

**INSIDE:**

- Cold-weather death toll rises in Ukraine – page 2
- Paul Plishka wraps up opera career – page 9
- Five books shortlisted for Kobzar Award – page 10

# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXX

No. 7

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Opposition grows to land reform promoted by Party of Regions

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Opposition is mounting to legislation that will create Ukraine's first agricultural land market, which is being shepherded through Parliament by the oligarch-oriented Party of Regions of Ukraine.

The parliamentary coalition on December 9, 2011, approved the first reading of the law "On the Land Market," igniting outrage from groups as diverse as both left- and right-wing socialists, who are opposed to farmland privatization, to Ukraine's biggest agricultural holding companies, which were banned from buying land.

"This legislation absolutely doesn't address the realities of the Ukrainian agricultural sector and isn't supported by small, medium or large farms," said Alex Lissitsa, president of the Ukrainian Agrarian Business Club (known by its

Ukrainian acronym as UKAB), the leading lobbyist for Ukraine's biggest agriculture companies.

"In all normal countries, such legislation is an instrument of achieving goals. In Ukraine, the legislation's passage in and of itself was the goal, without any understanding of where Ukraine's agrarian sector will be moving in the next five years," he added.

Coalition deputies were expected to vote on the bill's second reading during the New Year's holiday, just as stealthily as they passed the first reading during a night session. Instead they've postponed the review, claiming the legislation will be amended to satisfy some critics, who nevertheless remain highly skeptical.

Observers reported in recent weeks that Party of Regions oligarchs have created a land market law that monopolizes the trade of land, limits its entry to politically

(Continued on page 5)



UKAB



UNIAN/Andrey Skakodub

Among those who oppose the land market reform as now proposed are Alex Lissitsa (left), president of the Ukrainian Agrarian Business Club, and Oleksander Paliy, a leading expert on politics and history.

## New Ukrainian regime uninviting to foreign investment, says expert



Slava Zelinsky Johnson (center) discussed the current international investment market in Ukraine at a program sponsored by the Chicago Business and Professional Group, of which Anna Mostovych (left) is president and Maria Kulczycky (right) is vice-president.

by Maria Kulczycky

CHICAGO – While Ukraine, under President Viktor Yanukovich, appears "stable," the business climate has not improved, according to Jaroslawa Zelinsky Johnson, Kyiv office managing partner of the Chadbourne & Parke LLP law firm. The apparent stability is largely a byproduct of President Yanukovich's move in the direction of autocracy by establishing vertical control of all three branches of government.

Speaking at a presentation sponsored by the Chicago Business and Professional Group in late December, Ms. Johnson, who is a veteran of two decades of facilitating foreign investment in Ukraine, noted that political autocracy, corruption and disintegration of civil rights are key factors in the dwindling interest of foreign investors.

In building autocracy, Mr. Yanukovich has ensured that opposition to his administration has evaporated quickly.

(Continued on page 17)

## Former KGB agent from Russia heads Security Service of Ukraine

by Zenon Zawada

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – What initially drew the attention of Ukraine's pro-Western community about Igor Kalinin, the newly appointed chair of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), was that he's a former KGB agent from the Moscow Oblast.

His appointment swells the list of native Russians who serve in the high ranks of the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich, including Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, presidential media advisor Igor Shuvalov and Viacheslav Zanevsky, the head of the president's personal security. (The latter two remain Russian citizens.)

What's become of equal concern is that Mr. Kalinin is the latest appointment to have personal ties to the Yanukovich family and its business clan. His work at the SBU will be devoted to protecting their business and security, political experts said.

"All the key enforcement structures today are under the direct control of the president and led by people close to either the president, or his elder son [Oleksander]," said Volodymyr Fesenko, board chairman of the Penta Center for Applied Political Research in Kyiv. "We're seeing the president forming his enforcement chain of command."

As his most recent post, Mr. Kalinin served for two years as chair of the State Defense Administration, which is responsible for the official security of the highest

state leaders and the protection of the Presidential Administration, the Cabinet of Ministers and Parliament.

Before that, he chaired the private security company Alfa-Shchyt that trained Mr. Yanukovich's bodyguard-drivers, news reports said.

It was during the 2010 presidential campaign that Mr. Kalinin's work impressed Oleksander Yanukovich, who was responsible for his father's security, reported the Liga news service, citing anonymous sources in the SBU and the Internal Affairs Ministry.

Upon his election, President Yanukovich chose Mr. Kalinin to lead the official state security. He introduced such unprecedented measures as closing Kyiv streets daily for the presidential motorcade, causing immense traffic jams, and sanctioning security officers to use force against journalists.

On the positive side, experts pointed out that Mr. Kalinin has 13 years' experience serving in the SBU. Recent SBU chairs, such as Mr. Kalinin's immediate predecessor, mega-millionaire oligarch Valerii Khoroshkovskiy, also were tapped by Mr. Yanukovich.

Former President Viktor Yushchenko's SBU chair, Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, had no experience in Ukraine's security sector.

"The tradition of appointing outsiders to chair the SBU emerged during the presidency of Leonid Kuchma," said Taras

(Continued on page 2)

## ANALYSIS

## Cold-weather deaths shed light on plight of Ukraine's homeless

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

KYIV – Ivan Brilyuk is 45, but he looks much older.

With his white beard and swollen, chapped face and fingers, Mr. Brilyuk is one of the hundreds of thousands of homeless people that Ukrainian social workers say are suffering the worst of the recent cold weather.

Mr. Brilyuk is relatively lucky.

He has made his way to one of the hundreds of heated tents set up by the authorities in response to a cold wave that's seen temperatures dip to minus 30 degrees Celsius.

Mr. Brilyuk, who's been homeless since being thrown out by his wife several years ago, insists he's grateful for even the most basic of comforts.

"Like in the gulag, give us at least a hut," he says. "Give us warmth, some comfort, a place to wash, to shave, to clean ourselves up. I don't have any money, I don't have anything. You can see the kind of shape I'm in. If we're needed by this state, then we want to work."

But the tent where Mr. Brilyuk is trying to warm up has only a few plastic chairs. After an hour or so, he'll be back out on the street, returning to the unheated Kyiv basement where he sometimes sleeps.

### Death toll likely to rise

Authorities have set up more than 3,000 heating stations across the country and provided food and warm tea for visitors.

But social workers and other experts say that without full-time shelters, which provide a heated place to sleep, and an effort to direct homeless people to warm spots, the current death toll of 135 is only set to rise as the cold weather continues.

Most of the deaths have been reported in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

Lyudmyla Denisova, Ukraine's former minister of labor and social policy, maintains that many homeless people are unaware of the shelters or simply unable to make it to them.

"The authorities should go and collect people," she says. "These people are freezing."

### Soviet-Era Stigmas

The cold-weather deaths in Ukraine – higher than in Russia, Poland, or anywhere else in Europe – have focused attention on the plight of the homeless, who continue to suffer from Soviet-era stigmas that equated them with drug addicts, criminals and "antisocial elements."

(Continued on page 3)

## Former KGB agent...

(Continued from page 1)

Berezovets, director of the Berta Communications political consulting firm in Kyiv. "He appointed former police officers and tax officials. Khoroshkovskiy had no relations to any law enforcement organs, besides a brief tenure as the head of the tax service."

Yet, the SBU has become an organ entirely subservient to the presidency, particularly after the Constitutional Court of Ukraine reinstated the 1996 Constitution that allows the president to appoint its chair without parliamentary committee approval or having to report to Parliament.

"Accordingly he will serve the president above all," said Oleksii Melnyk, co-director of foreign policy and international security at the Razumkov Center in Kyiv.

Mr. Khoroshkovskiy has moved on to become minister of finance. He is widely reported to be part of the RosUkrEnerg business clan, consisting of the company's founding partners, billionaire Dmytro Firtash and mega-millionaire Yurii Boiko.

Indeed, some observers said Mr. Kalinin's appointment is evidence of increasing tensions between competing business clans. Besides the RosUkrEnerg group there are the Donetsk clan led by billionaire Rinat Akhmetov and the burgeoning Yanukovich clan.

It was Mr. Khoroshkovskiy who initiated the shutting down of Ukraine's biggest file-sharing website, www.ex.ua, according to the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia (Weekly Mirror)

## Correction

In "Tymoshenko's daughter appeals to U.S. senators in Washington," by Yaro Bihun, the last name of the senator who presided over the hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on European Affairs was misspelled. The name of the Democratic senator from New Hampshire is Jeanne Shaheen.

newspaper.

During a late January visit to Washington, Mr. Khoroshkovskiy heard requests from U.S. government officials to crack down on illegal transfers of intellectual property as part of negotiations to receive the next loan tranche from the International Monetary Fund.

Once Mr. Khoroshkovskiy attempted to respond to such concerns, Viktor Yanukovich Jr., a national deputy, submitted a letter asking that Internal Affairs Minister Vitalii Zakharchenko explain the basis for shutting down the file-sharing site.

"Returning to Ukraine, the confrontation between groups intensified between the one represented by Khoroshkovskiy and the Yenakiyev family," said Dr. Oleh Soskin, director of the Institute of Society Transformation in Kyiv, referring to the Yanukoviches' hometown in the Donetsk Oblast.

"The latter won the latest round in the fight for influence, the result of which became the newly appointed SBU chair, who is not a protégé of Khoroshkovskiy's [RosUkrEnerg] group," he noted.

The Yanukovich clan has monopolized all of Ukraine's key government organs, experts said, including the SBU, the Internal Affairs Ministry (200,000-plus police force) led by family friend Mr. Zakharchenko, the Procurator General's Office led by family friend Viktor Pshonka, the National Bank of Ukraine led by family friend Serhii Arbutov and the State Tax Administration, led by family friend Oleksander Klymenko.

All the family friends have extensive business ties with the Yanukoviches that trace back to their native Donetsk Oblast.

"A complete usurpation of power in Ukraine is practically taking place by a single financial-corporate family formation," Dr. Soskin said. "This was a well-implemented operation by the governing oligarchic group, which has drawn closer to its goal of consolidating a dictatorship regime in Ukraine."

"We must expect intensified mass political and physical repressions by the ruling regime against Ukraine's citizens," he warned.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Deputies disrupt Yanukovich speech

KYIV – About a dozen national deputies from the party of jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko interrupted a speech to the Verkhovna Rada by President Viktor Yanukovich, unfurling a banner with Ms. Tymoshenko's portrait and chanting for her to be freed from prison. The deputies continued chanting for a full 30 minutes while the president continued speaking at the opening of the Verkhovna Rada's new legislative session on February 7. Ms. Tymoshenko, 51, was jailed in October on abuse of office charges that her followers say were politically motivated. She is reportedly in poor health and has asked for an independent medical examination. (RFE/RL)

### Clinton and Yanukovich meet

MUNICH – According to the U.S. State Department, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met on February 4 with President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine. The meeting took place during the Munich Security Conference. According to the information provided at a background briefing by a senior State Department official, "Subjects included energy security, particularly some of the work that U.S. and Ukrainian firms are doing together to diversify sources of supply, looking at shale gas, looking at LNG, working on pipelines. They also discussed Ukraine's European integration aspirations in that connection and more broadly. The secretary made clear our concern about selective prosecutions of political opposition members, particularly the case of Yulia Tymoshenko and her health and the conditions of her confinement. They also talked about the Ukraine's work with the IMF." The senior State Department official also noted: "Without getting too deeply into characterizing another country's position, the president outlined the various legal reform steps that they are taking, and made clear that these could have implications for the Tymoshenko case. The Secretary made clear that this was a matter not just of legal reform but of all of us wanting to support Ukraine's European integration and to

improve Ukraine's image and reputation." (U.S. Department of State)

### Eugenia Tymoshenko's high-level meetings

MUNICH – On February 3, at a background briefing en route to the Munich Security Conference, a State Department official answered a question about the visit of Eugenia (Yevhenia) Tymoshenko, the former prime minister's daughter, to Washington. The official said: "... at the State Department she met with Special Envoy Melanne Verveer, and Deputy Secretary [William] Burns dropped by to see her at the White House. She met with Tony Blinken [national security advisor to Vice-President Joe Biden] and Liz Sherwood-Randall [of the National Security Council]. So she was seen at very high levels throughout the government in Washington, and we listened carefully to what she had to say about her mother's situation. And we've expressed our very serious concerns, called for her release from prison, and the secretary has been engaged on this issue and feels strongly. We are concerned about what really looks like selective prosecution." (U.S. Department of State)

### Economist on Ukraine's external loans

KYIV – The Ukrainian government will be able to do without external borrowings until the end of May, but in June it will be necessary to pay \$500 million on Eurobonds, Olena Bilan, the chief economist for Dragon Capital investment company, said on February 8. "Since no payments are planned on foreign debt until June, the government may do without external borrowings. However, foreign borrowings will be necessary by the end of May, since in June it will be necessary to pay \$500 million on Eurobonds and, possibly, to settle with Russia's VTB on \$2 billion credit," she said. According to the expert, revenues from privatization will be enough to cover the government's need in financing over the first two months of 2012 and payment of debts. In addition, since the start of 2012, the Finance Ministry sold 1.8 billion hrv in

(Continued on page 12)

## 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  
Editor: Matthew Dubas

e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, February 12, 2012, No. 7, Vol. LXXX

Copyright © 2012 The Ukrainian Weekly

### ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3041  
e-mail: admin@ukrweekly.com

Walter Honcharyk, advertising manager

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040  
fax: (973) 644-9510  
e-mail: adukr@optonline.net

Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042  
e-mail: subscription@ukrweekly.com

# NEWS ANALYSIS: Yanukovich awaits a third term or a third sentence

by **Taras Kuzio**

*Eurasia Daily Monitor*

Front for Change party leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk said in an interview in Fokus magazine: "In effect, in the country there is a two-party system. The post-Soviet system confronts the pro-European, the past versus the future" (<http://focus.ua/politics/213418/>). This view was repeatedly stated by opposition leaders on the January 22 anniversary of Ukraine's 1918 independence on St. Sophia Square in Kyiv (<http://www.pravda.com.ua/photo-video/2012/01/22/6925958/>).

Former Deputy Secretary of the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council Stepan Havrysh described the gloomy economic and energy situation in Ukraine: "Our current external debt (public and private) is about \$135 billion, our budget deficit is more than \$30 billion. External debt, which we need to return next year, is almost \$7 billion. Clearly, in these conditions, without external borrowing, which we are unable to do [we have a problem]. And [as] the IMF has ceased cooperating with Ukraine, this is obvious. The World Bank under these circumstances will not give any money [and] will not help." He added: "In 2008 there were 17 Western banks which had 40 percent of the banking system assets working in Ukraine. Today, most of them have left Ukraine, and capital repatriation by foreign investors continues. The Euro-2012 has not attracted major European, U.S. or Chinese investors to Ukraine. Privatization on which we rely takes place between a handful of groups who [deliberately] devalue these assets." This means Ukraine stands "between the surrender of key assets and technical default," he said. One solution really could be selling off the gas transport system, or key assets (<http://www.radiosvoboda.org/content/article/24424542.html>).

Tim Ash, global head of Emerging-Market Research and Strategy at the Royal Bank of Scotland, told the Jamestown Foundation that it is disappointing Ukraine

has not been able to negotiate a cheap gas contract with Russia as "this will put pressure on the fiscal and external financing side, with the current account deficit already widening and reserves dwindling."

Peterson Institute for International Economics Senior Fellow Anders Aslund also noted that "Ukraine's finances appear unsustainable" ([http://www.kyivpost.com/news/opinion/op\\_ed/detail/114846/](http://www.kyivpost.com/news/opinion/op_ed/detail/114846/)).

The respected weekly newspaper Dzerkalo Tyzhnia asked 20 Ukrainian experts whether a change in government is possible in 2012, to which most replied in the negative ([http://dt.ua/POLITICS/chi\\_mozhliva\\_zmina\\_vladi\\_v\\_ukrayini\\_nastupnogo\\_roku-94880.html](http://dt.ua/POLITICS/chi_mozhliva_zmina_vladi_v_ukrayini_nastupnogo_roku-94880.html)).

Ukraine's democracy is in free fall, according to Freedom House and the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Democracy Index. Freedom House, which had downgraded Ukraine from "free" for 2009 to "partly free" for 2010, repeated that assessment for 2011. This month, Freedom House reported that "the steepest decline in the institutions of freedom has taken place in Ukraine" from 3 to 4. A ranking of 5.5-7 would classify Ukraine as "not free" (i.e. authoritarian, as in Belarus and Russia). The EIU reported that Ukraine dropped from a "flawed democracy" (2010) to a "hybrid regime" (2011) or 67th to 79th in 2010-2011.

The 2012 Index of Economic Freedom compiled by the Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal ranked Ukraine last at 43rd in Europe and worldwide at 163rd, behind Belarus (153rd) and Russia (144th). This represents a massive drop since 2008, when Ukraine was ranked 133rd (See [http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraines\\_economic\\_rankings\\_mired\\_in\\_deline\\_despite\\_attempts\\_at\\_reform/24453299.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraines_economic_rankings_mired_in_deline_despite_attempts_at_reform/24453299.html)).

