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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Pirates release Faina and crew

by Yuriy Onyshkiv

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

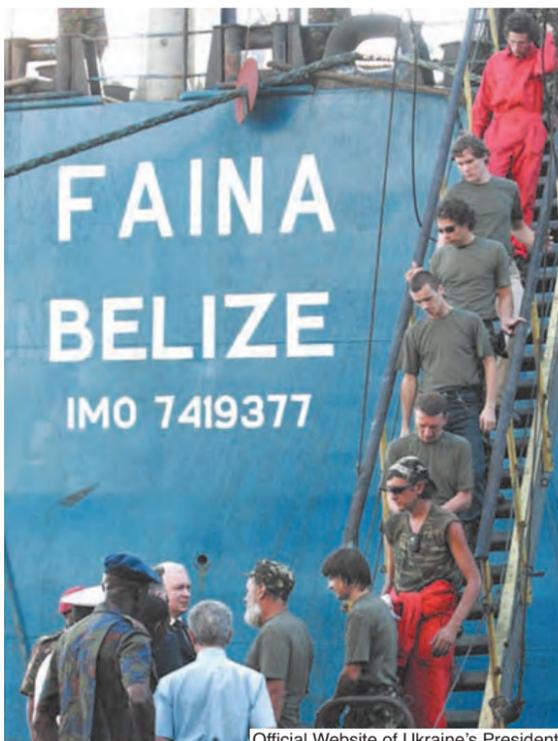
KYIV – After more than four months in captivity, Ukrainian sailors aboard the MV Faina were to return home on February 13, marking the conclusion to the longest siege in recent history by Somali pirates, who have gained global notoriety for their ransoms at sea.

The pirates released the hostages – 17 Ukrainians, three Russians and a Latvian – on February 5 after one of the ship's owners, Israeli citizen and former Odesa City Council Deputy Vadym Alperin, agreed to pay a \$3.2 million ransom, which was dropped by parachutes onto the ship.

Frustrated relatives blamed the hostages' lengthy exile on the inaction of the Ukrainian government, which placed the negotiations squarely on the shoulders of Mr. Alperin and an unnamed British law firm recommended by the government's intelligence services.

"We were ignored for 133 days, it was a bit unusual to hear the president's greetings and speeches from [Parliamentary Ombudsman for Human Rights Nina] Karpachova, who congratulated us on the victory and that our boys are finally free," said Olha Hirzheva, the mother of the Faina's 21-year-old motor mechanic, Artem. "But what have they done for that? Nothing! There is nothing we could thank them for."

Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Vasyl Kyrlych dismissed such criticisms, stating that it wasn't the government's role



The MV Faina arrives in Kenya on February 9 after being released by Somali pirates.

to get involved in a private dispute.

Negotiators came close to releasing the sailors on four occasions, said Ukrainian Foreign Intelligence Service Chair Mykola Malomuzh, but other pirates and interested parties spread disinformation that the Ukrainians didn't have the cash or could ambush the ship.

Mr. Alperin complained that, after negotiating with one pirate, he had to start from square one with another pirate within several days.

While piracy along the eastern coast of

(Continued on page 18)

Tymoshenko seeks foreign loans to help support Ukraine's economy

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko of Ukraine has appeared to the world's richest countries to help support its economy at this time of global crisis, reported the Financial Times on February 8.

The newspaper noted that the prime minister had sent letters to the United States, Russia, China, Japan and the European Union to seek loans to help cover a budget shortfall.

"We have already received a positive response from some countries, including Russia," Ms. Tymoshenko said at the Munich Security Conference over the weekend of February 7-8. "Russia is ready to sign such loan agreements."

The Financial Times reported that the prime minister did not say how much Kyiv was seeking to borrow, but that

there were reports in Ukraine that suggested Russia could lend \$5 billion (U.S.).

President Viktor Yushchenko criticized the prime minister for appealing to Russia for a loan, saying that would make Ukraine too dependent on Moscow.

Meanwhile, an International Monetary Fund delegation visiting Kyiv last week to review the country's stand-by arrangement with the fund expressed concern about Ukraine's economic outlook. "The economic situation remains difficult associated with decline in demand for steel products and the sharply reduced access to international capital markets," noted a statement released on February 6 by Ceyla Pazarbasioglu of the IMF mission to Kyiv.

(Continued on page 11)

Brushfires in Australia damage Ukrainian Youth Association camp

by Matthew Dubas

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Brushfires have devastated many parts of southeastern Australia, including the Karpaty campground of the Ukrainian Youth Association (UYA) of Australia, which is near the towns of Narbethong, Buxton and Marysville that have been razed by the fires.

Several weeks prior to the fires, over 160 campers were enjoying the end of the season at the grounds. None of them knew it could have been the last time.

Since the fires began, on Saturday, February 7, the community had been hopeful that its grounds were spared, but a photo posted on the Melbourne UYA website confirmed the worst. According to reports, the kitchen/mess hall was destroyed by the fires; some other buildings were either partially damaged or completely destroyed.

The campground, purchased in 1963, has hosted local, national and international youth camps, according to the Melbourne UYA Branch. Access to the area remains limited to authorized emergency personnel and, after the extent of the damage is

assessed, the UYA will determine what the next steps will be.

The Melbourne Branch of the UYA said it considers itself fortunate that only the Karpaty property was damaged, whereas surrounding communities in the state of Victoria have suffered the losses of family and friends. The official death toll at press time was 181.

