goals. His career high was in 2009-2010, when he scored 28 with the Maple Leafs and Coyotes.
- 38 – Points. His career high is 52 which

he totaled in 2006-2007. He's averaged 41 points in his six NHL seasons.

1 – Year remaining on his contract. Look for him to produce in a contract year.

+4 – His career high plus/minus rating.

199 – Total shots on net with a 9.5 shooting percentage.

19 – Penalty minutes. His career high was 40 minutes in 2007-2008.

Woywitka signs with Montreal, ends up a Ranger

Mid-August, about a month prior to the opening of NHL training camps, is bargain-hunting time for free agents looking for a new home. The Montreal Canadiens did some savvy shopping with the signing of veteran defenseman Jeff Woywitka.

This time of year, free agents have run out of options and often are desperate to take a deal most would not have considered a month earlier during July's free agent frenzy. Woywitka settled for a two-way contract with the hope of winning a job in Montreal's training camp. The past two seasons he played on one-way deals with Dallas.

Should he earn an NHL roster spot this year, Woywitka will earn \$650,000, the same amount he received last season. If he plays with the AHL's (American Hockey League) Hamilton Bulldogs, he'll earn \$105,000.

The Canadiens see Woywitka as an insurance policy in case either of two defenders returning from knee surgery, Andrei Markov and Josh Gorges, is unable to play regularly.

The team's depth at defense is adequate with four returning blueliners in P.K. (Pernell Karl) Subban, Hal Gill, Jaroslav Spacek and Yannick Weber. There are also prospects Alexei Yemelin and Rafael Diaz, impressive in European competition, but unproven in the North American game.

Woywitka, a native of Vermilion, Alberta, was selected by the Philadelphia Flyers in the first round (27th overall) at the 2001 NHL Entry Draft. His NHL career consists of 251 games with the Dallas Stars and St. Louis Blues, scoring eight goals and 41 assists.

In the 2010-2011 campaign, the 6-foot-3, 225-pounder saw action in 63 games, scoring two goals with nine assists, 24 penalty minutes and a +5 rating. His time on ice was 18 minutes/game and he blocked 97 shots.

He came to the NHL after a brilliant junior career with the Red Deer Rebels. In

2002-2003, Woywitka was named to the Western Hockey League's East Division first All-Star team and the CHL's third team. The same year he won the Bill Hunter Memorial Trophy, given annually to the WHL's top defenseman. He won a silver medal with Team Canada at the 2003 World Junior Championships.

Still on the bubble as training camp came to an end, too many defensemen forced Montreal to ask for waivers on Woywitka with the hope of sending him down to Hamilton (AHL) until he was needed back with the big club. The short-handed New York Rangers claimed him and he was off to Sweden to join his new team on opening night.

Spirit sign Jamie Oleksiak

On July 25, 2011, the Saginaw Spirit of the Ontario Hockey League announced the signing of Ukrainian defenseman Jamie Oleksiak. Oleksiak was the Dallas Stars' first round selection (14th overall) in this summer's NHL Entry Draft. Saginaw had been recruiting Oleksiak since the team selected him 138th overall in the 2008 OHL draft.

The 6-foot-7, 240-pound Toronto native played for the NCAA's Northeastern University Huskies in 2010-2011, scoring four goals and 13 points in 38 games as a freshman. Prior to Northeastern he spent time in the USHL (United States Hockey League) with both the Chicago Steel and Sioux Falls Stampede.

Oleksiak's future at Northeastern came into question after head coach Greg Cronin left the school to take an assistant coaching position with the Toronto Maple Leafs. Oleksiak had wanted to wait until Northeastern hired a new coach before making a decision. As of late July, the university had not hired a new coach.

Oleksiak has dual U.S. and Canadian citizenship. This season he passed on an invitation to the U.S. World Junior Team camp to try out for the Canadian World Juniors squad. He has previous international experience representing the United States in the 2009 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament.

In early October Dallas announced the club had signed Oleksiak to a three-year entry-level contract. It is expected he will play the 2011-2012 season with Saginaw.

Ihor Stelmach can be reached at iman@sfgsports.com.

Rada votes...

(Continued from page 1)

is in poor health, is suffering chronic back problems and was unable to sit up when the authorities visited her in prison on November 10 to inform her of the latest charges.

Ms. Tymoshenko was found guilty on October 11 of abusing her powers when she signed a gas deal with Russia in 2009. The opposition leader has denied any wrongdoing and said the trial is a vendetta by President Yanukovich.

The Verkhovna Rada, which is dominated by Mr. Yanukovich's Party of the Regions, on November 15 voted down a proposal to reclassify the abuse of power offense as a misdemeanor. Only 147 deputies out of 438 supported the proposal.