The Yanukovich regime has limited options to deal with these mounting crises. Mr. Ash, like Mr. Havrysh and former U.S. Ambassador Steven Pifer ([http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/1226\\_ukraine\\_pifer.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/1226_ukraine_pifer.aspx)), believe bad relations with the European Union and the

International Monetary Fund have made the situation worse. Mr. Ash told Jamestown, "something has to change from the current policy mix."

If the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich takes Ukraine into the CIS Customs Union and transfers the country's gas pipelines to a Russian-controlled consortium – a move Prime Minister Mykola Azarov is supporting – severe political instability will be inevitable (<http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2012/01/20/6921766/>). Ukrainian elites have held a consensus for two decades to not give up the pipelines and a February 2007 law that bans lease, rent or sale of the pipelines, which Yulia Tymoshenko mobilized 430 (out of 450) national deputies to adopt, was backed by the Party of Regions.

The transfer of the gas pipelines, following the unconstitutional extension of the Black Sea Fleet base until 2042-2047, would be seen across the entire opposition as treason.

These factors are compounded by the Tymoshenko factor in the 2012 and 2015 elections. Ukrainian expert Serhiy Kudelia, currently at George Washington University, told Jamestown on January 23, that, "by taking revenge on Yulia Tymoshenko, his political rival, Yanukovich set a new precedent in Ukrainian politics as never before have Ukrainian leaders prosecuted their predecessors."

Mr. Kudelia added, "However, this also poses a new strategic dilemma for Yanukovich. He would either have to stay on as president for a third term in 2020 or risk receiving a third, possibly now lifelong term in jail once he leaves the presidency. Whoever replaces him in the president's office will now have a free hand and sufficient grounds to put Yanukovich behind bars for good."

Calls for President Yanukovich to be impeached and for the Party of Regions to be made illegal and its leaders criminally charged are growing louder and span the entire opposition spectrum (see Mr. Yatsenyuk, Anatoliy Grytsenko, and nationalist leader Oleh Tiahnybok in Ukrayinska

Pravda, January 15 and 22). Former Defense Minister Grytsenko, currently the head of Parliament's Committee on National Security and Defense, described the Yanukovich administration as a "junta" that has "usurped power" and is "destroying the country" (<http://www.kyivpost.ua/opinion/op-ed/partiya-regioniv-bude-rozpushena-yiyi-vishe-kerivnictvo-pide-pid-sud-odrazu-pislya-prezidentskih-viboriv-35236.html>).

It will be impossible for Mr. Yanukovich to win a second term with his popularity at around 10 percent, as this would require massive amounts of election fraud (experts believe fraud can be hidden only up to approximately 10 percent – and even that is pushing it).

In December 2004, Prime Minister Yanukovich presided over a record 12 percent GDP growth and received 44 percent support in the repeat second round. Today, his popularity is collapsing in his home bases of Donbas and the Crimea. Massive election fraud of this magnitude is impossible in Ukraine, where opposition support dominates one-half of the country.

Unlike in Belarus and Russia, where Soviet and Great Power Russian nationalism underpins the Lukashenka and Putin regimes, the Party of Regions cannot rely on nationalism to stay in power. The Party of Regions mobilizes its voters against Ukrainian nationalism (i.e. "Orange" political forces).

High levels of political instability in the 2012 elections and in the run-up to the 2015 elections could be compounded by President Yanukovich and his administration fearing criminal charges if they are removed from office. This charged atmosphere makes it difficult to imagine how such political instability could end peacefully, unlike the non-violent 2004 Orange Revolution. Such an eventuality would seriously threaten the unity of Ukraine.

*The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, [www.jamestown.org](http://www.jamestown.org).*

## Rep. Marcy Kaptur meets with Tymoshenko's daughter

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, met on February 3 with Eugenia (Yevhenia) Tymoshenko, the daughter of the former prime minister of Ukraine, after she testified at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the politically motivated persecution of her mother, Yulia Tymoshenko.

Rep. Kaptur and Eugenia Tymoshenko spoke at length about the former prime minister's detention, appeal, and concerns over her health and safety. In response to Yulia Tymoshenko's imprisonment, Rep. Kaptur in October 2011 introduced a resolution, H.Res. 435, condemning her politically charged prosecution by President Viktor Yanukovich's government. Yulia Tymoshenko had lost the presidential election to Mr. Yanukovich just a few months before she was imprisoned.

"The international community sees this trial against former Prime Minister Tymoshenko as a selective prosecution, brought on for political reasons," said Rep. Kaptur.

In November 2011, reports emerged that Yulia Tymoshenko was in very poor health in jail. "The physical well-being of the former prime minister has become a serious concern," Rep. Kaptur said. "Several Western ambassadors have been denied access to her, and she is even being denied access to a personal physician. She must be guaranteed access to adequate medical care."

In addition to the resolution, Rep. Kaptur has condemned the persecution of Ms. Tymoshenko on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives and has joined members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which represents over 1 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, in calling for Congressional hearings on Ms. Tymoshenko's treatment.

"The Ukrainian government's recent actions are a setback for democracy and human rights. I have worked for decades to strengthen ties between the U.S. and Ukraine, and this could put a strain on the relationship between Ukraine, the U.S. and the international community," said Rep. Kaptur.

## Cold-weather...

(Continued from page 2)

Even now, authorities have sought to portray the winter-related casualties as an affliction affecting social outcasts.

Hryhorii Marchenko of Ukraine's Emergencies Ministry said on February 6 that alcohol abuse was to blame for most of the recent deaths.

Pavlo Rozenko, an expert on social policy with the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center, says a negative stance toward the homeless was contributing to a poor official response to the crisis.

Official statistics put the number of homeless in Ukraine at just 15,000, although civic organizations say the actual figure is closer to 600,000-800,000.

### Lack of shelter and warmth

Mr. Rozenko also suggests that the number of people dying from the cold is also higher than official figures suggest.

"It's clear that government statistics are underestimating the number of deaths," he says. "The authorities are registering only those deaths that they see. But homeless people aren't only dying outside on the street. They're also dying in run-down premises – places where there's no heat, no water. It's clear that those kinds of deaths

are taking place out of the view of the authorities."

Ukraine's Health Ministry has said that forensic examinations must be conducted to determine the cause of death in the wave of recent fatalities, and that a diagnosis of hypothermia – a drop in body temperature that is the most common cause of cold-related deaths – could not be automatically assumed in all cases.

Tetyana Yurchenko, the head of the ministry's press service, said many people had died in their homes and as a result of heart problems.

But Mr. Brilyuk, who has seen many acquaintances die in the past week, claims it's the cold that's the killer – particularly for those, like him, who have no access to the basic comforts of shelter and warmth.

"The house manager throws them out," he says. "The neighbors throw them out. And a person simply goes out on the street and freezes. Where can he go?"

*Written by Daisy Sindelar in Prague based on reporting from Kyiv by Tetyana Yarmoshchuk and Mykola Zakalyuzhny.*

Copyright 2012, RFE/RL Inc. Reprinted with the permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1201 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036 ([http://www.rferl.org/content/cold\\_weather\\_deaths\\_high\\_light\\_plight\\_of\\_ukraines\\_homeless/24476610.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/cold_weather_deaths_high_light_plight_of_ukraines_homeless/24476610.html)).

# New Jersey resident supports first L'Arche home in Ukraine

by Matthew Matuszak

LVIV – On November 17, 2011, Lviv became the site of the first L'Arche home to open in Ukraine and the first in the former Soviet Union. Natalie C. Patrylak of New Jersey, whose family belonged to Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Jersey City, donated \$100,000 for the purchase and reconstruction of the building, in honor of her brother, the late Peter Lloyd Patrylak (1945-2006), who was mentally challenged.

"Founded in France by Jean Vanier in 1964, today L'Arche is an International Federation of 135 communities in 36 countries," said Zenia Kushpeta of L'Arche-Daybreak in Toronto, a volunteer in Ukraine for the last 19 years who has



Myron Pelekh (right), one of the community members who will live in the new L'Arche-Kovcheh home, enjoys participating in the opening ceremonies.

helped found organizations there for people with special needs.

"In L'Arche, people with intellectual disabilities and young people – assistants, live together in homes, sharing their lives and engaging in work and meaningful daytime activity. In Ukraine there are five L'Arche-Kovcheh dayprograms in Lviv and now we are blessed with the opening of the first L'Arche residential home," Ms. Kushpeta noted.

Ms. Kushpeta works in Ukraine, "to build awareness and to help change attitudes in society. L'Arche is a sign of unity and hope that we really can live together in community with people with intellectual challenges. Most often they transform our hearts and become our teachers of simplicity, forgiveness and trust. Now we have quite a few young people in Ukraine who are eager to live and work in community with those who have special needs."

Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Venedykt Aleksyichuk blessed the premises of the new residence, which can house four to five people with special needs and three to four young assistants. Also in attendance at the opening ceremony were Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi and his wife, Kateryna, who has been a volunteer at the L'Arche shelter workshops since 2007, and Taras Dobko, senior vice-rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

"The assistants are members of our community," said Sister Lucia Murashko, community leader of L'Arche-Kovcheh. ("L'Arche" is French for "The Ark" and "Kovcheh" is the Ukrainian translation.) "The important thing is that the person has a heart that is open and can understand a weaker person," she added.

Sister Lucia mentioned the great need for such homes. "The L'Arche-Kovcheh community alone," she said, "has 65 persons with developmental disabilities, so the need for such buildings is very great." Developmentally disabled persons whose parents have died and those experiencing difficult family situations will live in the home with young assistants.

In January 2007, Ms. Kushpeta received an e-mail that seemed to her "a little miracle." Apparently, Marion Hrubec had attended the ordination ceremony of Bishop Hlib Lonchyna at St. George Cathedral in Lviv in 2002. Bishop Lonchyna



Sister Lucia Murashko, community leader of L'Arche-Kovcheh, and Mykhailo Bruchykh, a member of the community.

had been the national chaplain for the Faith and Light communities in Ukraine (a partner organization of L'Arche), and members of the community were present at the ceremony together with Ms. Kushpeta. Ms. Hrubec met Ms. Kushpeta there and they spoke briefly.

Ms. Hrubec's cousin, Ms. Patrylak, had for years been saving money to be used to take care of her mentally challenged younger brother, Peter. She had been Peter's sole caregiver since the death of their mother. But Peter died in May 2006, and the following year, Ms. Patrylak asked her cousin, Ms. Hrubec, to assist her in finding a way to use this money to help people with special needs in Ukraine.

"It was L'Arche-Kovcheh's dream to open a residential home in Lviv sometime in the future," said Ms. Kushpeta. "And what a great blessing, that Ms. Patrylak wanted to support this dream!"

Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Stamford Eparchy helped to transfer the funds and anonymous donors provided additional money to purchase the building in February 2010. The legal issues and the reconstruction process provided many challenges. "It was a big project." Recounted Ms. Kushpeta.

"And the second floor needed to be constructed. But it has a lovely garden, and it's in the city of Lviv, as we had hoped."

According to Hanna Kossiv, board president of L'Arche-Kovcheh, now a special plaque has been placed in the home to honor Peter Lloyd Patrylak and to express the community's sincere gratitude to Ms. Patrylak for her generous donation, allowing L'Arche-Kovcheh to open and operate its first residential home. Next to the plaque, there is a photo of Peter Lloyd and his sister, Natalie, prominently displayed.

"This is a very special event," said Bishop Aleksyichuk. "In today's world, we often don't learn to respect one another. We see people who are different from ourselves. It's not easy for us to know how to be with them. Sometimes we call them 'not fully able,' ['nepovnospravni' in Ukrainian]. But each one of us, in his own way, is, in some areas, 'not fully able....'"

"This home, this community, gives us the opportunity to see that those who are different are not ill, not handicapped, not needy, but simply different. Their presence in our community, our Church, our society, is very important for us to realize, that each person is a gift from God," concluded the bishop.

## OBITUARY

### Natalie Danylenko, 86, community activist, supporter of education in Ukraine

PHILADELPHIA – Natalie Danylenko, a dedicated Ukrainian American community activist who supported education in Ukraine, died on December 30, 2011, at the age of 86.

She was the wife of the late Ivan Danylenko and a longtime resident of Somerdale, N.J.

She was born in 1925 to Dmytro and Natalia Moskaliv in Buzhany, Volyn Oblast, Ukraine, where she spent her early years and attended school. Later she moved to Germany, where she attended university, receiving training in chemistry. She moved to Canada and finally settled in the United States.

Having met and married Mr. Danylenko, she attended Temple University, completing her education in chemistry. She worked as a chemist in the pharmaceuticals field, and eventually retired from Wyeth Laboratories.

A trendsetter, she was the first woman

to receive accreditation from the Union League of Philadelphia, a noted civic organization founded in 1862.

Highly engaged in the Ukrainian community, Mrs. Danylenko tirelessly gave of herself to numerous groups and organizations, locally, nationally and internationally, among them the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations.

She and her husband became strong supporters of education in Ukraine, including the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Kyiv, where they supported a variety of cultural, historical and political studies projects, and the National University of Ostroh Academy in Ostroh, Rivne Oblast, where the couple funded scholarships for students participating in annual competitions of scientific works.

Both educational institutions honored Mrs. Danylenko with their highest honors,

the St. Petro Mohyla Medal and the Prince Kostiantyn Ostrozky Medal, respectively, as well as other distinctions. Ostroh Academy announced in January that the Natalie Danylenko Scholarship for female post-graduate students had been established in her honor.

At Kyiv Mohyla Academy, thanks to Mrs. Danylenko's initiative, the Information Center for Women's Organizations of Ukraine was established. She was also one of the initiators of the National Council of Women of Ukraine, which encompasses 22 organizations.

Funeral services were held on January 9 at St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Philadelphia. Burial followed at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, NJ.

The family advised that memorial donations may be made to: Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America, P.O. Box 46009, Chicago, IL, 60646.



Natalie Danylenko in a 2009 photo.

## Opposition grows...

(Continued from page 1)

connected oligarchs and creates a Byzantine bureaucracy that only serves the wealthiest, who can pay the handsomest bribes or pull the proper strings to get their way.

"Why not create a single simple and transparent auction sale for all the country's land?" is a rhetorical question," said Oleksander Paliy, a leading political and history expert in Kyiv. "Because the more complicated the procedure, the fatter the fish in muddy waters," he said, referring to the thick layers of bureaucracy created by the legislation.

The legislation allows for different types of sales and arrangements, even without a minimum price, which critics argue opens the door to preying upon poorly informed, even desperate villagers.

As the legislation currently reads, Ukraine's farmland market will be open to two types of players: the state and private citizens. Excluded are private companies and any foreigners.

Yet the law doesn't allow all Ukrainian citizens to participate – only those who have declared their incomes annually.

Based on that condition, it's no coincidence that the vast majority of Ukraine's rural populace would be ineligible to participate, given that their meager, subsistence-level earnings aren't even worth declaring for tax purposes, experts said.

About "80 percent of Ukraine's villagers, who live off the sale of their agricultural production, won't be able to be buyers," estimated Volodymyr Lapa, the director of UKAB. "Farm and agrarian enterprises are also excluded. There aren't many citizens who can declare large personal revenue in Ukraine."

Indeed, those who do enjoy large revenue are typically a small circle of oligarchs in every district and oblast center, experts said, in addition to the fat cats in Ukraine's "milliony" cities. Most of these oligarchs are connected to the Party of Regions, directly or indirectly, and will be able to scoop up large tracts without much competition.

The legislation ignores the recommendation of parliamentary experts, who suggested retaining the clause of the current Land Code that limits purchases to those citizens who live on the territory of the transaction's corresponding government council.

"That could have been even more strictly defined, with the purchase of land parcels limited to permanent residents with their largest land parcel located no further than 20 kilometers [12 miles] away," Mr. Paliy said. "But then, do bureaucrats and speculators need to move to villages?"

"To prevent land speculation, it would be worth introducing a ban on its resale more often than every three years," he added. "But why would deputies need this, if the laws are written to take the land cheaply and organize its speculative resale?"

Indeed, the land market legislation merely creates an entire new caste in the Ukrainian economy of speculators, Mr. Lissitsa said – well-financed middlemen who buy the land for cheap and resell it at exponential profit to potential corporate buyers, whether foreign or domestic.

As a result, social tensions are likely to emerge between Ukraine's destitute rural population, which will be shut out of the market, and wealthy urban residents, who will become large landlords, Mr. Lissitsa said.

The legislation's proponents point out that limits are in place to prevent large land concentration. Namely, individual or corporate renters are limited to 6,000 hectares (about 14,800 acres), or 5 percent of the land in a given oblast.

Yet, owning 5 percent of land in several oblasts essentially amounts to egregious land concentration, critics argue.

Another loophole is the option of renting out land, a practice which produces almost the same result as if it were to be sold. For instance, while foreigners can't own land, they can rent the land without limit and trade these rental agreements.