An appeal to assist the local communities affected by the fires has been mobilized by the UYA's Melbourne Branch. Items for donation include: diapers, baby wipes, feminine products, body lotions, soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, nail files, nail clippers, make-up, undergarments, non-perishable goods, pet food, can openers, blankets and linens. Clothing, in particular girls' sizes 2-9, is in short supply.

Donations in the amount of \$1,000 each were made by Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in Victoria and the Perth Branch of the UYA to the Victorian Fire Appeal, coordinated by the Melbourne Branch of the UYA.

For more information on how to help, readers may e-mail Andrea Ckuj, ackuj@optusnet.au.

NEWS ANALYSIS: Tymoshenko defeats Yanukovych in Rada

by Pavel K. Baev

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko survived a no-confidence motion in Parliament on February 5. The motion was backed by 203 votes – 23 short of the number required in the 450-seat chamber to oust the government. It was another victory for Ms. Tymoshenko, who

survived a similar motion last December. Ms. Tymoshenko will now stay at least until September, as Parliament can vote on no-confidence motions only once in a session.

Ms. Tymoshenko's victory was a crushing defeat for the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), the main opposition party led by former Prime Minister Viktor

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Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko reacts to the unsuccessful no-confidence vote in the Verkhovna Rada on February 5.

Web-portal of the Ukrainian government

ANALYSIS

Who owns the gas in Ukraine's underground reservoirs?

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The gas dispute that left half of Europe without gas in early January was officially settled by accords signed by Gazprom and Naftohaz Ukrainy in Moscow on January 19 and 20. The clash, however, is apparently not over. Ukrainian businessman Dmytro Firtash, who owns the RosUkrEnergo gas trading company jointly with Gazprom, has said that he is suing Naftohaz in the Stockholm arbitration court over 11 billion cubic meters of gas stored in Ukraine's underground reservoirs (Inter TV, February 1).

Mr. Firtash maintains that the gas belongs to RosUkrEnergo, but Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko insists that Gazprom passed the ownership rights to Naftohaz. Consumers in the European Union may suffer again.

Ms. Tymoshenko and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin agreed to cut RosUkrEnergo out of the gas trade between Russia and Ukraine. They also agreed to solve the problem of RosUkrEnergo's \$1.7 billion debt to Gazprom through a complicated deal in which Gazprom paid Naftohaz in advance for gas transit to Europe in 2009 and Naftohaz paid RosUkrEnergo's debt to Gazprom from that money, so RosUkrEnergo in fact became Naftohaz's debtor (Vedomosti, January 22). The problem is that RosUkrEnergo and the Ukrainian prime minister interpreted the settlement scheme differently.

The Ukrainian government decided that Naftohaz became the owner of the gas that RosUkrEnergo had accumulated

in the huge underground storage facilities in western Ukraine. By Tymoshenko's interpretation, Naftohaz bought the 11 billion cubic meters of gas stored by RosUkrEnergo for \$1.7 billion, which equals \$154 per 1,000 cubic meters, much lower than the \$360 price that Gazprom is charging Ukraine in the first quarter of 2009. Ukraine, therefore, should be using gas from the reservoirs for the time being rather than buying expensive Russian gas. Ms. Tymoshenko forecast that the average cost of gas for Ukraine would be \$228, based not only on the expectation that Russian gas would become cheaper due to a drop in the world oil price but also calculating that most of the gas used in the first quarter of 2009 would cost Ukraine \$154 rather than \$360 (Zerkalo Nedeli, January 31).

Mr. Firtash refused, however, to let Naftohaz take the cheap gas from the reservoirs. Ukrainian Customs Service chief Valerii Khoroshkovskiy said that he would treat the gas in question as the property of RosUkrEnergo in accordance with the customs declarations (Inter TV, January 24). Mr. Khoroshkovskiy explained later that the accord between Gazprom and Naftohaz on RosUkrEnergo's debt settlement had been signed only by a representative of Gazprom but not by a representative of Mr. Firtash, which is a legal requirement of Switzerland, the country where RosUkrEnergo is registered. This, according to Mr. Khoroshkovskiy, meant that Naftohaz's earlier obligation to pump this gas to RosUkrEnergo's customers in Europe

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Putin retains the initiative in the gas dialogue with Europe

by Pavel K. Baev
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The annual security conference held in Munich last weekend should have attracted prime attention in Moscow, not least because U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden delivered the first presentation of the Obama administration's arms control strategy. In reality, however, the attention was superficial at best; and it was Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov, who was delegated to confirm there that Russia was indeed interested in negotiating some new framework for its fast shrinking strategic arsenal. Mr. Ivanov assured that the new tactical Iskander missiles would not be deployed in Kaliningrad Oblast anytime soon but offered no explanation for Russia's "surprise attack" aimed at the U.S. airbase in Manas, Kyrgyzstan, which apparently will have to be closed in 180 days (RIA-Novosti, www.gazeta.ru, February 7).

These maneuvers might appear at cross-purposes but could make more sense in the context of the Russian leadership's real priority: energy relations with Europe.

Moscow has inflicted a great deal of damage to these relations by escalating the gas quarrel with Ukraine until it reached a complete shutdown of pipelines, and it does not seem to have any regrets about that blunder.

The first step in minimizing the consequences was made in talks with Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov last week, which resulted in an agreement on direct trade between Gazprom and Bulgargaz and, more

important, on compensation for the interruption of deliveries in January (Vremya Novostei, February 6; Nezavisimaya Gazeta, January 26). Such deals are definitely more attractive for Bulgaria, hard hit by the financial crisis, than any attempt to sue Gazprom for breaking its contractual obligations.