The European Union has warned Ukraine it may not sign planned bilateral deals on political association and free trade if Ms. Tymoshenko remains in jail.

The head of the EU delegation to Ukraine, Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira, said on November 11 that the European Union sees

no progress in Ukraine's compliance with fundamental European values, so a declaration that the country will ultimately become a EU member cannot yet be included in the Association Agreement.

"We are concerned that the former prime minister [Ms. Tymoshenko] and other members of the government became targets of selective application of the law aimed at preventing them from taking part in political life. That is the problem," he said in an interview with the Voice of America.

Mr. Teixeira said that the prospect of EU membership could be guaranteed only to those countries that have made progress in observing European values, including the rule of law and a citizen's right to a fair trial. "We don't see it in Ukraine, in particular in the case of Mrs. Tymoshenko," he noted.

"Her trial was conducted in accordance with laws written in the days of Stalin and Khrushchev. This does not comply with European values. Even the trial itself did not meet our ideas of justice," the EU envoy said.

Asked if there were any arrangements with Ukrainian leaders about the release of Ms. Tymoshenko, Mr. Teixeira said: "I cannot

say that there were promises [to release Tymoshenko]. But they sent us a clear message during several high-level meetings. In other words, we formed such expectations... that a way out will be found of the situation with a trial that fell short of rule-of-law standards."

The EU delegation head said he believed that there is no reason to use the issue of Ukraine's EU membership prospects as an obstacle to the completion of the talks on the Association Agreement.

"Your president is well aware what an Association Agreement means and what possibilities it opens up for Ukraine, and what they have to do to open up the prospect of the EU membership," he explained.

The Association Agreement is expected to be signed at the EU-Ukraine summit scheduled to take place in Kyiv on December 19.

Meanwhile, President Yanukovich, after meeting on November 15 in Wroclaw, Poland, with Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski and Federal President of Germany Christian Wulff, said any government interference with the work of courts is impossible in Ukraine, and that is well

understood in Europe.

Answering reporters' questions about the Tymoshenko case, he said: "I have informed that there would be a court of appeals meeting, the process of investigating other areas of Yulia Tymoshenko's activities is going on." He insisted that there are no political grounds in the criminal case against Ms. Tymoshenko.

President Yanukovich admitted that the Tymoshenko case is affecting the progress of Ukraine's European integration. "This question, of course, is hampering the European integration of Ukraine now," he said, noting that, unfortunately, there are attempts to mix the issues of European integration and criminal cases against Ms. Tymoshenko.

"But time goes on and we are unable to predict today how it will end. Only the court can give answer to this question," Mr. Yanukovich told the news media, according to his press office.

Sources: RFE/RL, The New York Times, Associated Press, Press Office of President Viktor Yanukovich, Voice of America, Interfax-Ukraine, BBC Ukrainian Service.

Interview with patriarch to air on Philadelphia radio station

PHILADELPHIA – An interview with Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Catholic Church on the occasion of his first visit to Philadelphia on November 11 will be broadcast on Thanksgiving Day, November 24.

There will be a special radio broadcast in English on Philadelphia radio station WWDB (860 AM) at 12:30-1 p.m. This program will be archived and, after the broadcast is completed, it will be avail-

able for downloading from the station's website, www.wfdbam.com.

WWDB broadcasts weekly Ukrainian programs: "Radio Philadelphia" of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (Saturdays at 9-10 a.m.), "Ukrainian Youth Hour" (noon-1 p.m.) and "Ukrainian Baptist Program" (1-1:30 p.m.)

The interview with the patriarch is by the production staff of the UECC's radio program.

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Day of Ukraine in Washington to feature Ruslana performance



Ruslana, who will perform in Washington on December 1 at a gala celebrating the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence referendum.

WASHINGTON - Ruslana is coming to Washington to be part of a mega event celebrating the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence on December 1 - exactly 20 years after the people of Ukraine overwhelmingly voted in a nationwide referendum to peacefully secure their independence.

The daylong event will mark the democratic choice of the people of Ukraine, the development of democracy, Ukraine's contribution to a nuclear free world, regional stability and U.S.-Ukraine relations; the role of private business in Ukraine's economic development, the best Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices, and Ukraine's outstanding contribution to the arts, sports and entertainment.

An evening finale will feature a concert performance by Ukraine's internationally known, ethnic rock and pop star Ruslana. Ruslana won the 2004 Eurovision Song Contest - the first person from Ukraine to ever win. She is also known for her humanitarian work as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and for her previous service as a national deputy of the Ukrainian Parliament.