"In practice, the right to long-term rent almost in no way differentiates itself from the right to ownership," Mr. Paliy said. "Officials spoke of their intentions to allow landlords to break their rental agreements but 'forgot' to write this into the legislation."

Perhaps the bill's most criticized clause is the creation of a State Land Market Operator to approve all land transactions throughout Ukraine.

"The state's most valuable asset would come under the control of a single structure," wrote Viktor Matchuk, a national deputy with the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense Bloc.

"An enormous, artificial, parasitical superstructure is introduced. Moreover, according to the legislation, this state operator carries no responsibility for its actions. It only has authority – to conduct trades, to review documents, to decide on allowing or blocking trades, and to remove auctioneers. In other words, everything in Ukraine's land market would depend on it."

The bill also creates a State Land Bank with the exclusive right to loan money to citizens, with land as its collateral. The law would forbid offering farmland as collateral to any other bank.

Such planned government organs undermine any claims to creating a free land market, Mr. Paliy pointed out, as do the legislation's contradictory clauses that both forbid and require forced land consolidation.

It remains unclear whether the Party of Regions leadership will take these criticisms into account when introducing the bill's second reading. National deputies have delayed its review several times. Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn said on February 6 that it won't be voted on this session.

Once the rules of the land market are established, the Verkhovna Rada also needs to vote on creating a land cadastre.

Ukraine's "chornozem" (black earth) – known worldwide for its unparalleled mineral wealth and fertility – could go on sale as early as January 1, 2013.

After analyzing the farmland trade laws of other First World countries such as the United States and Poland, UKAB determined the current legislation in Ukraine doesn't compare in terms of attracting investment and developing high technology in farming.

The legislation offers no rights to Ukraine's homegrown agricultural giants, such as poultry producer Myronivskii Khiboproduct, sugar maker Astarta Holding, sunflower oil producer Kernel Holding and processor Agroton Ltd., all publicly traded companies that have enormous potential on the Ukrainian market, under civilized conditions.

"Today we don't know where we're going to be in five years, and that's very unfortunate," Mr. Lissitsa said. "Will we be like Brazil, becoming one of the top six economies in the world? Or will we return to 20 years ago, when the Soviet Union fell?"



## THE UNA FORUM

### Carolers visit Home Office



Lev Khmelkovsky

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Students and instructors of the Ukrainian Music Institute in Whippany, N.J., visited the Home Office of the Ukrainian National Association on December 27, 2011. Carolers included Diana and Oles Yaroshchak, Sophia Kowal, Yuliana and Adriana Olesnycky, Ulana Leschuk, along with violinist Andriy Havrysh and bandurist Kalyna Leschuk. The children were accompanied by Lilia Kushnir, Ivan Leschuk and Myroslava Yaroshchak, who collected funds for the needs of the music school.



Matthew Dubas

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Home Office of the Ukrainian National Association was visited on December 27, 2011, by members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association branch in Jersey City, N.J. The carolers were led by Olenka Halkowycz.

## Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.



THE UNA: 117 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

## "Ukraine at a Crossroads"

In what was the first Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in years devoted exclusively to Ukraine, that body's Subcommittee on European Affairs on February 1 held a hearing on the topic "Ukraine at a Crossroads: What's at Stake for the U.S. and Europe?" Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), who presided at this very significant hearing, opened with remarks noting that Ukraine is "one of the largest and most strategically located countries on the European continent," "a unique and critical player in Euro-Atlantic economic, energy and security considerations" and "an important test case for reform in this part of the world." She set the stage for the afternoon by stating, "We are here today because the path Ukraine ultimately chooses matters to the United States and to our European allies. As a result, the U.S. and Europe must play a more aggressive role in encouraging Ukraine to continue down the path of reform." Both Chairwoman Shaheen and Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) expressed concern about politically motivated prosecutions of opposition leaders, lack of rule of law and the erosion of democracy in Ukraine.

Steven Pifer, senior fellow at The Brookings Institution and a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, began his testimony by pointing out that "the first two years of President [Viktor] Yanukovich's tenure in office have seen a significant regression in democratic practices within Ukraine," which "is blocking the strengthening of Ukraine's relations with the European Union and the United States. EU officials have made clear, for example, that the signature of an EU Association Agreement with Ukraine depends on Kyiv taking certain steps, such as releasing former Prime Minister [Yulia] Tymoshenko from prison." He argued that, "While engaging Ukraine at most diplomatic levels," the U.S. and the EU "should continue what appears to be a de facto policy of minimizing high-level contact with Mr. Yanukovich until he alters his internal political policies. The West should seek to crystallize in Mr. Yanukovich's mind the choice between a more authoritarian political system and a strong relationship with the West, and make clear that he cannot have both."

Damon Wilson, executive VP of the Atlantic Council, spoke thus of Ukraine today: "Ukraine teeters between Eurasian malaise and an ambivalent Europe. Indeed, Ukraine's future is in play. Decisions taken now and in the coming year by President Yanukovich and his government, the Ukrainian political opposition, civil society, media and youth – as well as the United States and Europe – will determine whether Ukraine evolves into a European democracy or descends into a post-Soviet authoritarian kleptocracy." Thus, Ukraine is, indeed, at a crossroads. He added that Ukraine faces three key tests: "its handling of political prosecutions, the October parliamentary elections and its energy security." He concluded by emphasizing that "Western policy can help sharpen the choices facing Ukrainian leaders."

Edward Chow, senior fellow with the Energy and National Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that, as far as energy is concerned, Ukraine is no longer at a crossroads, but is now on a "dangerous path to energy insecurity, which has accelerated in the last two years." Mr. Chow testified: "Ukraine's oil and gas sector is operated in a totally dysfunctional manner. This, as they say in this part of the world, is not an accident. Various state energy assets have been hijacked by rent seekers for their private gain. Regulation and pricing are left deliberately murky in order to benefit private interests." He suggested that the U.S. and its European allies "invest in a direct dialogue with the Ukrainian people if we believe we have a stake in the energy health of this important country."

The star at the hearing was Eugenia Tymoshenko, who spoke on behalf of her mother, the imprisoned former prime minister of Ukraine. She testified that her mother has been "illegally imprisoned, maltreated and humiliated for six months by the regime, which is trying to break her." Though "her spirits are high," she said, "her health is failing." Ms. Tymoshenko reported that the regime uses sleep deprivation and intimidation; her mother's cell is lit all hours of the day and she is watched and filmed 24 hours a day; she is interrogated in her cell, sometimes for 12 hours straight; and she is denied a medical examination by independent doctors.

Ms. Tymoshenko added, however, that "this is not only about my mother. ... Others are being repressed and unjustly imprisoned." Ukraine is turning into "an authoritarian regime with leaders of the opposition sitting in jail." Ms. Tymoshenko said she was at the hearing "to plead that America do all that it can to preserve democracy in my country." She ended her testimony with these words: "I ask you to speak out, loudly and clearly, so that the people of my country do not feel abandoned and lose hope."

Asked if there other actions the U.S. can take to help, Ms. Tymoshenko said the pressure on the Yanukovich regime is growing and it must continue. She cited the recent resolution passed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which proposed concrete actions to reverse Kyiv's current course and resolve the crisis in Ukraine that touches everyone. She asked the U.S. to work in tandem with the EU to see to it that PACE's recommendations are implemented.

Clearly, U.S. legislators and analysts see that Ukraine today is at a crucial crossroads. The question remains: Does President Yanukovich understand that?

COMMENTARY: *The suppression of an independent judiciary in Ukraine*

by Bohdan A. Futey

For over a year, news about the judiciary in Ukraine has been alarming. Last year, a new law on the judiciary substantially reduced the powers of the Supreme Court, and high-profile prosecutions of opposition leaders have raised the specter of political persecution.

As recently pointed out in the appeal of National Deputy Hryhoriy Omelchenko, the government of Ukraine has a fundamental, unresolved issue. Although the Constitution sets up a system of separated powers with three, independent branches of government, the recent trend in Ukraine has been to collapse the judiciary into the executive and to remove the judiciary's power. Although this trend started with the former president, it has accelerated under the current president.

Ukraine now faces an almost total suppression of the Supreme Court of Ukraine and the elimination of an independent judiciary. A hobbled judiciary cannot protect the rights of the Ukrainian people. It is critical for all three branches of government, as well as the people of Ukraine, to closely adhere to the Constitution.

A brief background on the history of constitutional and legislative developments related to the judiciary, as well as some notes on the values enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine may be helpful in assessing Deputy Omelchenko's appeal.

## The Constitution

Ukraine adopted its Constitution on June 28, 1996. Under Article 124, the court system has the exclusive task of administering justice, and judicial proceedings are to be held before the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and the courts of general jurisdiction. Article 125 sets the Supreme Court of Ukraine as the highest judicial body for courts of general jurisdiction.

Furthermore, Article 129 sets forth numerous guiding principles for legal proceedings. Under that article, the Constitution specifies, among other things, that all are equal before the law, that trials must be open, and that all are entitled to the adversarial process.

The Constitution in Chapter XV provided for a five-year transitional period to establish the judiciary system outlined in the Constitution. Under these provisions, the Supreme Court of Ukraine was to begin to exercise its authority in accordance with the current laws in force, while a system of courts was set up that would meet the requirements of Article 125. This period was to last no longer than five years.

Many of the provisions of the Constitution, however, were not put into effect by the end of that five-year window. This necessitated the adoption of the small law on the judiciary in 2001.

The latest large-scale change to the judiciary, the "Law of Ukraine On the Judiciary and the Status of Judges," No.2453-VI ("judicial reform"), was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada on July 7, 2010, and signed

*Bohdan A. Futey is a judge on the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, appointed by President Ronald Reagan in May 1987. Judge Futey has been active in various rule of law and democratization programs in Ukraine since 1991. He has participated in judicial exchange programs, seminars and workshops, and has been a consultant to the working group on Ukraine's Constitution and Ukrainian Parliament. He also served as an official observer during the parliamentary elections in 1994, 1998, 2002 and 2006, and presidential elections in 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2010, and conducted briefings on Ukraine's election law and guidelines for international observers.*

into law by the president on July 27, 2010. Although comments on the draft of this new law were submitted by the European Commission to Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and the rule of law project of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), most of these comments were not incorporated into the law that was passed. Unfortunately, Ukraine's organized legal community of lawyers and jurists has kept silent on this topic.

The law did include a number of positive and progressive provisions that intend to aid judicial independence, including automatic/random case assignment, inclusion of the State Judiciary Administration within the judiciary itself, improvements to court financing, a financial disclosure requirement, provisions for training judges, and a reduction of the number of justices of the Supreme Court.

On the other hand, many provisions of the new law are problematic. For example, under Article 19 the president of Ukraine can create and abolish courts of general jurisdiction, based on a recommendation from the minister of justice and following a proposal from the chief judge of the relevant high specialized court. The Constitution does not, however, give the president the power to liquidate courts, and allowing the executive to do so would place too much power in one person's hands.

Another key area of concern is the decreasing role of the Supreme Court of Ukraine under the new law. Under the Constitution, the Supreme Court is the highest judicial body within the courts of general jurisdiction. Pursuant to the new law, however, the high specialized courts can decide whether to submit the case for further review to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court's power essentially vanishes under this new law, since it cannot exercise its own discretion over the cases it hears.

Furthermore, under the new law a vote of no-confidence in the chief justice can now be taken by a lower-than-normal quorum of the plenary session of the Supreme Court. This is a questionable practice. Under Article 45, a plenary session is competent if at least two-thirds of its members are present, "except for events envisaged by this law." Under Article 43, a plenary session can convene to issue a vote of no-confidence in the chief justice with only a majority of the plenary session present.

This type of vote is sufficiently serious to warrant at least the presence of the normal quorum of the Plenary Session, and it is questionable why a lower-than-normal quorum should be able to convene to take such serious action. In addition, selection of the chief justice by the plenum of the Supreme Court has recently become political, since the Chief Justice and other officials are not selected individually but by list, which implies an association reminiscent of a political party.

As outlined in the new law, the selection process for judges is also too political, since it involves the High Council of Justice. This involvement politicizes the selection process, since a majority of the council's members belong to or are appointed by the executive or legislature. Ukrainians must be able to trust that their judiciary serves the law, rather than a political party, and requiring judges to receive the recommendation of a political body hinders this trust.

The new law also requires that judges take an oath of office at a ceremony in the presence of the president. This could pose problems if the president refuses to attend such a ceremony, which could prevent a judge from being sworn into office. A similar problem occurred in Ukraine when the Parliament would not convene to swear in

(Continued on page 16)

Feb.  
16  
2010

## Turning the pages back...

Two years ago, on February 16, 2010, outgoing President Viktor Yushchenko held a press conference at the Presidential Secretariat, which included a question by The Ukrainian Weekly's Kyiv correspondent, Zenon Zawada.

Mr. Zawada prefaced his question by expressing the Ukrainian diaspora's concerns about Ukraine's derailed Eurointegration, and asked why Mr. Yushchenko placed a five-year battle with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko above a consistent policy of Euro-Atlantic integration.

(Continued on page 17)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Remembering Jerome Shestack

Dear Editor

Ukraine has many fair-weather friends, so it was wonderful to read, "In Memoriam: Jerome Shestack, dedicated champion of human rights" (December 25, 2011) about a steadfast friend of Ukraine.

In her remembrance, Ulana Mazurkevich beautifully and eloquently pays tribute to a true friend of Ukraine. If only we had more like him.

Luba Lyons  
Philadelphia

### Committee seeks archival materials

Dear Editor:

The Committee for the Defense of Soviet Political Prisoners (CDSPP) was formed in January 1972 in response to the mass arrests of Soviet dissidents. Over the next 10 years, the committee was involved in numerous projects, including demonstrations, rallies, lectures and publications.

Former members of CDSPP are now collecting materials in order to establish an archive to document our activities. We are looking for posters, pamphlets, photos, correspondence, local newspaper articles, video footage and similar items.

We appeal to former members and/or supporters to help us in this endeavor. Should you have any materials or artifacts that could be used to supplement and enrich our archive, please contact Marusya Proskurenko at mproskurenko@gmail.com.

Marusya Proskurenko  
Berkeley Heights, N.J.

### About "Russia for Russians"

Dear Editor:

Print and online media all over the world are now carrying coverage of Russian protests against Vladimir Putin's re-election as president. One of the various groups in the anti-Putin demonstrations is the Russian ultra-nationalists. I agree wholeheartedly with their position: Russia for Russians only.

Russia needs to bring back every Russian that is in Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and all the other countries once part of the Soviet Union. They should also bring back all the Russians from the autonomous regions spread out over the Russian Federation, like the Caucasus republics, the Turkic and Tatar areas on either side of the Urals, all of Siberia – in fact all the Russians from between the Volga River and the Pacific Ocean.

In this manner, they could re-establish their original country, Muscovy, and force all non-Muscovites to go back where they came from. The result would be the desired "Russia for Russians only." They, of course, could continue using their acquired Slavic language; why go back to the original Finno-Ugric?

Would it not be worthy of a Nobel Peace Prize if this major step towards world peace were to be taken by Russian ultra-nationalists?

Andrew Zwarun  
Austin, Texas

### The correct credit for Spirit Lake photo

Dear Editor:

The correct photo credit for the picture of the women and children interned at Spirit Lake ("Spirit Lake's 'enemy aliens'" by Lubomyr Luciuk, January 8) should read: "Palmer Collection, National Archives of Canada," or "from the documentary 'Freedom Had A Price' directed by Yuriy Luhovy."

The photo is part of a substantial collection of photographs taken by J. Palmer, a soldier stationed at Spirit Lake during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920. The collection was given to me by Palmer's daughter while my co-researcher, Zorianna, and I, were doing research for "Freedom Had A Price" in the late 1970s.

Because of the high flammability of the nitrite film on which the pictures were taken, as well as to provide accessibility to researchers upon their restoration, we decided to donate the entire collection to the National Archives of Canada and named it the "Palmer Collection" in honor of the soldier who took the photos.

This much-reproduced picture and many others from the "Palmer Collection" were incorporated into the documentary "Freedom Had A Price, Canada's First National Internment Operations 1914-1920."

Yuriy Luhovy  
Montreal

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The information above was not provided to The Ukrainian Weekly by the author of the commentary. Thank you to Mr. Luhovy for setting the record straight and providing interesting historical background to the photo.*

### Thanks for info about the UIMA

Dear Editor:

I am interested in activities at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (Chicago), and would like to thank Sonya Arko Shidenko and Anna Bohoniuk-Golash for the article "UIMA presents 'A New Generation of Literary Voices'" and Orysia Kossak-Cardoso for "UIMA caps 40th anniversary year with gala banquet."

And thank you to The Ukrainian Weekly for providing a forum.

N. L. Kosowsky  
Portland, Ore.

### We welcome your opinion

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

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

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

## CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

### A sheep's tale

One Sunday morning when Ivanko was 14 he announced he wasn't going to church. "What do you mean?" asked his mother. "All your friends will be there."

"No they won't. Josh and Ahmed won't be there, and Sean and Kevin are going to the mall."