The next step was more complicated. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso brought no fewer than nine commissioners, including Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, to Moscow on February 6 for wide-ranging talks, first with President Dmitry Medvedev and then with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. At the joint press conference afterward, Mr. Putin resolutely dismissed the discussions about "rule of law" that Mr. Barroso had held with Mr. Medvedev, asserting that Russia had its own view on "problems with freedom" and that mutual recriminations would only hinder the really important energy discussions (Kommersant, February 7).

One particular point in the discussions on energy concerned Russia's request for continuing European Union monitoring of the gas transit system in Ukraine, since Mr. Putin expects new problems there, despite his cordial agreement with Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. She delivered a spirited defense of Ukraine's reputation in Munich and argued that building pipelines circumventing that "wonderful" transit country was a "crazy idea" (RIA-Novosti, February 7).

Mr. Putin, however, scored an important

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NEWSBRIEFS

President cites non-transparent talks

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has said he is unhappy about "non-transparent talks on the provision of a \$5 billion (U.S.) loan by Russia to Ukraine." He said this at a February 10 meeting of the National Security and Defense Council on urgent measures on ensuring Ukraine's energy security. Mr. Yushchenko said he is indignant that the talks were held without his consent, whereas its participants focused on the consideration of the question of returning Ukraine and Russia to the so-called "zero variant" of the distribution of assets and liabilities of the former Soviet Union. He said that he has a document containing a technical task given to the Ukrainian delegates sent to Russia. "The document was signed by the vice ministers of foreign affairs, energy and finance. Clause No.11 [of this document stipulates] prospects for ratifying an agreement on the 'zero variant,'" Mr. Yushchenko said. He pointed to the agreements reached by former Ukrainian and Russian presidents, according to which Ukraine, as part of supporting the "zero variant" of the distribution of assets and liabilities of the former Soviet Union, should receive property in those countries that were in the greatest need of buildings for diplomatic, commercial, military and other offices. Moreover, these agreements foresaw the return of around \$700 million (U.S.) by Russia's Vnesheconombank to Ukraine. These were the funds of companies and private individuals whose currency accounts became frozen on the bank's balance after the collapse of the Soviet Union. If the Ukrainian Parliament ratifies an agreement on the "zero variant" in its pure form, as insisted by the Russian side, Ukraine will then get nothing. (Ukrinform)

Tymoshenko challenges NSDC

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko strongly refuted the accusations that President Viktor Yushchenko made against her at the February 10 meeting of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC). She said she had nothing to do with the so-called "technical mission" of the Ukrainian delegation to talks in Moscow on allocation of a \$5 billion (U.S.) credit if the

Verkhovna Rada ratifies the "zero variant" agreement with Russia on the division of the former Soviet property. "I would never make a single step toward ratification of zero deals, or a loss of the gas transportation system," Ms. Tymoshenko told the press. She emphasized that if the NSDC passes a decision on the wording of the draft resolution, she is ready to appeal it in court. Ms. Tymoshenko said she was referring to the wish of the NSDC to revise the Ukraine-Russia gas contracts and actually return RosUkrEnergo to the natural gas market. According to Ms. Tymoshenko, the contracts signed guarantee Ukraine's energy security for 10 years and make it unnecessary to grovel at Russia's feet to ask for special prices and terms for Ukraine. The prime minister said that, in accordance with the contracts signed, Ukraine has the lowest 2009 gas price after Belarus, and the best correlation of transit tariff and process gas price. (Ukrinform)

Lytvyn: power struggle is obstacle

KYIV – The signing of the association agreement between Ukraine and the European Union might be postponed, at least until completion of the 2010 presidential elections, if Ukrainian politicians fail to stop fighting each other, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn told the press in Brussels on February 10. After his talks with EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) Javier Solana, Mr. Lytvyn stressed that a major appeal of Mr. Solana to Ukraine was for a return to political calm and implementation of reforms needed for the country's democratic development. Mr. Lytvyn also noted that in his talks with Mr. Solana he said that it is unlikely that the principal political players in Ukraine would reconcile and consolidate their positions. This divisiveness may be an obstacle to concluding an association agreement between Ukraine and the EU. "Here, in the EU, the stand is quite clear, and in the present conditions Ukrainian politicians and officials must decide what is more important for them: development of further relations with the EU or internal quarrels," he underscored. (Ukrinform)

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Eastern Ukrainians fight to preserve the Holodomor's memory

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KHARKIV, Ukraine – In an independent and democratic Ukraine, Prof. Volodymyr Kalinichenko would not have expected to be attacked by Russians and Communists.

Yet on St. Nicholas Day in 2006, a holy day when gifts are traditionally exchanged, Kharkiv Communists and Russian chauvinists stormed past security and swarmed Dr. Kalinichenko's office, taunting him and violently kicking the locked doors to break them open.

"It seemed as though I was living in the Kharkiv of 1936, not 2006," said Prof. Kalinichenko, chair of the history department at Karazin National University in Kharkiv.

Indeed, 75 years later, the evidence of the Holodomor's catastrophic devastation upon Ukrainian society and spirituality is still apparent.

About a quarter of the native population in eastern Ukraine was murdered, only to be replaced by Russians, Belarusians and Sovietized Ukrainians ("malorosy" as Prof. Kalinichenko refers to them) who either have no affinity for Ukrainian culture and spirituality, or view it with contempt.