Ruslana has shared her musical vision across the globe - from Siberia to Canada, Iceland to Greece and Turkey and China, where she performed at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

She earned an endorsement contract, becoming a new face of L'Oreal Cosmetics. The established music industry powerhouse Warner Music took notice by signing Ruslana to contract as a worldwide recording artist.

Her winning single and subsequent album "Wild Dances" saw widespread acceptance in over 25 countries. For 97 weeks Ruslana dominated 14 different charts throughout Europe. In Ukraine alone, the album achieved five fold platinum status, making her the first recording artist to domestically sell 500,000 copies of an album.

Shortly thereafter Ruslana received the prestigious World Music Award in Las Vegas as the top-selling Ukrainian artist in the world. Gold Record awards and more chart successes followed in Belgium (11 weeks at No. 1) the Czech Republic, Greece and many other countries.

The "Wild Energy" album contained a first for Ruslana - collaboration with American superstars T-Pain ("Moon of Dreams") and Missy Elliott ("The Girl That Rules") resulting in two dramatic duets.

Her newest single, "ShaLaLa," comes from her music video "Master-Class." The

song is written by Ruslana, O. Ksenofontov and V. Debrianskyj and was recorded in San Francisco and Kyiv. It is based on a universally popular gypsy tune brandishing its distinct rebellious spirit. Along with stirring gypsy guitars, Ruslana recorded dancers and step dancers in the studio to render the rhythm of the song through dance sounds.

Social commitment has always been an affair of the heart for Ruslana. Ruslana has actively supported the democratic processes in Ukraine, and she was an outspoken member of the Ukrainian Parliament in 2006 and 2007. She has staged numerous charity concerts benefiting children's hospitals in Kyiv, Lviv and Dnipropetrovsk. In the spring of 2007 Ruslana joined artists from 14 different countries in a major charity tour across Germany, organized by noted rock vocalist Peter Maffay that performed in 15 cities and raised funds to address urgent social issues.

Ruslana began working with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on the global issue of human trafficking in 2006. Shortly thereafter, UNICEF appointed her Goodwill Ambassador of Ukraine. Ego Works wrote and produced her song, "Not for Sale," which became the anthem of a new international campaign against human trafficking, initiated by the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

In 2008 a devastating series of floods in western Ukraine caused monumental damage to life, property and the infrastructure. Ruslana's involvement gave urgency for others to help. At that time, Ruslana came to Washington to urge those in the West to help as well, and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, Ukrainian Federation of America, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and U.S.-Ukraine Business Council coordinated their efforts to provide assistance.

At the December 1 gala, Ruslana will perform some of her greatest hits, but most noteworthy will be "Land of Beautiful Women" and "Kyiv," the debut performances of two songs from the upcoming musical, "Dynamo: A True Musical" by Paul Thorson, the playwright, lyricist and composer.

Thursday, December 1, has been officially designated as the "Day of Ukraine" by Mayor Vincent Gray.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and its organizing committees invite the public to attend the gala at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington. For ticket information readers may call the foundation at 202-223-2228 or log on <http://www.usukrainegala.org/tickets/>.

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OUT & ABOUT

- Through December 18 Spring, TX Art exhibit, "Thresholds" by Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak, Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts, 281-376-6322 or www.pearlmfa.org
- November 22 New York Lecture by Federigo Argentieri, "Has the Orange Revolution Failed? An Assessment, Seven Years On," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu
- November 22 Montreal Film screening, "Genocide Revealed" by Yuriy Luhovy, McGill Ukrainian Students' Club, McGill University, musa@ssmu.mcgill.ca
- November 24 Ottawa Concert, Kyiv Chamber Choir, Dominion-Chalmers United Church, 877-266-2557 or www.ticketweb.ca
- November 25 Waterloo, ON Concert, Kyiv Chamber Choir, First United Church, www.ticketweb.ca or 877-266-2557
- November 25 Winnipeg Lecture by Roman Krutzyk, "Stories from the Gulag," Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218
- November 25 Whippany, NJ Morska Zabava, Chornomortsi fraternity - Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-585-7175
- November 25-26 Toronto Concert, "Shumka at 50," featuring the Shumka Dancers, Sony Center for the Performing Arts, 855-872-7669 or www.shumka.com/shumka-at-50
- November 26 St. Catharines, ON Concert, Kyiv Chamber Choir, Cathedral of St. Catherine, www.ticketweb.ca or 877-266-2557
- November 26 North Port, FL Film screening, "Genocide Revealed" by Yuriy Luhovy, Ukrainian Cultural Center, www.yluhovy.com or 941-408-8125
- November 26 Saskatoon, SK Pushchenya dinner and dance, with music by Rve Hreblu, Ukrainian Orthodox Auditorium, 204-652-3178
- November 26 Regina, SK Film screening, "Genocide Revealed" by Yuriy Luhovy, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Regina Branch, Ukrainian National Federation Hall, www.yluhovy.com
- November 26 Mississauga, ON Holodomor commemoration, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Toronto branch, Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church, 416-323-4772 or uctoronto@bellnet.ca
- November 27 Toronto Concert, Kyiv Chamber Choir, Koener Hall - The Royal Conservatory, www.rcmusic.ca or 416-408-0208
- November 27 Montreal Film screening, "Okradena Zemlya" (Genocide Revealed) by Yuriy Luhovy, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 514-259-7162 or www.yluhovy.com
- November 28 Cambridge, MA Presentation by David Kramer, "Independent Ukraine, 1991-2011," Harvard University, 617-495-4053
- November 28 Kingston, ON Film screening, "Genocide Revealed" by Yuriy Luhovy, Queens University Ukrainian Students' Club, Queens University, www.yluhovy.com
- November 29 New York Concert, Kyiv Chamber Choir, St. Bartolomew's Church, 887-266-2557 or www.platinimconcerts.com
- November 29 Toronto Film screening, "Genocide Revealed" by Yuriy Luhovy, Innis Town Hall, University of Toronto, www.yluhovy.com