"But your Ukrainian friends... besides, God wants you to go to church!"

"How do you know that? Show me in the Bible where God says we have to go to church."

"You know the Third Commandment. And Jesus said, 'Where two or three of you are gathered...'"

"Nobody knows what Jesus really said. A professor said so on the History Channel."

"It's the law of the Church," broke in his father.

"Rules are made to control people. The Church has always wanted to control people and take their money. My history teacher said so. Besides, church is boring."

"You're coming, and that's that." As soon as he'd said that, his father sensed power slipping from his hands.

"No I'm not! You can't make me! I'll call the ACLU and sue you for child abuse!"

So, Ivanko stopped going to church, except at Christmas and Easter, when he knew that at least some of his friends would be there.

Several years later, when Ivanko was home from college for the holidays, he ran into his friend Petro, who was studying at the seminary. They had a few beers. After a while they got to the subject of church. "I don't see why I can't just pray alone in my house. Or in a forest," said Ivanko.

"But do you?"

"That's beside the point. There's no reason to sit with a bunch of old people repeating the same stuff every week and listening to some stupid sermon. No offense – I'm sure your sermons would be great."

"Thanks. But you know, the whole point is to pray together with others. It's all about brotherhood and sisterhood..."

"Well, I guess I'm an individualist. I have my own opinions."

"Besides, the liturgy isn't the same every week, if you really pay attention. The texts are poetic and full of meaning. And they're constantly changing. In our Byzantine rite, every gesture has a deep significance. Then there's the iconography – every icon is a window to the infinite. And there's the beautiful choral music. It's like theater, opera, ballet."

"That choir yesterday was awful. And those icons are very amateurish. Besides, if I want performing arts I can go to Lincoln Center."

"Church isn't about entertainment. It reinforces faith. If you stop going to church, you'll lose your faith."

"No I won't. And I don't need some big organization controlling my mind. Religion is OK, but I don't need the Church."

"Religion without the Church is like democracy without a government. It becomes just an idea. The Church is where the faith is lived."

"Well, it hasn't done a very good job. I mean look at all those crusades and inquisitions and witch-hunts and pedophiles. Shevchenko and Franko had issues with the Church too."

"The Church is made up of human beings. You and I aren't exactly perfect, are we?"

Ivanko eventually became a trial attorney. Several years later he married Mariika, a brilliant anesthesiologist. They had a church wedding to please their parents. But on Sunday mornings they would go jogging, then go out to brunch. Or they'd spend the day shopping, gardening or working on their house, like most of their professional colleagues. They had two children, whom they named Veles and Marena (they were, after all, Ukrainian patriots, who always paid their UNA dues). Now their Sundays were dedicated to sports, outings, museums and concerts. Although other parents took their children to church, Ivanko and Mariika felt they shouldn't impose religion on their kids. When they grew up they could decide. So they only showed up for liturgy at Christmas and Easter, and for the occasional wedding, christening or funeral – though there seemed to be more and more funerals, and fewer weddings or christenings.

When Ivanko was in his 40s Mariika divorced him, changed her name to Muffie and ran off with a real estate developer. Then his father died. Father Petro officiated at the funeral. After the memorial dinner, they chatted. "So how are the kids?" asked Father Petro.

"Veles is doing great – he's a software developer in California."

"Married?"

"No, but he has a fiancée." Ivanko didn't mention that Veles and Rainbow had been living together for five years and had two children, Tolerance and E-Quality, but weren't ready for a commitment.

"How about your daughter?"

"Marena? Or Mariam, as she calls herself now," he said ruefully. "Not good. She's joined some Evangelical cult. Not your normal Protestants, but, you know, born-again weirdos."

Father Petro was going to make a clever observation, but bit his tongue. "So how about you? Are you still a believer?"

"I know all the proofs of God, but I don't find them convincing. I guess some people have faith, some don't. But I'm not an atheist – that's an unprovable dogma too. I guess I'm an agnostic. Like most educated people I know."

"But do you want to believe?"

"Oh, I don't know."

"You've always been a truth-seeker."

"Yeah, but not a truth-finder."

"The trouble with finding the truth is that then you have to live it. Most people are afraid of that. So they spend their lives making excuses."

About 10 years later, Ivanko had a fatal heart attack. Since he wasn't planning to die so young, he hadn't made provisions for the funeral. Mariam held a prayer service. Muffie, Mariam and Veles had his body cremated and placed in an urn in a non-denominational mausoleum.

When Father Petro heard the news, he said a prayer for Ivanko and Mariika-Muffie, for Veles and Marena-Mariam. Then he prayed for all the wandering sheep of the diaspora – so woolly-headed, so scattered, and so utterly lost.

Andrew Sorokowski can be reached at [samboritanus@hotmail.com](mailto:samboritanus@hotmail.com).

*With a checking account and online banking  
paying bills has never been easier!*

- **No checks to write**
- **No envelopes to lick**
- **No stamps to stick...**

*Just a click!*

**Sign up for e-statements also!**

**[www.selfreliancenyc.org](http://www.selfreliancenyc.org)**

**SELF RELIANCE NEW YORK**

***Federal Credit Union***

A full service financial institution serving the Ukrainian American community since 1951

**MAIN OFFICE:** 108 Second Avenue New York, NY 10003 Phone: 212 473-7310 Fax: 212 473-3251

**KERHONKSON :**

6325 Route 209  
Kerhonkson, NY 12446  
Tel: 845-626-2938  
Fax: 845 626-8636

**UNIONDALE:**

226 Uniondale Ave,  
Uniondale, NY 11553  
Tel: 516 565-2393  
Fax: 516 565-2097

**ASTORIA:**

32-01 31st Ave.  
Astoria, NY 11106  
TEL: 718 626-0506  
Fax: 718 626-0458

**LINDENHURST:**

225 N. 4th Street  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757  
Tel: 631 867-5990  
Fax: 631 867-5989

Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed  
by the full faith and credit of the United States government

**NCUA**

National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency



EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY



# Paul Plishka wraps up 45-year career at Metropolitan Opera

by Helen Smindak

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

NEW YORK – Bass Paul Plishka gave a farewell performance at the Metropolitan Opera on January 28, triumphantly capping a Met career that lasted 45 years and earned him the ranking of ninth-longest performer in the company's history.

A highly popular Met artist, Mr. Plishka drew a two-minute standing ovation as he entered the stage to sing the role of the Sacristan – his 1,642nd performance – in Puccini's glorious opera "Tosca." The thunderous applause was repeated when Mr. Plishka took curtain calls and when he appeared for an onstage presentation during the first-act intermission.

Acknowledging the ovation that greeted Mr. Plishka, Met managing director Peter Gelb remarked, "That's more applause than the president got for the state of the union address."

"This is not an alternative ending to Act 1," Mr. Gelb said, "but it is a bittersweet tableau in which we can wish a fond farewell to the storied career of one of our great, great artists – ladies and gentlemen, the great Paul Plishka. After a career of 45 years and 16 hundred and 42 performances, I don't think there's much we can do to change Paul's mind. However, while you and Sharon [directing his remarks to Mr. Plishka and his wife] are leading a life of leisure, we here will always be cherishing great memories of all your amazing performances on the Met stage, from 'Falstaff' to 'Walkure' to major roles in 'Boris [Godunov].'"

Presenting a memento to Mr. Plishka – a tsar's crown from "Boris Godunov" – Mr. Gelb noted that the singer was "a member of operatic royalty," having triumphed as Tsar Boris in many "Boris Godunov" appearances. "Thank you, Paul. Bravo. We will miss you," he concluded.

"Tosca" cast members standing around the pair, among them singers Patricia Racette and Robert Alagna, and conductor Mikko Franck, joined in the applause that swelled through the packed house.

In his response, Mr. Plishka credited his success to "the help of all these people you see behind me here – from the very first thing I did, which was about eight measures of music, through 'Don Carlos,' 'Boris Godunov' and 'Falstaff,' until tonight. And more so, I have to thank all of you out



Paul Plishka in "Boris Godunov."



Paul Plishka



Paul Plishka in "Falstaff."

there, because without you we wouldn't be up here."

Listeners of the Met's Saturday afternoon radio broadcasts, numbering some 11 million people around the world, were treated to a recording of Mr. Plishka singing the role of the philosopher Colline in Puccini's "La Boheme."

Describing the stage proceedings, radio commentator Margaret Juntwait said: "There's a beautiful spotlight on Paul Plishka, surrounded by so many colleagues, so many people, and the choirboys and acolytes who appeared with him in Act 1 are jumping up and down."

Ms. Juntwait said that one of Mr. Plishka's colleagues, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, commented earlier that "this man is a fantastic artist and a great colleague, my very favorite Falstaff, a fantastic mentor, a joyful companion on stage and a real example to me."

## A career with 88 roles

At the age of 70, Mr. Plishka can look back with pride on his long career, embracing 88 roles and sharing the stage with opera greats Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, Maria Guleghina, Renee Fleming, Samuel Ramey, Thomas Hampson, Dmitri Hvorostovsky and many others.

He took on all three bass roles in "Boris Godunov," appearing in a Boris production with two other distinguished Ukrainian basses, the Met's Andriy Dobriansky (who passed away on February 1) and Sergei Koptchak.

In recent years, the 6 foot 1 basso sang comprimario, or supporting roles, standing out in comic parts such as Dulcamara in Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore" and Bartolo in Rossini's "The Barber of Seville."

Mr. Plishka's career stretched far beyond the walls of the Metropolitan Opera house, taking him to cities across North America and to countries around the world. He appeared regularly with major opera companies in numerous cities, including San Francisco, Chicago, Seattle, San Diego, Houston, Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

In Europe, Mr. Plishka performed in Geneva, Munich, Barcelona, Vienna, Berlin, Paris and such leading opera centers as Covent Garden in London. Other appearances abroad included tours with La Scala Opera to Japan and Korea.

Mr. Plishka was discovered at the age of 17 by Armen Boyajian, a music teacher who was forming the Paterson Lyric Opera Theater, when he heard Mr. Plishka performing in a student production of "Oklahoma." Mr. Boyajian became

the young basso's voice teacher. At age 23, Mr. Plishka took first place in the Baltimore Opera Auditions and soon after won a prize in the Metropolitan Opera Regional Auditions.

Mr. Plishka joined the Met's national company in 1965. In 1967, when he was just 24, the Met offered him a contract to sing in New York. Over the years, his Met roles ranged from the comic Dulcamara to the tragic Boris Godunov, gaining outstanding reviews from music critics.

Since his Met debut as a monk in Ponchielli's "La Gioconda" on September 21, 1967, alongside Renata Tebaldi, Sherrill Milnes and Rosalind Elias, Mr. Plishka sang the title roles in Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov" and Verdi's "Falstaff," Philip II in "Don Carlo" and Leporello in "Don Giovanni."

## His Ukrainian heritage

Mr. Plishka was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Great American Opera Singers, and his artistry was further recognized when he received the Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1992.

Though his voice is most often associated with Italian opera, Mr. Plishka sings in Italian, French, German, English and Ukrainian. Proud of his Ukrainian heritage, he has given benefit concerts for the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Ukrainian Institute of America, accompanied by pianist Thomas Hrynkiw; the duo also appeared at a concert at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka Heritage Center. Mr. Plishka's first appearance at a Ukrainian function was a concert with Carlotta Ordassy-Baranska at The Cooper Union in New York.

Mr. Plishka's extensive discography includes ABC, Columbia, London, RCA and Vox recordings. His recording of the Verdi "Requiem" with the Atlanta Symphony and Robert Shaw won a Grammy Award for the best classical album of 1988.

He has also recorded "Luisa Miller" and "Marriage of Figaro" with James Levine and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony" with the London Philharmonic under Andre Previn.

Born and raised in Old Forge, Pa., Mr. Plishka is the son of Peter Plishka and Helen Patrician (the name is an Anglicized version of Petryshyn). His paternal grandparents came from the village of Habkivtsi, Lisko County, in what is now southeastern Poland; his maternal grandparents were residents of Ukraine's Lviv area.

# Szkafarowsky to perform at Metropolitan Opera

by Olia Rudyk

NEW YORK – Operatic bass Stefan Szkafarowsky, who has performed in almost every major opera house in the United States, as well as international venues as Macau, Chile, Brazil and Canada, will appear on February 17, 22 and 25 and March 2 and 8 in the lead bass role as the Bonze in The New York Metropolitan Opera's presentation of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly," with Placido Domingo as conductor.

Mr. Szkafarowsky's driving force and inspiration from the early age of 13 was his mother, the late Iwanna Prystacka-Szkafarowsky. Mr. Szkafarowsky made his singing debut at the age of 17 as the youngest solo performer in New York's Carnegie

Recital Hall on February 3, 1974.

Under the initial tutelage and guidance of Eugene Krachno, Mr. Szkafarowsky went on to study at the Westchester Conservatory of Music and, as a recipient of a scholarship, graduated from the American Opera Center for Young Artists at the Juilliard School of Music.

His first major contract was with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, where he established a reputation as a major talent with a bright future.

Mr. Szkafarowsky has traveled the world performing major bass roles. Among his most accomplished have been Basilio in "Il Barbiere di Siviglia," the Grand Inquisitor in "Don Carlos," Pimen in "Boris Godunov," the King in "Aida," Il Commendatore in

"Don Giovanni" and Friar Lawrence in "Romeo et Juliette."

He has earned wonderful reviews from a variety of critics.

The Denver Post wrote of his performance as Vodnik in "Rusalka": "Stefan Szkafarowsky, with his rock-solid bass voice, offers an affecting take on Vodnik."

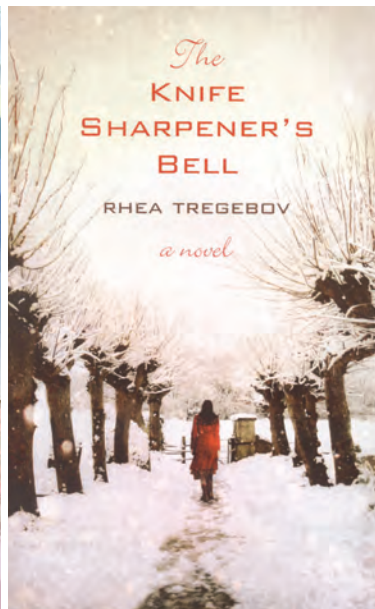
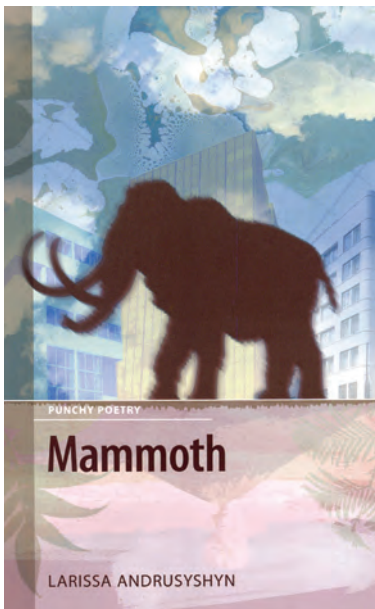
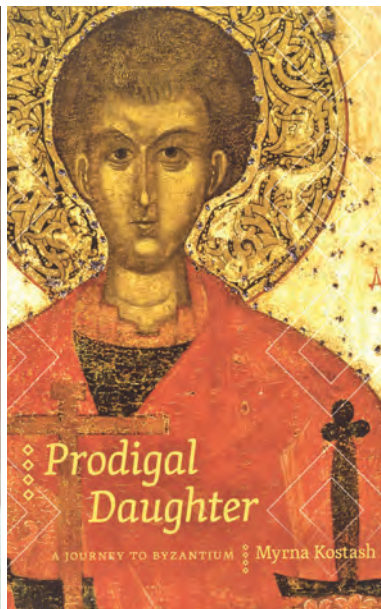
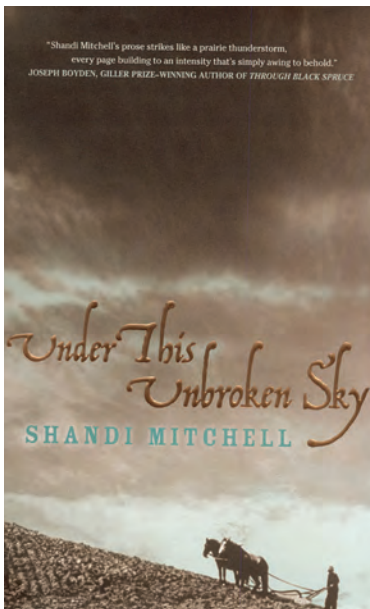
Opera News commented on him as Filippo in "Don Carlo": "Stefan Szkafarowsky sang a dynamically realized Filippo, displaying sure command of mellifluous instrument."

The Hartford Courant noted his role as Zaccaria in "Nabucco": "Stefan Szkafarowsky... infused the prophet Zaccaria with a burning intensity that lifted the level of the show whenever he was on stage."