No one has a harder time establishing the historical truth about the Holodomor than those ethnic Ukrainians in eastern Ukraine who managed to preserve their cultural identity or somehow regain it.

That includes Luhansk Holodomor crusader Iryna Mahrytska, who produced a film, "Zakliattia Bezpamiati" (The Damnation of Non-Remembrance), which local officials tried to censor and their hired journalists smeared.

Meanwhile, the patriots of Myrhorod in the Poltava Oblast have struggled against a hostile Russian mayor to establish a Holodomor monument at their town's railway station, where nine mass graves are believed to exist.

What placed Dr. Kalinichenko at the top of the Kharkiv Communist hit list was his writings on the Holodomor, particularly his foreword to "Stolytsia Vidchayu" (Capital of Despair), the best work examining the Holodomor in the Kharkiv Oblast written by Tamara Polischuk of the village of Valky.

In his writings, Dr. Kalinichenko stated well-established facts of the Holodomor – that in place of the ethnic Ukrainians who were targeted and starved to death, the Bolsheviks brought in Russians and Belarusians to settle their homes.

The Kharkiv Communists, led by lawyer Yuri Shekhovtsov, view reporting such historical facts as criminal, alleging that Prof. Kalinichenko intended to "incite interethnic hostility" and citing specific excerpts.

"Demobilized soldiers of the worker-



Zenon Zawada

Valentyna and Oleksander Ksionzenko and Memory Charter Chair Andrii Levchenko (right) have recruited the diaspora in building a monument, Harvest of Despair, to the Holodomor victims of the Myrhorod district in the Poltava Oblast.

peasant Red Army and Russians were sent to settle the deserted villages," Prof. Kalinichenko wrote. "Military hardware and escort was provided for their transfer from railroad stations, where they were treated to food and buffets."

"Ukraine's Russification was discussed," he wrote. "The settlers systematically avoided work, ignoring physical labor, demanding management responsibilities. Not having found their Klondike in Ukraine, the newly arrived colonizers scattered. Only those who gained their desired managing positions remained in the Ukrainian reservations, some of whom to this day consider themselves overseers of Ukrainians."

An avid admirer of Joseph Stalin, Mr. Shekhovtsov successfully defended the Soviet dictator's record at a public mock trial held in Moscow. And, in a November 2006 challenge published in the Kharkiv Communist newspaper The Red Banner, Mr. Shekhovtsov offered to defend Stalin against the professor's allegations of genocide at a similar mock trial.

"If you are confident in your righteousness, invite the above-mentioned 'witnesses,' upon whose testimonies you conferred the status of 'document' in your reviews," Mr. Shekhovtsov wrote in a flier distributed to Kharkiv University students. "I promise to interrogate them with the passion of an investigator not indifferent to all kinds of lies, but adhering to the rules of proper tone."

Dr. Kalinichenko ignored the challenge, knowing a spectacle was being set up. What he didn't expect was a violent protest that involved more than 50 activists from the Communist Party of Ukraine, the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine and the Russian Bloc standing outside his office for a half-hour, kicking and punching his door, demanding that he face them.

"Our security is retired prison guards," he said. "Many of them sympathize with the Communists, and they let them through." The so-called security at the university eventually dragged the protesters away, but the pressure didn't end there.

Within weeks, Mr. Shekhovtsov filed a criminal complaint against Dr. Kalinichenko with the Security Service of Ukraine in Kharkiv, which referred it to the oblast prosecutor's office, which subsequently dismissed the matter. Mr. Shekhovtsov also filed a criminal complaint against Ms. Polischuk, which also was dismissed.

Though it was acceptable to research the Holodomor during the 1990s, the subject became politicized once Viktor Yushchenko became president, unhesitatingly called it genocide and sought to bring global recognition of the nation's catastrophe, Dr. Kalinichenko said.

Having a nationally conscious Ukrainian in power exposed the Russian chauvinism that plagues eastern Ukraine. "There is a very high percentage of people here who, for whatever reason, don't like Ukraine," he said. "They don't want to know her. This includes ethnic Russians and those Ukrainians whom I call malorosy, who lost their national consciousness, speak Russian and think like Russians, or even worse."

Ms. Mahrytska confronts such chauvinism on a daily basis in Luhansk – particularly from the Party of Regions, which controls the State Oblast Administration led by Oleksander Antipov, who was appointed by President Yushchenko.

In order to reach a wider audience than with her books alone, Ms. Mahrytska produced a documentary film on the Holodomor in the Luhansk Oblast, accepting \$2,760 from the State Oblast Administration on the condition she work with its appointed film director. Sure enough, the director surrendered the near-completed film to his higher-ups at the State Oblast Administration, who conveniently edited all the materials that cast local officials in a bad light, particularly in revealing the ignorance of average Luhansk residents about the Holodomor.

They returned the film to Ms. Mahrytska after she raised hell with the Presidential Secretariat, leaving her with just several weeks to re-edit it in time for the annual Holodomor commemoration on the third Saturday of November.

Once again, the diaspora pitched in to rescue a Holodomor project in Ukraine, this time in the form of a \$10,000 donation from the Buduchnist Credit Union in Toronto, which was organized by the Ukrainian World Congress and Christine Bidiak.