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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LETOM SKOBA	Aug 9 - 25		\$3000
	17 Days	Kyiv, Kaniv, Iv. Frankivsk, Tatariv, Bukovel Kolomyja, Chernivtsi, Kamianets Podilsky, Kryshalevi Pechery, Zarvanytsia, Lviv	

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, November 22

NEW YORK: Please join the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University for a lecture titled "Has the Orange Revolution Failed? An Assessment, Seven Years On" by Dr. Federigo Argentieri (John Cabot American University, Rome). Dr. Argentieri is director of the Guarini Institute for Public Affairs at John Cabot University and teaches also at Temple University Rome Campus. He studied political science, history and languages at La Sapienza Rome, ELTE Budapest and Harvard. He has widely published on the contemporary history and politics of Central-Eastern Europe and Italy, particularly on the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 and its Western echoes and effects. He also focuses on 20th-21st century Ukraine and serves on the editorial board of the journal Holodomor Studies. The lecture will take place at noon in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk, 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu.

Friday, December 2

NEW YORK: Maria Sonevitsky, The Center for Traditional Music and Dance and Yara Arts Group present "Chornobyl Songs Project: Living Culture from a Lost World," village songs from Ukraine performed by Ensemble Hilka (New York City), led by music director and song collector Yevhen Yefremov (Ensemble Drevo, Kyiv), at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth Stl (between Second and Third avenues). Concert begins at 7 p.m. with reception to follow. Admission is \$15 (discounts for seniors/members). To purchase tickets in advance go to www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Sunday, December 11

MELROSE PARK, Pa.: The Ukrainian American Youth Association cordially invites everyone to attend its traditional annual fun-filled Christmas Bazaar and Welcoming of St. Nicholas in the church hall of Annunciation Ukrainian Catholic Church at Old York Road and Cheltenham Avenue in Melrose Park, Pa. Starting time is 9:30 a.m. Throughout the day, there will be plenty of delicious food for breakfast and lunch, hot and cold drinks, games and entertainment for children, a "Wheel of Fortune" and "Basket of Cheer" for adults, many interesting items for sale, including Christmas cards, traditional Christmas "kutia," poppyseeds, books and much more. St. Nicholas will pay a visit at 1 p.m. For information e-mail gpmkytyn@gmail.com or call George Mykytyn, 609-802-2957.

Saturday, December 17

WASHINGTON: The Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies will host a Mykolai Show and Holiday Bazaar. Students will present a Mykolai Program at noon. Sviatyi Mykolai (St. Nicholas) will then meet with each grade/age group (non-students welcome). The Heavenly Office will be open 9:15-11:45 a.m.; please bring only one item per child (\$2 fee), clearly labeled (child's full name, grade/age). The Bazaar/Bake Sale at 9:30 a.m. to noon will offer torte slices, fancy cookies, kolachi, makivnyky, medivnyky, children's sweets, varenyky and vushka (frozen), books, CDs, gift items. Location: Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road NE, Washington, DC 20017. Vendors looking to reserve a table should contact Lydia Shevchik, Lydia@evropashop.com. For information, visit <http://www.ukieschool.org/events.htm> or contact Lada Onyshkevych, lada2@verizon.net or 410-730-8108.



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