Stefan Szkafarowsky

## Five books shortlisted for 2012 Kobzar Literary Award



Jews in  
Ukrainian  
Literature  
Representation  
and Identity  
Myroslav  
Shkandrij

by Oksana Zakydalsky  
Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

TORONTO – The \$25,000 biennial Kobzar Literary Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to Canadian literature through an author's presentation of a Ukrainian Canadian theme with literary merit, has announced the five finalists for this year's award: two novels, a memoir, an academic work and a book of poetry.

The inaugural Award Ceremony was held in 2006, and the fourth Kobzar Literary Award Ceremony will be held on March 1, 2012 in Toronto. The award was established and is supported by the Shevchenko Foundation and managed by Dr. Christine Turkewych, director of literary arts. The Kobzar Award Ceremony Committee comprising 18 literati and dedi-

cated professional women is chaired by Alla Shklar.

"Under the Unbroken Sky" by Shandi Mitchell is a tale of family, survival, love and betrayal. It begins in 1938 when Teodor Mykolayenko returns to his family and farm in Manitoba after a year in prison and, using the strength of will that enabled him to survive starvation, warfare and Stalin's crimes in Ukraine, he makes the crops grow and the family begins to heal. When a returning brother-in-law threatens to take away everything they have built, they have to face a family betrayal.

Giller Award winner Joseph Boyden called the novel "brilliant and honest and brutal," while a New York Times review called it "dazzling."

Ms. Mitchell is a filmmaker and screenwriter whose award-winning short films

have been featured at festivals across North America. She lives in Nova Scotia. "Under the Unbroken Sky" is her first novel.

The narrative of Rhea Tregebov's "The Knife Sharpener's Bell" begins in 1935 and is also centered on the trials faced by an immigrant family – but this time a Ukrainian Jewish family living in Winnipeg. To escape from their disappointments in Winnipeg during the depression, the family returns to Odesa with hopes of experiencing an ideal communist life. But they have come to the Stalin-era USSR, where terror reigns while the country is soon plunged into the horrors of World War II.

Ms. Tregebov is an award-winning poet and author of books for children. Born in 1953 in Saskatoon, she grew up in Winnipeg and teaches creative writing at the University of British Columbia.

Myrna Kostash is well known to Canadians as a writer of "creative non-fiction." Since the publication of "All of Baba's Children" in 1977, she has written on the Ukrainian-Canadian experience several times. In her book "The Prodigal Daughter: A Journey to Byzantium" Ms. Kostash shares her experiences in confronting her childhood religion of Eastern Orthodoxy, its roots in Byzantium and its renderings into Slavic and Greek versions.

Ms. Kostash's journey, through Greece and the Balkans, centers on the variety of images and stories of the Great Saint of the East, St. Demetrius of Thessalonica. Conscientiously researched, the book is a personal journey that examines the shifting parameters of ethnic, national and religious identity.

(Continued on page 11)

# How are our children supposed to prevent **genocide** tomorrow,

# if today

# they can't learn the truth about

# **HOLODOMOR?**



## HELP MANKIND KNOW THE TRUTH

With **VISA® Holodomor Credit Card** you can contribute to construction of the Memorial dedicated to the victims of Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933 in Washington, D.C., at no extra cost to you

## APPLY IN YOUR LOCAL BRANCH NOW

\* Subject to credit approval. Contributions are based on purchases only, cash advances and balance transfers not eligible. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply. You will be given further information when you apply. See website and facebook.com/UkrNatFCU for additional benefits. **VISA® Holodomor Credit Card** is a result of partnership between Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union and the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-33.

Ukrainian  
National  
FCU.org



**VISA**



## Five books...

(Continued from page 10)

Active in the Canadian literary community, Ms. Kostash was a founding member of the Periodical Writers' Association of Canada and served as chair of the Writers' Union of Canada (1993-1994). Ms. Kostash was born in 1944 in Edmonton, where she now lives.

Although it has been described as "impressive" and "scholarly," Myroslav Shkandrij's book "Jews in Ukrainian Literature: Representation and Identity" has also been called "accessible to lay readers," which is what most non-academic readers want to hear. In the book, the relationship between Jews and Ukrainians emerges through an analysis of literary works that enables understanding of diversity in Ukraine and explains interpretations of Ukrainian identity in Canada.

Prof. Shkandrij challenges the established view that the Ukrainian and Jewish communities were antagonistic toward one another and interacted only when compelled to do so by economic necessity. He demonstrates how Ukrainians have imagined their historical encounters with Jews under different historical contexts since the late 19th century.

Mr. Shkandrij is professor of Slavic studies at the University of Manitoba and has published several books on Ukrainian and Russian literature and art – such as "Modernists, Marxists and the Nation: The Ukrainian Literary Discussion of the 1920s." Ukrainian Jewish relations is one of his research interests.

The fifth short-list selection is a book of poetry: Larissa Andrusyshyn's "Mammoth." This is her debut collection of poems and honors the memory of her father Ivan, a paleontologist. She was witness to the pro-

cess and fact of her father's death and proceeds to find him again through a series of innovative poems. Death is examined without bathos, through the paleontologist's magnifying glass and the geneticist's microscope.

Ms. Andrusyshyn is a published poet who coordinates poetry workshops for at-risk youth. She was born in Reno, Nevada, and moved in 1989 to Montreal, where she now lives.

The Kobzar Literary Award 2012 jury was composed of four well-known Canadian writers: Denise Chong, Nino Ricci, M.G. Vassanji and Randall Maggs.

Ms. Chong is the author of two award-winning bestsellers, "The Concubine's Children," a non-fiction narrative of a Chinese family in Canada, and "The Girl in the Picture," which portrayed life in war-torn Vietnam. Ms Chong has been widely anthologized.

Mr. Ricci's novels have been published to critical acclaim around the world. They include the "Lives of the Saints" trilogy and "Testament." His most recent novel, "The Origin of the Species," earned him his second Governor General's Award. He has taught writing across Canada and the United States and was recently appointed to the Order of Canada.

Mr. Vassanji is a prolific writer – the author of six novels, collections of short stories, a travel memoir and a biography. He is a winner of many literary prizes and has twice won the Giller Prize for the best novel. His latest novel is "The Assassin's Song," published in 2007. He is a member of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Maggs lives in Newfoundland, where he has taught literature at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. He is the author of two collections of poetry, one of which – "Night Work: the Sawchuk Poems" – was the winner of the 2010 Kobzar Literary Award.



НАУКОВЕ ТОВАРИСТВО ІМ. ШЕВЧЕНКА  
SHEVCHENKO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY, INC.



### Patriarch Slipyj's 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrated in Philadelphia

February 25-26, 2012

#### PROGRAM:



**Saturday, February 25** La Salle University Chapel (20<sup>th</sup> and Olney Ave.)

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. An international scholarly conference on the life and works of Servant of God Josyf Slipyj (English)

**Sunday, February 26** Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (833 N. Franklin St.).

9:00 a.m. Pontifical Divine Liturgy for +Patriarch Josyf Slipyj celebrated by His Grace, Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan-Archbishop

10:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Memoirs of Patriarch Slipyj by students and colleagues – Ukrainian (Cathedral Hall)

A two-day \$25 registration fee includes snacks and lunches on both days. A one-day fee is \$15 (please indicate the date of your attendance). To register, email your name, address, phone number to: [ivivankovych@yahoo.com](mailto:ivivankovych@yahoo.com); mail your registration fee by February 10, 2012, to: St. Sophia Religious Association, 7911 Whitewood Rd., Elkins Park, PA 19027.



UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHEPARCHY  
OF PHILADELPHIA

## The WALDORF SCHOOL of GARDEN CITY

Early childhood through Grade 12



Every fall, The Waldorf School of Garden City welcomes hundreds of bright, gifted and talented students from around Queens and Long Island to our beautiful ten acre campus in Garden City. We are immensely proud of the enriching academic nature of our courses, and of the mix of nationalities that attend our school. For our 2012-2013 Academic Year, we are delighted to offer financial assistance to students entering the FOURTH and FIFTH grade of exceptional academic potential. Scholarships may result in a maximum of a \$5,000 award, with qualifying families able to apply for an additional reduction of up to fifty percent in tuition fees through our Tuition Assistance Program, giving all gifted students a chance to attend our inspiring school. Students in other grades are welcome to apply, and while limited tuition assistance is available, this scholarship competition is specifically intended for incoming FOURTH and FIFTH grade students only.



[www.waldorfgarden.org](http://www.waldorfgarden.org) | 516.742.3434  
225 Cambridge Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

government bonds, which will help it fill liquidity stock on the eve of March, when the needs in financing grow sharply due to a seasonal fall of budget revenues and high payments on internal debts. At the same time, experts in the stock market believe that Ukraine may enter the borrowing market in spring. Most probably, those will be five- and 10-year bonds that mature in 2017 and 2022. However, as Taras Kotovych, an analyst for Investment Capital of Ukraine, noted, current high rates for placement of

new Eurobonds are not conducive to Ukraine's entry into foreign markets. Currently, rates of new borrowings for Ukraine make up about 10 percent, as opposed to 7.5 percent a year earlier. The government is not ready to attract loans with an annual yield exceeding 8 percent. Comparing this year to the previous year, Ukraine's foreign debt grew by 7.8 percent to \$25 billion, whereas internal debt increased by 11 percent to \$22 billion. (Ukrinform)

### Polish FM on Association Agreement

KYIV - The text of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the

European Union will be completely finalized by March, Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski told reporters in Kyiv on February 8. "We hope that the text of the Association Agreement will be finalized in the coming weeks. According to my information, the trading part of the agreement is already completed, and the political one, I hope, will also be ready by March," he said. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko said the Association Agreement is not a gift to Ukraine. "In the medium, and all the more, the long term, the document is beneficial both to Ukraine and - from the very beginning - the European Union," Mr. Gryshchenko noted. (Ukrinform)

### Rada again refuses decriminalization

KYIV - The Verkhovna Rada has again rejected bills introducing amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine regarding decriminalization of the responsibility of senior officials for political decisions. One of the bills filed by the opposition proposed introducing amendments to the article of the Criminal Code under which former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was sentenced to seven years in prison. The second bill submitted by the opposition, which concerned the decriminalization of Articles 364 and 365 of the Criminal Code was also rejected. Only 155 lawmakers out of the 430 registered in the parliament's session hall voted for the document. The head of the Party of Regions faction in Parliament, Oleksander Yefremov, said at a press briefing on February 8 that the faction was not planning to vote for new bills decriminalizing the article under which Ms. Tymoshenko was convicted. On January 26 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution proposing that Ukraine drop abuse of office charges against former senior officials and ensure their participation in the October parliamentary elections. In that document, the PACE expressed its concern about criminal proceedings brought under Articles 364 (abuse of power) and 365 (abuse of office) of the Criminal Code against a number of former government members, in particular, Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko, Acting Defense Minister Valerii Ivaschenko, First Vice-Minister of Justice Yevhen Korniychuk and former Prime Minister Tymoshenko. The assembly considers these articles to be "overly broad in application" and effectively allow for post facto criminalization of normal political decision-making. Therefore, the PACE urged Ukraine's authorities to promptly remove these two articles from the Criminal Code and for the charges against former government officials that are based on these provisions to be dropped. Ukrainian Parliament Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn, while opening the 10th session of the Verkhovna Rada on February 7, urged the deputies to

regard the recommendations of European institutions "with particular responsibility." Recalling the PACE resolution on Ukraine adopted in January, Mr. Lytvyn once again drew the attention of lawmakers to the change in the tone of the documents of this and other European organizations that are addressed to Ukraine. "First their leitmotif was encouragement and recommendations, and in recent years - mandatory demands," he said. Mr. Lytvyn said that the next "programmed" step by Europe would be the introduction of sanctions against Ukraine. He said that the country's credibility had been put on the agenda. "We cannot allow the state to be forced into isolation," he underscored. (Ukrinform)

### Yulia writes to her national deputies

KYIV - Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, in a letter addressed to the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc-Batkivschyna faction in Parliament, urged national deputies to unite the opposition in parliamentary elections in 2012, control candidates in majority districts, work actively with voters in the regions and promote the preservation of strategic facilities in state ownership. "Despite all that is happening to me, I will continue to be in contact with you... I'll make decisions with you, work every day and get closer to victory," she said in a letter to deputies released by the faction's press service on February 7. She outlined four priorities for YTB-Batkivschyna deputies. "First and foremost, with all of your powers and abilities, at all levels of the negotiating process in the center and in the regions, you must ensure the full, true and sincere unification of opposition forces into a single indestructible force to participate in the parliamentary elections in 2012," she said. Ms. Tymoshenko said that this must be done no matter what the election threshold is like. "Remember that the key to the elimination of the regime lies in the unity of the opposition, down to a single party list, in the clear division of the political field into black and white, good and evil, into Ukraine and its occupants," she said. Secondly, she demanded that all candidates from the Batkivschyna Party be controlled in majority districts. "Do not allow the nomination and election of random people not tested by time and struggle, as well as entrepreneurs who plan to use politics to strengthen their business. I insist that the candidates for deputies in majority districts from Batkivschyna be publicly and seriously discussed," Ms. Tymoshenko said. In addition, she ordered national deputies "to immediately run to the people in the regions and tell them what serious danger our country is in, and what kind of danger the lives of all Ukrainians are in." "And finally, the fourth thing. Do not let new kleptomaniacs deprive the country of its strategic

(Continued on page 13)

## CLASSIFIEDS

TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL WALTER HONCHARYK (973) 292-9800 x3040  
or e-mail adukr@optonline.net

### SERVICES

FIRST QUALITY  
UKRAINIAN TRADITIONAL-STYLE  
**MONUMENTS**  
SERVING NY/NJ/CT REGION CEMETERIES  
**OBLAST  
MEMORIALS**  
P.O. BOX 746  
Chester, NY 10918  
**845-469-4247**  
BILINGUAL HOME APPOINTMENTS

**КОРОВАЙ**  
A Korovai for  
your Wedding  
Call Lisa at (307) 250-4633  
and visit  
[www.nazdorovya.com](http://www.nazdorovya.com)  
Shipping throughout US and Canada

### FOR SALE

Condo for sale in St. Andrew's Ukrainian Village in North Port, FL. 2BR, 2Ba, fully updated, fully furnished, stainless steel appliances, washer, walking distance to Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches. \$109,900. **Tel 239-859-1259.**

### PROFESSIONALS

**СТЕФАН ВЕЛЬГАС**  
ліцензований продавець  
страхування життя  
**STEPHAN J. WELHASCH**  
Licensed Life Insurance Agent  
Ukrainian National Assn., Inc.  
2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054  
Tel.: (973) 292-9800 (Ext. 3036) • Fax: (973) 292-0900  
e-mail: swelhasch@unamember.com

**ХРИСТИНА БРОДИН**  
ліцензований продавець  
страхування життя  
**CHRISTINE BRODYN**  
Licensed Life Insurance Agent  
Ukrainian National Assn., Inc.  
187 Henshaw Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081  
Tel.: (973) 376-1347

### OPPORTUNITIES

#### EARN EXTRA INCOME!

The Ukrainian Weekly is looking for advertising sales agents. For additional information contact Maria Oscislowski, Advertising Manager, The Ukrainian Weekly, 973-292-9800, ext 3040.

Run your advertisement here,  
in The Ukrainian Weekly's CLASSIFIEDS section.

U.M.A.N.A.



У.Л.Т.П.А.

### Ukrainian Medical Association of North America Seeking New Members!

Are you a physician, dentist, or do you work in health care?  
Are you in training, practice, or teach?

Consider joining your colleagues in North America's premier  
association of health care professionals.