On November 22, 2008, the 95-minute documentary "The Damnation of Non-Remembrance" was broadcast on the oblast television station Irta, which typically shows programs glorifying the Soviet Union and filled with Ukrainophobic propaganda. During the broadcast, local Party of Regions

(Continued on page 10)



Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) advisor Volodymyr Viatrovych (left) and Dr. Vasyl Danylenko, director of the SBU archives, edited "Pavlohrad Uprising in 1930: Documents and Materials," which they presented on February 10.



Dr. Volodymyr Kalinichenko, chair of the history department at Karazin National University in Kharkiv, was ambushed by Communists and Russian chauvinists in his own office because of his writings on the Holodomor.

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	Z. Stawnychy	Kinnelon, NJ
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	John Terlecky	Ansonia, CT
	O. Temnycky	Clifton, NJ
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	Markian Onuferko	Jenkintown, PA
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in response to the Ukrainian National Association's
2008 Christmas card mailing.*

Fall fund-raisers benefit the Ukrainian Catholic University

by Matthew A. Rarey

CHICAGO – As news about the global economic crisis turned darker by the day, the voice of reality seemed to scold the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation for embarking upon its most ambitious fund-raising tour ever: banquets to benefit the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) to be held on four consecutive Sundays in four U.S. cities in October and November 2008, followed by additional events in Canada.

After months of preparation by UCEF staff working with host committees in each city, however, the die was cast and the show had to go on.

“Through the grace of God moving hearts to give generously, I’m so glad to report that the returns exceeded even our most ambitious expectations,” reported Daniel R. Szymanski Jr., executive director of the UCEF. Over \$400,000 was raised in New York City, \$90,000 in Chicago, \$74,000 in Detroit and \$50,000 in Cleveland.

The faithful support of many patrons – including such stalwart friends as the Ukrainian American credit unions, parishes and sundry foundations – will help UCU and the Church in Ukraine weather the global economic storm that is wracking Ukraine’s already shaky economy.

“It was gratifying, though not unexpected, to see the outpouring of support for UCU from the Greater Cleveland Ukrainian community,” said Dick Russ, co-master of ceremonies at the Cleveland banquet on October 26. “The heartfelt welcome given by Father Borys [Gudziak] was an expression of the deep love and commitment the local community has always had for Ukraine, for our beloved Ukrainian Catholic Church, and especially for the students at UCU who are so earnestly working for the benefit of both Church and country.”

Like many benefactors, Mr. Russ’ support of the UCEF is a family affair: His wife, Christina, also served on the host committee; his younger son, Stefan, a student at Franciscan University, helped operate the audio-visual system; and his elder son, Andriy, attended the final event – in Warren, Mich., on November 16 – along with several of his fellow Jesuit novices from the seminary in Detroit. These young men in Roman collars listened attentively to news about the vitality of the Church in Ukraine, the main topic of the table’s dinner conversation, in fact. Andriy Russ plans to obtain bi-ritual faculties, allowing him to celebrate divine liturgy as well as say mass.

“I’m encouraged by the interest of so many young people here in the U.S.,” noted his father, Mr. Russ, well known in Cleveland as general manager of the local NBC news affiliate. “I think they recognize the struggles their contemporaries in Ukraine are facing and want to find ways to support them.”

Father Gudziak, rector of UCU, was principal speaker at all the events, which ranged in attendance from 150 to over 200 friends of UCU. He was joined in Chicago and Detroit by two of the university’s alumni, who also visited community and church groups to informally relate the good news happening in Lviv: Andriy Kurochka, a young relative of recently retired Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck who works in UCU’s development office, and Sister Jelena Herasym, founding prioress of the Redemptorist Order in Lviv.

Unfortunately, one prominent guest speaker had to cancel at the last minute.

Matthew A. Rarey (rarey@ucef.org) is communications specialist at the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation.

The Rev. Richard John Neuhaus, editor of the influential religious journal *First Things* and a member of the UCEF’s Advisory Council, had welcomed the invitation to share the podium with Father Gudziak in New York City.

“I look forward to supporting the noble enterprise that is UCU and being with my friend Father Borys once again,” said Father Neuhaus. A leading voice in ecumenical dialogue and a staunch supporter of the cause of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Father Neuhaus visited UCU several years ago and attended a sobor and synod of the UGCC in Lviv. The night before the event, however, Father Neuhaus’s secretary called to say the priest had taken ill. Two months later, he passed away after a short bout with a very virulent form of cancer.

“At UCU, sisters can fully realize all their knowledge and spiritual gifts and then put them to use in their monastic life as well as their pastoral service to Church and society,” Sister Jelena told supporters in Warren. “Though not all students will become theologians or historians or social pedagogues, they will bring this education of the spirit... which they acquired at UCU into Ukrainian life. This is how we will help change our country for the better.”

After finishing her talk, Sister Jelena, an accomplished vocalist and musician, sang sonorous hymns, lovely and almost magical. Not a few tears were shed in the hushed room.

“It was so beautiful. I don’t know, she just rocked,” remarked Roman Pylypczak, a 21-year-old UCEF supporter who filmed the event in Chicago. Mr. Pylypczak, a university student, also produced the video documentary about UCU that was shown at all the events to critical acclaim. “In future documentaries about UCU, I would love to add clips of her singing and playing the guitar,” he commented.

Many, including the rector himself, agreed that Sister Jelena’s angelic singing was a charming change from Father Gudziak’s hoarse voice, afflicted by a dogged cold imported from Ukraine.