Apply on our web site: [www.umana.org](http://www.umana.org) or call us free at (888) 798-6262

For more information, write to;  
UMANA 2247 W. Chicago Ave, Chicago IL 60622

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union Clifton, NJ



will hold its

### ANNUAL MEETING

on Sunday, February 26, 2011 at 12:30PM

At the Ukrainian Center  
240 Hope Avenue, Passaic, NJ 07055

SELFRELIANCE Association (Passaic, NJ) Annual Meeting  
will be held prior to the Credit Union's Annual Meeting.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

facilities ahead of the parliamentary elections – land, the gas transport system, hydropower, Energoatom, Ukrzaliznytsia, museum valuables and so on. You know the appetites of the newly minted family of the main chief. Make everything possible so that the country supports the elimination of the regime,” Ms. Tymoshenko said. (Interfax-Ukraine)

### Government websites attacked by hackers

KYIV – The official website of President Viktor Yanukovich was attacked by hackers, the president's press secretary, Darya Chepak, said on her blog on the website of the Ukrayinska Pravda online newspaper on February 1. “The official website of the Ukrainian president has been under attack by unknown individuals since last night. The Internal Affairs Ministry's website has also been shut down as a result of the attack. Social networks posts are calling on others to join the attack on the websites of state institutions in order to support file-sharing sites that do not comply with copyright protection. Do the people who attack these sites understand what they are doing?” the press secretary asked. Ms. Chepak noted that the attack was “destroying the space for posting socially important information.” She added, “I support the right of every citizen to protest. But if we build a civilized society, the freedom of the fist of one citizen is limited to the nose of another. Therefore, I'm asking you, those who attack the sites, to find another place for protest, without limiting the citizen's right of access to information.” The official website of the president has worked intermittently since the morning of February 1. On January 31 the Internal Affairs Ministry shut down the popular file-sharing site ex.ua as part of an investigation of a criminal case on copyright infringement. In response, a cyberattack was made on the website of the internal affairs minister. On February 2 the websites of the Security Service of Ukraine and the Constitutional Court of Ukraine were taken down by hackers. (Ukrinform)

### Ombudsperson claims rights violations

KYIV – Ukraine does not implement nearly 33 percent of judicial decisions and a critical situation remains with following rulings of the European Court of Human Rights, Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for

Human Rights Nina Karpachova said on February 7 in her annual report to the Ukrainian Parliament on the state of observance and protection of human rights and freedoms in Ukraine. Therefore, she said, human rights are grossly violated. Furthermore, courts and law enforcement agencies abuse their power to make arrests. “Ukraine does not need the construction of new prisons, but it needs to put an end to abuses of the power to arrest,” Ms. Karpachova emphasized. The ombudsman, whose five-year term in office is expiring, said that in 2011 the human rights situation in Ukraine was much worse. Moreover, the global economic crisis is not entirely at fault. “According to official statistics, the poverty rate in Ukraine is 24 percent, and almost every eighth resident falls into the category of extreme poverty or abject poverty.” A purely ‘Ukrainian phenomenon’ is poverty of the working population, automatic transition to the category of the poor people who retire, due to the low level of pensions, the ombudsperson underscored. Ms. Karpachova noted that almost 40 percent of households in Ukraine are in a state of acute social exclusion. “People do not have the opportunity to participate fully in public life because of their poverty, lack of basic knowledge and capabilities.” And, amid the massive dissemination of new information technology and social media, many Ukrainians do not have access to them, “likewise hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens do not have access to the cultural heritage of their country,” she said. Therefore, Ms. Karpachova said, the state in 2012 should pay special attention to protecting human rights and freedoms. Ms. Karpachova has been elected three times to the post of the human rights commissioner – in 1998, 2003 and 2007. Now, the ombudsperson says, she has not yet decided whether to seek the post again. Meanwhile, media reports say there are five candidates for post. The opposition has nominated Yevhen Zakharov, chairman of board of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union. Also mentioned as candidates for the position are Hennadii Vasilyev, a native of Donetsk, former procurator general and now a member of Parliament from the Party of Regions, Party of Regions National Deputy Serhii Holovaty, International Human Rights Centre La Strada-Ukraine President Kateryna Levchenko, and Government Commissioner for the European Court of Human Rights Valeria Lutkivska. (Ukrinform)



Ділимося сумною вісткою з друзями, знайомими та всією українською громадою, що у середу першого лютого 2012 р. з волі Всевишнього відійшов у Божу Вічність наш найдорожчий і незабутній **ЧОЛОВІК, БАТЬКО І ДІДУСЬ**



сл. пам.

## АНДРІЙ ВСЕВОЛОД ДОБРЯНСЬКИЙ

Довголітній соліст бас-баритон Метрополітальної опери у Нью-Йорку. Покійний співав у «Метрополітені» 27 років, удостоївшись звання єдиного народженого в Україні провідного соліста з найдовшою кар'єрою у цій престижній світовій слави опері.

Активний громадський і церковний діяч – довголітній дяк і диригент церковного хору при церкві св. Юра; палкий і невтомний пропагандист української музики у США; патрон і вчитель молодих співаків; видатний режисер; знавець-майстер театального мистецтва.

**УРОЧИСТІ ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ** відбулися у суботу 4-го лютого в Українській католицькій церкві св. Юра у Нью-Йорку.

Горем прибиті у глибокому смутку залишилися:

дружина – **СТЕФАНІЯ**

дочка – **ДЗВІНКА** з чоловіком **АНДРІЄМ БУРЧАКОМ** і дітьми **МОДЕСТОМ** і **ЛИБІДДЮ**

син – **АНДРІЙ** з дружиною **ПАМЕЛОЮ**

син – **ДАНИЛО**

син – **ЯРОСЛАВ**

син – **ЮРІЙ**

дочка – **РОКСОЛЯНА**

**БЛИЖЧА І ДАЛЬША РОДИНА В АМЕРИЦІ, КАНАДІ, УКРАЇНІ ТА ЕСТОНІЇ**

**ВІЧНА ЙОМУ ПАМ'ЯТЬ!**



## Christine Lydia Myndiuk née Panczyszyn

was born on 29th of May 1946 in Dillingen, Germany, in the family of Michael Panczyszyn and Irene Panczyszyn née Hryszczuk.

In 1949 the family moved to the United States, first to Boston and then to Buffalo. In Buffalo she completed high school and was active in the youth organization SUM, where she was a leader and often participated in SUM summer youth camps at camp Veselka in Canada.

As a young woman, Christine was adventurous and lived in various cities including New York, Miami, Houston and Los Angeles, working for various news broadcasters, airlines and advertising firms.

In 1983 she moved to Toronto where she met Bohdan Myndiuk. They were married in 1984.

In 1985 they were blessed with son Roman Jurij. When Roman went to school, Christine sat on the PTA committee at St. Demetrius.

In Toronto she was very active in leading the Ukrainian Children's TV Program “Titka-Kvitka” as well as participating in the St. Demetrius Parish where she hosted two banquets for the 35th and 50th anniversary of the Parish.

Christine loved travelling, playing bridge and loved watching her Buffalo sports teams – especially the Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres. When Roman developed a love for sports, she drove him to endless soccer, baseball, football and hockey games and practices.

In 2008 she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She passed away on Tuesday, January 24, 2012. She leaves behind her husband Bohdan (Dada), son Roman, mother Irene and brother Jerry with his wife, children and grandchildren, as well as many godchildren.



With deep sorrow we announce to family and friends that our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother

## Dmytro Szul

passed away on Friday, February 3, 2012 at the age of 92. He was born October 22, 1919 in Ukraine.

Panakhoda was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 7:30 p. m. at Peter Jarema Funeral Home in New York City.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, February 8, at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City, followed by interment at Holy Spirit Cemetery in Hamptonburg, NY.

Left in deep sorrow:

wife – Pauline

children – Christine

– Roman with wife Anna and children Roman and Nicholas

– Irene with husband Alexandre and children Alexander and Larissa

– Darka with husband Brian and children Stephanie and Katherine

– Orest

brothers – Aleksander and Wolodymyr in Polandt

Eternal memory

## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

### Nativity concert held in Parma



PARMA, Ohio – On Sunday, December 11, 2011, the Council of Orthodox Clergy of Greater Cleveland held its 19th annual Nativity concert. This year, the concert was hosted at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma. Participating were 10 choirs representing Ukrainian, Greek, Serbian, Russian, Romanian, Antiochian and American Orthodox parishes. Seen above is the 30-voice choir of St. Vladimir Cathedral of Parma, which represented the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. St. Vladimir's has both English and Ukrainian choirs, which sing the responses to the two liturgies every Sunday. The choirs are directed by Markian Komichak.

### Stamford community enjoys Christmas Tree Festival



Children sing songs around the "yalynka."

by Tania Sawa Priatka

STAMFORD, Conn. – The first annual "Christmas Tree Festival" (Sviato Yalynky) hosted by Branch 54 of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) in Stamford, Conn., took place on December 10, 2011.

As over 65 children and guests filed into the auditorium of St. Basil Seminary, they were not sure what to expect from the evening, as this was the first time the administration of UAYA Stamford had planned such an event. After sitting in a dimly-lit auditorium listening to a welcome and opening remarks about the legend associated with how the Christmas tree (yalynka) became such an integral part of the holiday season, guests "oohed" and "ahhed" upon seeing the beautifully decorated yalynka in the center of the hall.

The evening progressed with the UAYA

children presenting a short program of music and a costumed enactment of the songs "U Lisi, Lisi Temnomu" ("In the Dark, Dark Forest") as well as "Ya Lysychka, Ya Sestrychka" ("I'm the Fox").

Everyone then participated in a lively concert performed by well-known vocal artist Olya Fryz. She entertained the audience with her many energetic tunes, getting the children up and dancing and interweaving a pure vocal performance with arrangements on her bandura. The concert culminated with the entire audience joining in a group caroling sing-along.

Following Ms. Fryz's program, the children were invited to step up to several arts and crafts tables set up throughout the auditorium where they could create their own designs to take along and decorate their homes for the holidays.

A lovely table of refreshments was provided by the Parents' Committee.

### UAYA branch presents "vertep"



Jurij Priatka

Ukrainian American Youth Association members who performed the "vertep" are seen with Bishop Paul Chomnycky and clergy.

by Tania Sawa-Priatka

STAMFORD, Conn. – Those who attended Christmas Day liturgy here at St. Volodymyr's Cathedral were regaled with one of the most beloved Ukrainian Christmas traditions when members of Branch 54, Khersones, of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) of Stamford presented a beautiful rendition of the Ukrainian "vertep" (Nativity play).

The children-actors, who performed under the direction of their "vychonyky" counselors and parent volunteers, ranged in age from 4 to 12. They had spent countless hours practicing for this event and their dedication and efforts were well rewarded with loud applause and numerous compliments.

Many of the older parishioners tearfully recalled their youth in Ukraine

while they watched the performance. Recent immigrants from Ukraine in the parish, many of whom send their children to the UAYA in Stamford, watched with pride, knowing that their children are keeping traditions alive in their new country.

Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Stamford Eparchy, along with the Rev. Ihor Midzak, pastor at St. Volodymyr Cathedral, and the Rev. Bohdan Danylo, rector of St. Basil Seminary, were among the delighted audience members that day. They commented on how professionally the children delivered their lines and how the vertep enhanced the joyful, festive atmosphere in the church on Christmas.

All proceeds raised by the children that day were donated to St. Basil Seminary.

### Ukrainian school students carol in "Ukrainian Village" community



Lev Khmelkovsky

Students from the School of Ukrainian Studies in South Bound Brook, N.J., carol at the "Ukrainian Village."

SOMERSET, N.J. – Students of the School of Ukrainian Studies, located at the grounds of St. Andrew Memorial Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook, N.J., visited the "Ukrainian Village" active adult community on January 14 with caroling and tidings for the new year.

The students were accompanied by Roman Hirniak, director of the school, teachers Andriy Gavdanovych, Lyudmyla

Voronenko, Lesya Moroz, Halyna Marynets, Christine D'Agostino, Lidiya Prots and Oxana Stasyuk, as well as parents of the students.

The carolers entered each home singing and greeting all of the residents, where they were warmly welcomed and rewarded with sweets for their singing. The students, who sang under the direction of Ms. Moroz, collected funds for the school.

## NOTES ON PEOPLE

### Named executive VP, chief medical officer

HACKENSACK, N.J. – Hackensack University Medical Center recently announced the appointment of Ihor S. Sawczuk, M.D., as executive vice-president and chief medical officer.

"It is my great pleasure to announce the appointment of Ihor S. Sawczuk, M.D., as our new executive vice president and chief medical officer," said Robert C. Garrett, president and chief executive officer. "As we expand our academic and clinical affiliations to remain competitive in this ever-changing healthcare environment, I am grateful to have a physician of Dr. Sawczuk's stature with us at the helm as we embark on this journey."

In June 2001, after a nationwide search for a chair of the Department of Urology, Dr. Sawczuk joined the Hackensack UMC medical staff from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. This new position of executive vice-president and chief medical officer will add to Dr. Sawczuk's already illustrious career at Hackensack UMC, where he has held the positions of: vice-president, chief academic officer, chairman of the Department of Urology, and chief of the Division of Urologic Oncology at the John Theurer Cancer Center.

During Dr. Sawczuk's 10 years at Hackensack UMC, the Department of Urology has technologically advanced to meet the demands of its patients and continues to remain on the cutting edge of technology in both surgical urology and urologic-oncology. Combining medical expertise, advanced technology, and state-of-the-art hospital and surgical facilities, the Department of Urology at Hackensack UMC provides patients with innovative diagnostic, treatment, prevention, and screening services for the full range of urologic disorders and diseases.

With more than 25 years of health care experience, Dr. Sawczuk has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades. He was named as a Ferdinand C. Valentine Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, a Burroughs Wellcome Scholar of the American Urological Association and an E.R. Squibb and Sons National Kidney Foundation Young Investigator.

Dr. Sawczuk has also received awards from the New York Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Heart Association, Society of Basic Urologic Research, National Kidney



Dr. Ihor Sawczuk

Foundation, and the Kidney Cancer Association.

He was presented the prestigious Russell and Mary Hugh Scott Education Award by the American Foundation of Urologic Disease, and in 1996, the office of the First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton recognized him for his humanitarian efforts in regards to his Chernobyl relief work. He is also a recent recipient of the Gold DOC Award from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation.

Dr. Sawczuk completed his urologic training at the Squier Urological Clinic at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital and his urologic oncology training as a fellow of the National Cancer Institute in the Departments of Urology and Human Genetics of Columbia University. He belongs to numerous urological associations, and has authored/co-authored more than 250 abstracts, articles and chapters.

Hackensack University Medical Center is a 775-bed not-for-profit, tertiary care, teaching and research hospital and provides the largest number of admissions in New Jersey. Founded in 1888 with 12 beds and as Bergen County's first hospital, Hackensack University Medical Center has demonstrated more than a century of growth and progress. It was one of America's 50 Best Hospitals by HealthGrades® for five years in a row and is the only hospital in New Jersey, New York and New England to receive this honor for five consecutive years. Hackensack UMC was also named one of the 50 Best Hospitals in America by Becker's Hospital Review. U.S. News & World Report ranked Hackensack UMC eighth in the New York Metro Area in its first-ever Best Hospitals metro area rankings, giving it the top ranking out of all the New Jersey hospitals listed.

### Parma Eparchy has stewardship director

PARMA, Ohio – Bishop John Bura, apostolic administrator of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio, on December 14 announced the creation of a Stewardship Office for the eparchy and named John F. Kurey as the eparchy's first stewardship director.

"I am confident that the creation of a Stewardship Office and John's joining us is a great step forward for our Eparchy," Bishop Bura remarked.

Mr. Kurey holds a bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in history and political science, a juris doctor (J.D.) degree from the University of Michigan Law School and a master's degree in business administration (MBA) from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.

Prior to joining the eparchy, Mr. Kurey served as president of the Ukrainian

Catholic Education Foundation, where he successfully led a national fund-raising campaign that raised over \$15 million and grew the UCEF into one of the largest financial supporters of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the world. Prior to that, he practiced corporate law for nine years with three different law firms.

Mr. Kurey will continue to serve as the stewardship director for both Maronite Dioceses in the United States, and as development director for the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great. He will also continue as a member of several boards of directors, including the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation and the Ukrainian Federation of America.

He can be reached by telephone in the Parma, eparchy's chancery at 440-888-1522, or by e-mail at stjosphatstewardship@yahoo.com.

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma consists of 38 parishes and missions located in 10 states ranging from Ohio to Florida. Also under its tutelage are two homes for seniors.

### Selected as Compass Fellow

WASHINGTON – Adriana Krasniansky has been selected as a Compass Fellow at Fordham University. The Compass Fellowship, supported by the Kenneth Cole Foundation, identifies passionate first-year students at colleges across the nation and empowers them to solve the world's greatest problems through social entrepreneurship. (More information can be found at [www.compassfellows.org](http://www.compassfellows.org).)

Social entrepreneurship is a quickly-developing field of practice in which social problems are addressed with entrepreneurial principles, including starting for-profit ventures. Gen Y is increasingly interested in social entrepreneurship as a field of study, as it blends interests in volunteerism and social causes with the more flexible work-life balance of an entrepreneur.

Ms. Krasniansky, a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 364, is a 2011 graduate of North Royalton High School in North Royalton, Ohio. She is one of 15 students selected at Fordham University to participate in The Compass Fellowship this year. She will build on experiences from her youth, including her active involvement in



Adriana Krasniansky

the Ukrainian American Youth Association as a youth leader and camp counselor; her work at an Eastern European bakery business in Parma, Ohio; and an internship with Charlene Paporizos, president of CMP Communications, when she covered North Royalton community events.

Compass Fellows receive weekly lessons from seasoned entrepreneurs, while connecting with a global network of changemakers. Each Fellow launches his or her own venture during the first year of college. The Compass Fellowship operates at 10 schools in the United States.

### Honored at Detroit International Institute

by Nancy Karen Wichar

DETROIT – The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit presented Marie Zarycky-Cherviovskiy with an "Award of Excellence" for the outstanding services she has provided for her community. The award is given to a professional woman who has worked to promote her community and culture in Southeastern Michigan.

Presented on behalf of the Michigan International Professional Women, the award added Ms. Zarycky-Cherviovskiy's name to the prestigious list of honorees in "Who's Who of SE Michigan International Women."