His message, however, rang clear. “We already have 600 graduates. They go into the world with God’s inspiration, full of competence and the sense of their own dignity and freedom. ... I am happy to have such graduates, including some 200 priests and the first women to have earned degrees in theology in the entire 1000-year history of Christianity in their own land,” he said.

“These are special people who are ready to go against the mainstream... to help their nation overcome different obstacles,” Father Gudziak continued. “To help them accomplish this, and to nurture more young leaders like them, we... are constantly fulfilling our goal of being an open academic community where the Eastern Christian way of life is vital and where young people are nurtured to become leaders in the moral, intellectual, cultural, political and economic arenas of Ukrainian life.”

“To continue making this miracle come true, we humbly pray for your continued generosity in these difficult times. May God bless you,” Father Gudziak concluded.

As proven by the results of the UCEF’s fall 2008 tour, which continued to generate returns into the new year, Father Gudziak’s appeal was answered with generous affection.

Further information about UCU (in English and Ukrainian) is available on the university’s website at www.ucu.edu.ua.

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Sister Jelena Herasym with several of the volunteers who helped make the benefit luncheon in Michigan “the warmest event with the closest feeling of community that the UCEF has ever hosted,” according to benefactor Lubomyr Hewko.



UCEF Executive Director Daniel R. Szymanski Jr., with Father Borys Gudziak and Bishop Innocent Lotocky, OSBM, whose \$6,000 donation added extra wind in the sails of the Windy City’s fund-raiser.

UNIS plans March 25-26 Ukrainian Days in Washington

by Michael Sawkiw Jr.

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – Following previous successful “Ukrainian Days” in the nation’s capital, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) is once again organizing this advocacy program in Washington on March 25-26.

The intent of Ukrainian Days is to promote the concerns of the Ukrainian American community, as well as to establish better relations with community members’ elected representatives in Congress. Briefing papers on various topics will be supplied to all the participants of Ukrainian Days by the UNIS.

The Ukrainian Days agenda will consist of several parts. On Wednesday morning, March 25, UNIS will organize presentations by U.S. government officials and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Of particular interest will be a discussion about the topics of concern to the community, including U.S. assistance to Ukraine; energy security for Ukraine; NATO enlargement; continued advocacy of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933; as well as, the overall context of U.S.-

Ukraine relations.

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

Evening receptions are also being planned for both days in order for the Ukrainian Days participants to have a chance to acquaint themselves with others in Washington who follow U.S.-Ukraine relations.

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

For further information about participating, as well as hotel accommodations, readers may contact the Ukrainian National Information Service at 202-547-0018 or unis@ucca.org.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Establishing historical truth

The Ukrainian Weekly was born out of the need to tell the English-speaking world about the Holodomor, a genocide devised by the government of the Soviet Union to kill millions of Ukrainians in the winter of 1932-1933.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of one of the greatest catastrophes in human history, The Weekly's Kyiv bureau examined the Famine-Genocide on a more intimate level, focusing the spotlight on those Ukrainians who are at the forefront of raising awareness and establishing the historical truth. For, while most Ukrainians are familiar with names like Joseph Stalin and Lazar Kaganovich, and concepts like dekurkulization and collectivization, it's the specific policies and instances, such as the confiscation of millstones to grind grain or excessive taxation, that will enable us to better understand what happened in the 1930s.

The 18-part series, which revealed the efforts of average Ukrainians, most living on meager incomes, to establish the historical truth, proved both inspiring, as well as disheartening.

We became familiar with the efforts of patriots in the Poltava and Zhytomyr oblasts to establish Holodomor monuments, undaunted by the indifference and opposition of evil government officials. We bore witness to the present-day persecution Holodomor truth-tellers face such as Iryna Mahrytska in Luhansk and Prof. Volodymyr Kalinichenko in Kharkiv, face in eastern Ukraine. We learned about the unfathomable depths of evil pursued by the Stalinist regime and the millions of Communists, of various nationalities, who "were just following orders" – snatching every last crumb and seed from households, executing and beating starving peasants for trying to feed themselves, and indoctrinating schoolchildren to inform on their parents.

We learned the instrumental role that the diaspora has played in financing research efforts. Retired New Yorker Marian Kots proved a single person can make an immense difference in this world by financing numerous critical Holodomor publications in Ukraine. Without his support, many valuable books would never have seen the light of day, including Tamara Polischuk's "Stolytsia Vidchayu" (Capital of Despair), Dr. Petro Yaschuk's "Portret Temriavy" (Portrait of Darkness) and the Holodomor bibliographic index produced at the Gorky library in Odesa. Mr. Kots is a true Ukrainian hero.

Unfortunately, Holodomor research is desperately underfinanced and lacking support in Ukraine. There are so many stories that still need to be told, and not enough money to put them onto paper or even video, for that matter. Just as troubling is the lack of research to establish the names of victims and the casualty rate. Most oblasts estimated casualties for the National Book of Memory of Holodomor Victims that fall far below the actual death toll.

Some names will never be known, because records were destroyed, either deliberately or accidentally. But just as Yad Vashem continues to pursue its mission of naming every Jewish victim of the Holocaust, Ukrainian researchers must keep trying to establish the names of each Holodomor victim while the remaining witnesses are still alive.

President Viktor Yushchenko deserves enormous praise for his efforts to raise the Holodomor to the forefront of Ukrainian consciousness, offering unprecedented moral support for Holodomor scholars and researchers. It would be unreasonable, however, to ask the government to earmark funds for Holodomor research when the salary of civil servants, soldiers and government workers are among the lowest in Europe.