Ms. Zarycky-Cherviovskiy's accomplishments and contributions to her community began when she arrived in Detroit and attended the Ukrainian Catholic Grade School in 1951. She went on to graduate as the salutatorian from Hamtramck High School in 1954 and earned her degree from the College of Pharmacy at Wayne State University in 1962. During this time she was mentored by leaders in the Ukrainian community to become a well-known organizer and activist in her own right.

In addition to working as director of pharmacy in several Detroit area hospitals, Ms. Zarycky-Cherviovskiy assumed numerous leadership roles in the Ukrainian community. She was secretary of the local Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, a founding member and president of Branch 96 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, and president

of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Ukraine.

She attended human rights conferences in Washington, Mexico City (International Women's Year) and Paris. She also worked diligently on committees to commemorate the Ukrainian Famine and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

In addition, she served as a board member of the Ukrainian Village Senior Residence and the Ukrainian Museum and Archives. The Ukrainians of Detroit and Windsor named her Ukrainian of the Year in 1987.

She and her husband, Alex Cherviovskiy, are members of St. Josephat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Warren, Mich., and continue to actively serve the community.

Ms. Zarycky-Cherviovskiy was among 17 honorees from various nationalities recognized at the Michigan International Professional Women's Gala 2011 on October 20. The gala was a celebration of the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, which serves the community and raises funds in support of "Children Helping Children."

Wojciech Zolnowski, executive director of the International Institute, provided introductory remarks while Nada Dalgamouni, ethnic enrichment director, introduced the honorees and presented the rewards. Each honored woman gave a short synopsis of her professional and cultural achievements.

Ms. Zarycky-Cherviovskiy's speech included individual recognition to the Ukrainian women in the audience who came to support her on this memorable occasion. Afterwards, women representing many ethnic groups enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner and an opportunity to share their diverse ethnic experiences.



Marie Zarycky-Cherviovskiy, recipient of an Award of Excellence presented by the Detroit International Institute, is surrounded by supporters from various Detroit-area branches of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

## The suppression...

(Continued from page 6)

Constitutional Court judges, which caused that court to lack a quorum for a 10-month period. These types of political maneuvers, which are not provided for in the Constitution, should be removed from the process of appointing judges.

International observers have been concerned about the politicization of the High Council of Justice. The report of the co-rapporteurs on Ukraine to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) expressed worries about this politicization, since the majority of the members belong to or are appointed by the executive or legislature.

Many have questioned the council's neutrality and capacity, following the president's appointment to the council of the head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), since he is a close ally of the president with no legal background. Although that official has now resigned from the council, appointment of political allies harms the selection of qualified, non-partisan candidates for judicial office and lends the appearance of impropriety to judicial selection.

In October 2011, the Verkhovna Rada passed a law to amend the law regarding the consideration of cases by the Supreme Court of Ukraine, No. 9151. Some argue that these amendments enlarge the powers of the Supreme Court by allowing that court to decree new decisions instead of merely sending cases back to High Specialized Courts, as

well as by obligating other courts to consider the conclusions of the Supreme Court when resolving similar cases, increasing the number of judges to 48, and including important rules for organizing the work of the Supreme Court.

The law, however, did not change the essence of "the judicial reform," since the Supreme Court cannot independently decide which cases it takes for review. Moreover, if a High Specialized Court decides that only procedural rules of law were violated, then case will not be sent to the Supreme Court but will be reviewed by the High Specialized Court.

### Prominent values in the Constitution

The Constitution of Ukraine enshrines a few key values in its text. Chief among the values is Article 8's emphasis on the rule of law, which is supposed to be "recognized and effective" in Ukraine. The rule of law is the lynchpin of the promotion of democracy throughout the world, and democracy, in turn, provides a better and more prosperous economic life.

The rule of law has at least two important components to it. First, the law must be supreme. All persons, whether private citizens or government officials, must be subject to the law. Second, there must be a concept of justice that emphasizes interpersonal adjudication; law must be based on standards and universally applicable procedures.

For the rule of law to be upheld, there must be a strong and independent judiciary; as there cannot be a market economy without private property ownership, there cannot be respect for the rule of law without an independent judiciary to enforce it. This judiciary, furthermore, must be one that

exists in a system of separate powers.

A political system based on the separation of powers with appropriate checks and balances is vital to the preservation of democracy. The aim of a judiciary and, more broadly, of a government, is to provide stability through the consistent application of the law and adherence to the Constitution. The separation of powers is an especially effective way to do this, since it sets up a system of balances under which the different branches watch each other and keep each other in check.

In order for separation to be effective, the different branches of government must be co-equal, with each wielding sufficient power; no one branch can so dominate the government as to render separation irrelevant. Separation of powers bolsters this confidence by using the judiciary to check any undue pressure that might be exerted by the executive or legislative branches.

A strong judiciary must be co-equal with the other branches of government. This means that the judiciary – and each individual judge – must act as co-equal with and independent from the other branches of government. Judges can only achieve independence and respect if they are not beholden to any other branch of government or political party.

It is vital that courts have jurisdiction and the power to restrain the legislature or executive by declaring laws and official acts illegal or unconstitutional when they abridge the rights of citizens. Furthermore, for judicial independence to have practical effect, the court's interpretation must be accepted and enforced by the legislative and executive branches of government. This premise of equality forms the backbone of democracy.

Judges must also internalize the importance of equality. In the United States, becoming a judge represents a noticeable achievement and responsibility. Being a judge means holding one of the most respected positions in American society. Judges must be honest brokers; they must be independent from and neutral among the parties that appear before them.

Judges must decide matters before them impartially, on the basis of the facts and the law, without any restrictions, improper influences, inducements, or threats, direct or indirect, from any party or institution for any reason. A judge's moral commitment to this form of independence eliminates favoritism and corruption from the nation's judicial system. If judges fail in this duty, the public will lose confidence in the basic equity of its society, generating cynicism, anger and instability.

### Current judicial climate

Natinal Deputy Omelchenko has come to the conclusion that President Viktor Yanukovich is conducting a "consistent and systematic annihilation" and "purposeful and systematic destruction" of the Supreme Court of Ukraine. The pogrom is being carried out by transferring the power of the Supreme Court to other specialized courts, by harassing judges and their families with baseless criminal charges, and by setting up the High Council of Justice as an overwhelming force of disciplinary proceedings that

can be used to pressure judges into compliance with the president.

The devaluation of the Supreme Court conflicts with the Constitution. As noted above, the Constitution guarantees to Ukrainians that one court – the Supreme Court – will be the highest court in the land, but the recent judicial "reform" has stripped the court of its power to hear final appeals in many cases, as it can hear only those cases that are sent to it by high specialized courts. The Constitution states that the Supreme Court is the highest judicial body, and the new law essentially removes this constitutional role.

It is unlawful to pass laws that conflict with the Constitution, and any amendment process to the Constitution must follow the legal requirements of that document.

Not only were the Supreme Court's functions substantially decreased, but it is "subject to incredible pressure" and "interference with its activities." Politicization and broadening of powers of the High Council of Justice, a body that brings recommendations for appointments and discharges of judges, is an issue of major concern.

Recent high-profile discharges for oath-breaking and other initiatives to dismiss judges, reduction of the number of judges, worsening of working conditions (including accommodation of High Specialized Courts in the buildings of the Supreme Court), and bringing criminal charges against judges' family members can only work to subdue and suppress the Supreme Court of Ukraine. The aim is clearly the promotion of the political power of the president and his team at the expense of the judiciary and, indirectly, the people of Ukraine.

Although many justices on the Supreme Court apparently have stood up to the president as of late, it appears from Mr. Omelchenko's report that lower courts have come under the sway of the presidency. In September 2011, a lower court prohibited the plenum of the Supreme Court from organizing specifically in order to interfere with the election of the chief justice and to hamstring the proper functioning of that court. This type of action hurts all Ukrainians, since they no longer can feel confident of an independent judiciary.

When Ukraine's Constitution was first adopted in 1996, many – including the Venice Commission – commended Ukraine for enacting a document that guaranteed human rights. Now, however, Ukraine finds itself in the unenviable position of having its actions questioned and condemned by those same observers.

Currently, attempts to sign an association agreement with the European Union hinge on the release of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, and the international community has grown gravely concerned about trials of political figures in Ukraine. A strong, independent judiciary can assure both international observers and Ukrainians that people are tried for violations of the law, not for political disagreements.

Hopefully, the commission to rewrite the Constitution, headed by former President Leonid Kravchuk, will keep these comments in mind as it carries out its work.

## Nova Chamber Ensemble to perform in Morristown



MORRISTOWN, N.J. – An evening of chamber music in the round will take place on Tuesday, February 21, at 8 p.m. with pianist Laryssa Krupa Slobodyanik (seen above on the left), one of the founders in 1994 of Morristown's Community Theater, today known as the Mayo Performing Arts Center, appearing with the Nova Chamber Ensemble. Also part of the ensemble are Wanda Glowacka (right) on cello and Andriy Milavsky (center) on clarinet. The Mayo Performing Arts Center is located at 100 South St., Morristown, NJ 07960; telephone, 973-539-8008; website, www.mayoarts.org Tickets to the concert are \$20.

## UKRAINIAN SELFRELIANCE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION OF PHILADELPHIA

### MORTGAGE

In addition to our Trident Mortgage Special, we also offer 10 to 30 year fixed rate mortgages.

### EQUITY/HELOC

Need to make some house improvements? Consolidating debt? We offer 5, 10, and 15 year Home Equity Loans along with a Home Equity Line of Credit.

### AUTO

Get on the road with a NEW or USED Car Loan from us. We offer 3, 4, 5, and 6 year terms for NEW CAR LOANS and a 4 year term for a USED CAR LOAN.



215.725.4430 1729 Coltman Ave  
www.ukrfcu.com Philadelphia, PA 19111

VISIT US ONLINE  
www.ukrfcu.com

• IT IS HERE • IT IS REAL • IT CAN BE YOURS

## USFCU TRIDENT Mortgage Special 2.75%

3<sup>ARM</sup>  
YEAR  
MORTGAGE

2.75% (2.762% APR)

Your best option for a lower payment.

\*ARM - Adjustable Rate Mortgage. \*\*APR - Annual Percentage Rate.

5<sup>ARM</sup>  
YEAR  
MORTGAGE

2.75% (2.771% APR)

The best of both worlds.

\*ARM - Adjustable Rate Mortgage. \*\*APR - Annual Percentage Rate.

10<sup>ARM</sup>  
YEAR  
MORTGAGE

2.75% (2.781% APR)

Your best option for a quicker payoff.

\*\*APR - Annual Percentage Rate.

OFFER FOR  
LIMITED  
TIME ONLY

Choose one of our  
three new mortgages.  
Can it get any better?



# OUT & ABOUT

- |  |  |                                |  |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Through February 25<br>Perth Amboy, NJ | Art exhibit, "Opposite Ends," featuring works by Dianna Shmerykowsky and Vivianna Acuna-Francisco, Perth Amboy Gallery Center for the Arts, 732-826-1690 ext. 4325 or <a href="http://www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us">www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us</a> | February 19<br>Colebrook, CT   | Winterfest, Bobriwka campground, <a href="http://www.bobriwka.org">www.bobriwka.org</a>  |
| Through February 26<br>Chicago         | Art exhibit, "Paintings by Volodymyr Voroniuk from Vyzhnytsia, Ukraine," Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 or <a href="mailto:admin@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org">admin@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org</a>                               | February 19<br>Chicago         | Presentation by the Rev. Dr. Iwan Dacko, "My Years with Patriarch Josyf," Ukrainian Cultural Center, 773-235-8462  |
| Through April 29<br>Hamilton, ON       | Art exhibit, "William Kurelek: The Messenger," Art Gallery of Hamilton, <a href="http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com">www.artgalleryofhamilton.com</a> or 905-527-6610   | February 19<br>Chicago         | Book presentation by Marie Ulanowicz, "A Woman In Exile: Tales From Kazakhstan" by Julianna Starosolska, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, <a href="http://www.uima-chicago.org">www.uima-chicago.org</a>                                   |
| Through October 21<br>New York         | Exhibit, "Ukrainian Kilims: A Journey of a Heritage," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or <a href="http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org">www.ukrainianmuseum.org</a>   | February 19<br>Ottawa          | Lesia Ukrainka program, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 613-728-0856 or <a href="http://www.ukrainianorthodox.info">www.ukrainianorthodox.info</a>  |
| February 16<br>Hamilton, ON            | Presentation by Dennis Reid and Tony Urquhart, "Kurelek in Conversation," Art Gallery of Hamilton, <a href="http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com">www.artgalleryofhamilton.com</a> or 905-527-6610  | February 22<br>New York        | Film screening, "Ukraine. When the Countdown Began" by Serhii Bukovsky, Ukrainian Film Club at Columbia University, Hamilton Hall, Columbia University, 212-854-5627 or <a href="http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc">www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc</a> |
| February 17<br>North Port, FL          | Ukrainian "Vechornytsi" party, Ukrainian National Women's League of America - Branch 56, St. Andrew Religious and Cultural Center, 941-426-9745  | February 23<br>New York        | Presentation by Andrei Kurkov, "Ukraine as a Novel with Strong Plot and Weak Characters," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or <a href="mailto:ma2634@columbia.edu">ma2634@columbia.edu</a>  |
| February 18<br>New York                | Lecture by Oksana Kis, "Women's Experience as Participants in the National Liberation Movement of OUN and UPA in the Years 1940-1950," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130   | February 23<br>New York        | Presentation by the Rev. Dr. Iwan Dacko, "My Years with Patriarch Josyf," Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, The Ukrainian Museum, 773-235-8462  |
| February 18<br>Chicago                 | Mardi Gras cocktail party, Ukrainian National Museum Young Professionals, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 or <a href="mailto:admin@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org">admin@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org</a>                              | February 25-26<br>Philadelphia | Patriarch Slipyj's 120th anniversary celebration, Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, La Salle University, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, <a href="mailto:iviviankovych@yahoo.com">iviviankovych@yahoo.com</a>          |
| February 18<br>Pittsburgh              | Dinner and dance, "Celebration of Family," Ukrainian Community of Western Pennsylvania, Best Western Parkway Center Inn, 412-364-0968 or <a href="mailto:programs@ucowpa.org">programs@ucowpa.org</a>                                      | February 26<br>Olyphant, PA    | Pysanka Workshop, led by Sonia Maslar, Tammy Maslar Budnovitch and Sonya Budnovitch, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, 570-383-0319 or <a href="http://www.stcyriils.maslar-online.com">www.stcyriils.maslar-online.com</a> |
| February 18<br>Ottawa                  | Concert, "Lost Gems of Ukrainian Sacred Music," Ewashko Singers, St. Joseph Church, University of Ottawa, <a href="http://www.ewashkosingers.com">www.ewashkosingers.com</a> or 613-565-3993   |                                |  |

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](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com).

## New Ukrainian regime...

(Continued from page 1)

Opposition deputies in the Verkhovna Rada were forced to join his party or jeopardize their business interests, or were arrested and persecuted. In addition, the election law was amended to minimize the chance of the opposition gaining control in the 2012 parliamentary elections and the 2015 presidential election, Ms. Johnson summarized.

A striking example of the move to destroy the opposition is the treatment of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, she noted. Ms. Tymoshenko's arrest, trial and conviction have had a negative impact on international relations. The European Union-Ukraine free trade and association agreements have been put on hold, the International Monetary Fund's tranche of a \$1.6 billion loan has been delayed, and visas for Ukrainian officials are being restricted.

Furthermore, Ms. Johnson observed that growing corruption is discouraging foreign investors. Private businesses are fair game to President Yanukovich's cronies, there is no compliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and foreign investors cite the lack of rule of law, an independent judiciary and a level playing field as the reason for their declining interest.

Another area of concern is the disintegration of civil rights. "The press is progressively muzzled, 'temnyky' [secret instructions to media for politically correct coverage] have resurfaced, and television coverage of events is delayed to delete booing by observers," she said. "Public assemblies are contained by militia in riot gear, textbooks are being watered down and reprinted with more Russian than Ukrainian. Universities are under attack and ecumenism is being eradicated."

As a result of this combination of initiatives by the Yanukovich administration, the merger and acquisition market that thrived in recent decades has virtually collapsed, Ms. Johnson noted. Only two non-Russian foreign companies invested in Ukraine in 2011.

Ms. Johnson noted that the goal of the administration, as outlined by Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, speaking in Russian, appears to be "to reinstate Soviet moral values that we lost long ago in the pursuit of material well-being

and implement these values in the minds of the younger generation."

"Cynics observe that there was a hidden agenda for the Yanukovich administration which he has accomplished – gain control of government, create business opportunities for his closest allies, eliminate the opposition, and devalue Ukrainian identity," she said.

What has happened to the opposition movement that supported democracy just a few years ago? According to Ms. Johnson, while small protest groups have surfaced (small and medium-size businesses, Afghan war veterans, Chernobyl veterans, teachers and students, and health workers), no coalition exists to join them in a critical mass.

Nevertheless, reasons for optimism exist, according to Ms. Johnson.

Ukraine, though weakened, is still a sovereign country. The upcoming 2012 European soccer championship provides an opportunity to make a positive impression.