Ukraine's mega-millionaires and billionaires ought to begin financing Holodomor research and commemoration efforts. It's disgraceful that average Ukrainians have to rent out their own apartments and live with their children (as Zhytomyr resident Zoya Tereschuk did for four years) to raise funds for a monument, while mega-millionaires do nothing for Ukraine's historical heritage. As an example of their "concern," the same weekend that Ukrainians were commemorating the Holodomor in November last year, billionaire Victor Pinchuk was opening a Holocaust exhibit in New York called "The Shooting of Jews in Ukraine."

Recognizing the unlikelihood of their assistance (many of Ukraine's wealthiest were hard-line Communists, don't speak Ukrainian and aren't ethnically Ukrainian), it remains the responsibility of the Ukrainian diaspora to continue to financially support Holodomor efforts. The Buduchnist Credit Union's funds for Ms. Mahrytska's documentary "The Damnation of Non-Remembrance," as well as the wide-ranging support for the Myrhorod monument, are perfect examples of the diaspora continuing to make a difference in Ukraine.

After all, if we don't do it, there aren't many others who can or will.

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Turning the pages back...

Ten years ago, on February 17, 1999, the Verkhovna Rada voted 310-39 to strip former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko of his legal immunity to allow him to face domestic charges of embezzlement and concealment of foreign income. Mr. Lazarenko was accused of embezzling more than \$1 million in state property while holding various government positions from 1993 to 1997.

Last-ditch efforts to escape responsibility by Mr. Lazarenko – who also faced money-laundering charges in Switzerland – included a heart condition brought on by "intense political pressure."

The Constitution of Ukraine states that at least 301 deputies must support the lifting of a deputy's parliamentary immunity for the vote to take effect. The request to lift Mr. Lazarenko's immunity came from the Procurator General's Office. According to the Criminal Code of Ukraine, Mr. Lazarenko faced up to 15 years in prison.

In December 1998 Swiss authorities detained Mr. Lazarenko when he attempted to

(Continued on page 17)

NEWS AND VIEWS

Remembering John Updike

by R.L. Chomiak

"You ought to write about Updike and Ukraina." This was my wife's suggestion, as we – surrounded by January 28 newspapers – were reading obituaries of John Updike. All the major dailies had them, on the front pages, because of the stature of this great 20th century American writer. And the 21st, too: I had read a short story by Updike in a magazine about a month ago, and his novel "Widows of Eastwick" came out late last year.

I knew what my wife meant: November 1966 in New York. In those days many diaspora Ukrainians were interested in publicizing Ukraine, which by Moscow's design was a submerged nation. Any mention in the Western media of Ukraine or Ukrainians would be copied, mailed and discussed among Ukrainians. This was never to Moscow's liking. Moscow did not want any publicity for Ukraine, unless it was something negative, like the collaboration with the Nazis. Curiously, Gen. Andrey Vlasov, who organized a whole Russian army for Adolph Hitler, was almost never mentioned by the Soviet agit-prop (agitation and propaganda) masters.

Dmytro Pavlychko and Ivan Drach, two leading Ukrainian poets at that time, came to New York from Kyiv as members of the Ukrainian SSR delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in September of 1966. Whether Moscow liked it or not, Ukrainian SSR – a charter member of the U.N. – had to have a delegation at the General Assembly session. In addition to career diplomats and government officials, U.N. member-states also include cultural figures in their delegations. Messrs. Pavlychko and Drach were such public members of the Ukrainian SSR delegation.

One day, early in the session, I was sitting in the press section of the General Assembly hall when I recognized Messrs. Pavlychko and Drach as they entered to take their seats in the back. (I was an editor of the Digest of the Soviet Ukrainian Press at the time and was pretty familiar with the leading figures of Soviet Ukraine from media photos and articles.) I leaned over and introduced myself to the two delegates. Soon we were meeting at the U.N. headquarters and various places in and around New York.

In the evening of our first meeting we dined at a restaurant with several members of the New York Group of young Ukrainian émigré writers. They dropped everything and on a very short notice came to meet Ukrainian writers of the post-Stalinist generation – the "generation of the sixties" as they became known – who wrote in a refreshing style and had some familiarity with the Western literary scene.

In those days some Ukrainian cultural figures learned Polish just to read "forbidden literature." They could travel to Poland much easier than to Western Europe or America. And in Poland they could read, for example, John Stuart Mill and James Joyce in Polish translation, because their works were published there in the early 1960s. Not in Ukraine, though. Just think how upset the Soviet rulers would have been if a Ukrainian from Ternopil or Krasnyi Luch read the English philosopher Mill's book "On Liberty." But Polish workers at that time could buy "On Liberty," in Polish, in a Polish book store. Maybe that was why Poland had student protests in the 1960s and Solidarity in 1980s.

I had seen in a Soviet Ukrainian magazine a photo and a story about my favorite American writer, John Updike, visiting Kyiv. He was on one of those State Department cultural exchange tours of the USSR. I suggested that Messrs. Pavlychko

and Drach should try to meet him while they were in New York since they had hosted him in Kyiv a few months earlier. There was a photo of a mob scene at the Writers Union reception with Updike in the middle.

The two Ukrainian writers turned down my suggestion, with a note of wistfulness. They knew better. Their contacts in the U.S. would be carefully orchestrated and they didn't want to do something that might cause them to be sent back home before the General Assembly session ended. That was always a danger in those days. (I knew a Soviet journalist who came to Columbia as an exchange student for a year. He was impressed by New York supermarkets and by large apartments. [He thought our one-bedroom apartment on half a floor of a New York brownstone was large!] He spoke English and kept talking about these wonders of New York. After the first semester he was sent home and told me why.)