In addition, she noted, "The new generation of Ukrainians, many foreign-educated, raised without Soviet baggage, with experience living abroad, are some of the best and brightest, are fiercely patriotic, and will be able to build a true democratic Ukraine which the people deserve."

Ms. Johnson's client list includes such prominent firms as AT&T, Abbot Laboratories, Kraft Foods, McDonald, 3M, Bank Hapaoim, Motorola and Monsanto. She obtained her law degree from the University of Wisconsin, where she served as the first woman editor-in-chief of the Wisconsin Law Review.

## Turning the pages back...

(Continued from page 6)

Mr. Yushchenko's response dismissed Ms. Tymoshenko as a leader in Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration and cited her voting record – he said she voted for the Komsomol anniversary and blocked Odesa-Brody pipeline legislation – and was critical of her gas agreements with Russia.

He then suggested that Ms. Tymoshenko should have proposed a resolution regarding the transfer of Russian Black Sea Fleet military personnel on Ukrainian territory

## Cookbook/memoir

Following her Ukrainian business report, Ms. Johnson discussed her experience in writing, designing and printing a Ukrainian cookbook and immigration memoir, "A Legacy of Four Cooks, Recollections of Ukrainian Home Cooking."

The 240-page book contains a collection of traditional recipes, but is also a warm memoir of Ms. Johnson's family's experience as immigrants during the massive post-World War II resettlement of displaced persons.

Economic necessity and adjustment to a foreign environment led several branches of her family to live together in adjoining apartments and then nearby homes. The experience provided opportunities for warm family gatherings for which traditional Ukrainian dishes were prepared.

In her book, Ms. Johnson strove to recreate those dishes, and those memories, first by requesting recipes from family members. Later, working in Ukraine, she researched cookbooks and discussed food preparation with colleagues.

She was fortunate that her father was an avid and diligent photographer, recording the family's immigration, family gatherings and outings. His black-and-white photos illustrate the book. In addition, Ms. Johnson tested the recipes in her kitchen in Kyiv, then photographed them in color.

"It took several thousand shots and many failures before I got satisfactory results," Ms. Johnson notes. "But digital photography makes it very possible and economic."

To design and print the book, Ms. Johnson relied on current software tools. "A Legacy of Four Cooks" is available for \$76.95 at [blurb.com](http://blurb.com).

and not disavowed Ukraine's European aspirations in Brussels.

A victory by either Ms. Tymoshenko or Viktor Yanukovich in the presidential election made no difference in the eyes of the Kremlin, Mr. Yushchenko said, claiming both candidates were motivated by pro-Russian dependence. Both candidates would lead to defeat for Ukraine's European course, he claimed. (The exchange, in Ukrainian, can be viewed at: [www.president.gov.ua/news/16569.html](http://www.president.gov.ua/news/16569.html))

Source: "For the Record: Yushchenko on his battle with Tymoshenko," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 28, 2010.

# UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## Plast children welcome Sviaty Mykolai

by Chrystia Gorski-Makar

NEW YORK – On Saturday, December 17, 2012, the New York branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization celebrated “Sviato Mykolaya” with a children’s play called “The Night of Sviaty Mykolai” written by Sofiyka Zielyk and directed by Stefka Nazarkewycz-Tremba.

“Ptashata,” the 5-year-old preschool scouts, “novatstvo” (ages 6-11) and “yunatstvo” (ages 11-18) participated in a magical story about how the Snow Princess almost forgot to make it snow the night before the arrival of Sviaty Mykolai (St. Nicholas). The Head Chortyk (devil) tried to trick her and stop Sviaty Mykolai from coming to visit the children with his love, well wishes and gifts. The children were worried and hoped that it would snow so that Sviaty Mykolai would come and visit all the Ukrainian children of the world.

After some laughter and witty and smart lines spoken between the Snow Princess (played by “sestrychka,” or counselor, Hanusia Hrabovsky) and the Head Chortyk (played by “bratchyk” Victor Podpirka), the Snow Princess noticed the Head Chortyk pouring sugar into his hot chocolate and this sugar reminded her of snow!

She quickly called the little “snizhynky” (snowflakes) played by the ptashata, who danced a short dance choreographed by sestrychka Chrystia Makar to the melody and song of “Syple Snih” (Snow is Falling). The piano beautifully played by Dr. Marta Machaj caressed the little snizhynky as they flowed around the stage and finally threw white snowflake confetti onto all the children.

Then, amidst magic and awe, Sviaty Mykolai and his angels appeared. The visitor from heaven bestowed his blessings and gifts to all ptashata, novatstvo and yunatstvo.



C. Gorski-Makar

Plast Ptashata (front row, from left) Zachary Shulyar, Maksym Podolyuk, Alexander Zunt, Gregory Malone, (back row) Daria Gural, Ruslana Makar, Ariana Chemych and Oriyana Mokrytska in their snowflake costumes.

## Sviaty Mykolai visits Ukrainian school in Stamford

by Tania Sawa-Priatka

STAMFORD, Conn. – The children were hopeful when the sound of sleigh bells rang out and beauti-

ful angels escorted Sviaty Mykolai (St. Nicholas) into the auditorium of St. Basil Seminary here on December 18, 2011.

The School of Ukrainian Studies at the Cathedral Parish of St. Volodymyr the Great hosted the heavenly guest at the school’s

annual program dedicated to St. Nicholas.

Over 50 children in kindergarten through Grade 7 performed songs and poems that told of the life and accomplishments of Sviaty Mykolai as well as how dearly they love and cherish him.

At the culmination of the program, Sviaty Mykolai arrived, bringing with him myriad gifts for all the good little children. He spoke to each of them, asking whether they had listened to their parents, worked hard in school and regularly went to church during the past year. Some of the littlest children were asked to recite short poems or demonstrate prayers they knew.

Before departing, Sviaty Mykolai wished everyone present a wonderful holiday season and said he looked forward to visiting with them all again next year.

For information about the Ukrainian school, readers may contact Tania Sawa-Priatka, 203-550-3542.



Children recite poems during the program held in honor of Sviaty Mykolai (St. Nicholas).

# Parish children welcome St. Nicholas, sing Christmas carols for retired nuns



St. Nicholas poses with the Hillside parish children, the Rev. Vasyl Vladyka and choir director Tom Dochych.

by Joe Shatynski

HILLSIDE, N.J. – St. Nicholas visited the children and parishioners of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church here on Sunday, December 4, 2011.

In honor of St. Nicholas' visit, the children presented a bilingual holiday entertainment program that included: a performance of "The Nutcracker" (Sonya Khedr; Julia and Emilia Pelesz; Matthew and Elizabeth Dolowy; Julianna, Ariana and Nicholas Shatynski; Ashley and Nicole Santoro; Peter and Arthur Hrycak and Nicholas Senyk); musical performances of carols on the keyboard (Julia Pelesz), violin (Julianna Shatynski) and clarinet (Ariana Shatynski); a Christmas skit and caroling (Sofia, Maria, John and Paul Soroka).

Mike Szpyhulsky served as the emcee, while Russ Pencak served as liaison to St. Nicholas. The Rev. Vasyl Vladyka, parochial vicar, and Tom Dochych, parish choir director, led the group in prayer and koliady.

Later in the month, on December 26, the parish children and several parishioners (Peter, Linda, Matthew & Elizabeth Dolowy; Peter, Arthur and Orest Hrycak; Andriy Partykevych; Michael, Teresa and Nadia Szpyhulsky; and Julianna, Ariana, Joseph, Patricia, Matthew, Michael and Jennie Shatynski)

traveled to nearby Watchung, N.J., to sing beautiful Christmas carols in Ukrainian and English for the retired Sisters of Mercy and clergy of McAuley Hall Center at Mount St. Mary Academy.

The retired sisters and clergy became energized as the carolers began to sing. The children then distributed home-baked cookies and parish calendars illustrated with a beautiful icon.

There is a special bond between the children of the Ukrainian Catholic parish in Hillside and the Roman Catholic retired sisters and clergy. A week after the visit, one of the sisters mailed a beautiful article to the children titled "The Ukrainian Catholic Church is Catholic but not Roman Catholic. What's the difference?"

The article was published in the St. Anthony Messenger magazine and was further featured on the AmericanCatholic.org website. The article refers to the Blessed John Paul II's words indicating that the Catholic Church has two lungs: the Eastern Catholic Churches and the Western Catholic Church. "...Their unity is essential to the healthy life of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church," the article notes.

Thus, without knowing it, the parish children helped the two lungs of the Catholic Church function as fully as possible.

# Maryland student earns rank of Eagle Scout

BALTIMORE – Peter R. Hynson earned the rank of Eagle Scout – the highest rank in Boy Scouts of America – in November 2011.

Peter began his scouting in the first grade as a cub scout in Cub Scout Pack 762. Then he was in Boy Scout Troop 555 and during his scouting years earned 21 merit badges. He also participated in the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

In July 2011 Peter completed his Eagle project: the construction of a shed on the grounds of a Howard County elementary school. This was done on the hottest day of the year.

Peter is a 2011 graduate of Marriots Ridge High School in Marriotsville, Md., graduating in the top 5 percent of his class and as a member of the National Honor Society. Currently, he is a freshman at Virginia Tech.

As a child Peter was baptized and received his First Holy Communion at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Baltimore. He also attended Saturday Ukrainian school



Peter R. Hynson

at St. Michael's.

Peter is the son of Martha Sushko and Mark Hynson of Marriotsville, Md., and the grandson of Olha and the late Wolodymyr Sushko of Baltimore, Md. and Esther and the late Raymond Hynson of Ellicott City, Md.

The official Eagle Scout ceremony for Peter is to be held in 2012.

## Mishanyna

The calendar tells us it's wintertime, but in many parts of the United States, it seems like spring! Regardless of the temperature outside, this month's Mishanyna celebrates wintertime activities. (And, if the groundhog is right, we still have more than a month of winter remaining.) Find the capitalized words on the list hidden in the Mishanyna grid.

- CROSS-COUNTRY skiing    SKIING    SNOWMOBILING
- DOG SLEDDING    SLEDDING    SNOWSHOEING
- ICE CLIMBING    SNOWBALL FIGHTS    SNOWTUBING
- ICE SKATING    SNOWBOARDING    TOBOGGANING

S	S	O	G	N	I	B	M	I	L	C	E	C	I	O
I	N	T	O	O	N	O	O	C	O	W	O	D	S	R
D	O	O	D	O	G	S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G	S
O	W	B	W	R	L	T	O	S	O	S	T	N	O	N
S	B	O	A	T	I	N	G	K	W	U	I	W	O	O
N	A	G	T	R	U	R	N	A	N	B	G	E	G	W
O	L	G	E	A	L	B	U	T	M	O	L	A	N	B
W	L	A	R	I	S	K	I	I	N	G	O	T	I	O
I	F	N	S	N	O	W	L	N	O	T	H	H	D	A
N	I	I	K	K	O	C	K	G	G	R	E	E	D	R
G	G	N	I	L	I	B	O	M	W	O	N	S	E	D
S	H	G	N	C	O	L	D	H	O	T	O	E	L	I
N	T	O	G	N	I	E	O	H	S	W	O	N	S	N
O	S	N	O	W	U	R	S	T	S	N	O	W	O	G
W	N	S	Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	S	S	O	R	C

### Let us hear from you!

The next edition of UKELODEON will be published on March 11. Please send in your submissions by March 2 to staff@ukrweekly.com.

# PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Saturday, February 18**

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Oksana Kis (Lviv) on the subject "Women's Experience as Participants in the National Liberation Movement of OUN and UPA in the Years 1940-1950," based on personal memoirs of participants in the underground. The speaker holds the degree of candidate of historical sciences and is a senior scholarly co-worker at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. She also chairs the Lviv civic organization called the Woman and Society Scholarly Research Center. The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Avenue (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

**Sunday, February 19**

**CHICAGO:** On the occasion of the 120th anniversary of Patriarch Josyf Slipyj's birth, Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church, the parish's St. Andrew Brotherhood and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation invite all to "My Years with Patriarch Josyf," a talk by the Rev. Dr. Iwan Dacko, who was the personal secretary of Patriarch Josyf from 1976 to 1984. Questions and answers will follow the talk, the film "Patriarch" will be shown, and refreshments will be served. Cost: \$15 per person. The talk

will take place at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., at 1 p.m. For more information, contact the UCEF, 773-235-8462.

**Thursday, February 23**

**NEW YORK:** For the 120th anniversary of Patriarch Josyf Slipyj's birth, the Ukrainian Patriarchal Society in the U.S.A., The Ukrainian Museum and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation invite all to "My Years with Patriarch Josyf," a talk by the Rev. Dr. Iwan Dacko, who was the personal secretary of Patriarch Josyf from 1976 to 1984. A question and answer session will follow the talk, and refreshments will be served. Cost: \$15 per

person, \$10 for students and seniors. The talk will place at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St., at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the UCEF, 773-235-8462.

**NEW YORK:** Please join the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, for a lecture by popular Kyiv-based writer Andrey Kurkov titled "Ukraine as a Novel with Strong Plot and Weak Characters." The lecture is free and open to the public and will take place at noon in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. For more information contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk, 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu

**Saturday-Sunday, February 25-26**

**PHILADELPHIA:** A two-day celebration will mark the 120th anniversary of Patriarch Josyf Slipyj's birth. On Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., an international scholarly conference on Patriarch Josyf's life and works will be held in English at La Salle University Chapel (20th Street and Olney Avenue). On Sunday, at 10:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception Cathedral (833 N. Franklin St.) will host a presentation of memories (in Ukrainian) of Patriarch Slipyj by students and colleagues. The \$25 two-day registration fee includes snacks and lunches on both days. The fee for one day is \$15. For more information e-mail ivivankovych@yahoo.com.

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions are subject to editing.

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

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

**1933**  
**2012**

**Log on to**  
**[www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com)**

The Ukrainian Weekly archive(1933-2011) is open to the public.  
The current year's issues, however, are reserved for online subscribers.

**Cost of an annual online subscription:**  
**\$65 (\$55 for UNA members).**

**Subscribers to our print edition can get an additional online subscription for only \$5.**

To start your online subscription call our Subscription Department,  
**973-292-9800, ext. 3042.**

**Read and search**  
**The Ukrainian Weekly online.**  
**Discover our shared past and present!**

# SCOPE TRAVEL INC.

## 2012 TOURS TO UKRAINE



**TWO CAPITALS**  
9 Day All Inclusive Tour tw from \$2290  
via Lufthansa from Newark  
Kyiv, Lviv - the two "capitals" of E. & W. Ukraine.  
The leisurely pace of this tour permits for stays with friends, with extensions to Budapest, Vienna or Munich optional.  
Departures: **May 16, Jul 11, Aug 1, Sep 19**



**MINI UKRAINE**  
12 Day All Inclusive Tour tw from \$2790  
via Lufthansa from Newark  
Kyiv, Lviv, Yaremche and Kamianets Podilsky  
The two "capitals" of Ukraine, plus a three day bus tour to the Carpathian Mountains and Bukovyna with stops in Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Kolomyia, Chernivtsi, Zarvanytsia.  
Departures: **May 16, Jul 11, Aug 1, Sep 19**



**UKRAINE + POLAND and HUNGARY**  
via Lufthansa from Newark  
11 Day All Inclusive Tour tw \$2950  
Lviv, Krakow and Budapest – lovely combination of 3 countries and peoples whose history intertwined through the centuries. First class hotels, meals, tours and more!  
One departure only: **May 17, 2012**



**ETAP 1+2** Aug 8 – 25 \$2000  
УПН - УПУ - УСП - УПС  
пл сен Ореста Федіянк

**TOUR A** Aug 16-25 \$1990  
10 Days  
Lviv  
Координатор транспортів Scope Travel  
пл сен Петро Ставничий

**TOUR B** Aug 13-25 \$2290  
12 Days  
Kyiv + Lviv  
Провідник пл сен Марійка Гельб'іг

**TOUR C** Aug 13-25 \$2690  
12 Days  
Kyiv, Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky Sokil, Kolomyia, Zarvanytsia  
Провідник пл сен Марійка Гельб'іг

**LETOM SKOBA** Aug 8 – 25 \$3000  
17 Days  
Kyiv, Kaniv, Iv. Frankivsk, Tatariv, Bukovel Kolomyia, Chernivtsi, Kamianets Podilsky, Kryshchalevi Pechery, Zarvanytsia, Lviv  
Командант ст пл Александер Колос  
Оп'ікун пл сен Христина Храплива.

**ПЛАСТ ЮМФЗ**  
**Centennial Tours**  
**All Welcome!!!**

Air/land rates only - tax not incl.- details on Scope web site  
All tours are open to non-PLAST members except the ETAP TOURS.

**Scope Travel Inc 101 S. Centre St. S. Orange, NJ 07079**  
**Phone 973 378 8998 Toll Free 877 357 0436**  
**[www.scopetravel.com](http://www.scopetravel.com) cell 201 463 4656 [scope@scopetravel.com](mailto:scope@scopetravel.com)**