But, after a few weeks in New York, after several poetry readings arranged by us, the non-Communist diasporans ("bourgeois nationalists" in the parlance of Soviet high priests of morality), Mr. Pavlychko asked me if I could try to arrange a meeting with Updike. "Now you tell me," I thought. This was around Thanksgiving Day and we had just seen a huge exhibition of Salvador Dali's paintings that simply shook them up. The General Assembly session, I knew, would end in three or four weeks and the Ukrainian poets would be gone. But I told them I would try.

I wrote a letter to Updike care of the New Yorker magazine, with which he was associated his entire writing career. Within a very short time, four or five days, I received a reply from Updike, who said he remembered Messrs. Drach and Pavlychko from Kyiv, that he would like to meet with the Ukrainian writers, but that he was working on a novel at the time and could not come to New York. He would welcome them in Ipswich, Mass., if they could come there, he added.

Now I turned to networking (although 40 years ago this term was not used). I called Prof. Omeljan Pritsak at Harvard (this was before there was a Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and endowed chairs in Ukrainian studies). Prof. Pritsak then was in Harvard's Turkic studies department. But he needed no convincing. He said he would arrange an invitation from Harvard University for Messrs. Pavlychko and Drach, since Ipswich, where Updike worked, was nearby.

That's why my wife used such a boastful phrase as "Updike and Ukraina" (with its visual, if not aural alliteration) – because we pulled it off. At that time Soviet Ukrainian diplomats in New York would not know how to begin to show off their cultural leaders, and, moreover, they wouldn't try, because they knew that Moscow wouldn't approve.

At that time, though, such Russian writers as Andrey Voznesensky and Yevgenii Yevtushenko were toasted by the limousine liberals of New York's Upper East Side and by beat poets such as Allen Ginsberg at Columbia University on the Upper West Side. Those were Russians; these were Ukrainians. And this is yet another reason to shout "Slava Ukrayini – nezalezhnii!" Now, writers and artists, computer programmers and scholars from independent Ukraine are regularly invited to spend a year on an American campus or at think-tanks such as Washington's Kennan Institute.

But 40 years ago, despite the Russian policy of keeping Ukraine under wraps, we managed to put our men on a pedestal,

(Continued on page 19)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Are there DVD's of Tkacz pieces?

Dear Editor:

Several years running now, I've read, with great interest, of Virland Tkacz's "astounding and brilliantly executed" multi-act stage pieces based on Christmas/Winter Solstice traditions from Ukrainian lands (most recently in the January 18 issue).

Googling her name as well as the production title, "Still the River Flows ...," yields lists of sites. Overwhelming, actually.

In several hits, I was not able to determine whether any of these annual winter productions have been captured on DVDs and offered for purchase. To save myself from getting bug-eyed with Internet over-exposure, I ask The Ukrainian Weekly's readership: Does anyone know whether such DVDs exist? Is there any sales-contact information?

Folks in the provincial wilderness beyond the Five Boroughs of New York City may have no other opportunity to enjoy what brilliance Ms. Tkacz has managed with old stock material.

In advance, "diakuyu!"

Matthew-Daniel Stremba
Baltimore, Md.

Vladimir Putin lost the gas war

Dear Editor:

The gas war is over. It lasted two weeks and ended with utter defeat for Vladimir Putin's Russia. The gas flows again from Russia to Ukraine and from Ukraine to Europe at the maximum capacity the pipelines can carry. With the

commodity market collapsing, Russia needs foreign currency badly – and a lot of it. So the natural gas once again flows westward from Russia.

Prime Minister Putin chose the worst possible moment for his gas adventure. With commodity prices in free fall across the globe and the world economy in shambles, January was not a good time to start an economic war – especially when your income is derived primarily from selling oil and gas abroad and you produce hardly anything in consumer goods to keep your economy going. "It's the economy, stupid" as one of our former president's slogans proclaimed.

The Christian Science Monitor, in its January 8 editorial "Putin, pipe down on Ukrainians," wrote: "The Kremlin strongman is hoping energy prices rebound before the masses realize that the house that Putin built may be a house of cards. If he's wrong, he'll also have himself to blame."

And it is indeed a "house of cards economy" that Mr. Putin's Russia operates on. I saw this on Sakhalin Island where Russian passengers were returning from a ferry trip to Hokkaido Island. They were carrying used and recapped tires, and selling them in a parking lot. And I saw it on the sidewalks of Vladivostok where vendors were selling consumer goods brought from China. So much for Russian consumer goods. And I saw it also at marine cargo terminals in St. Petersburg, where raw materials were piled up on docks for shipment to the West to generate badly needed foreign currency to pay for imported consumer goods from Japan and China.

It was indeed unwise for Prime Minister Putin to start a gas war with all that bluster and belligerence in such hard economic times and given Russia's marginal economic base. The outcome of the war was quite predictable.

Ihor Lysyj
Austin, Texas

We welcome your opinion

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

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

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

1933 issues needed

The Ukrainian Weekly is searching for original issues of this newspaper published in 1933 in order to scan them for our digital archives.

If you have original copies of newspapers from 1933, please contact the editorial staff at 973-292-9800, ext. 3040, or staff@ukrweekly.com.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Luba Markewycz did it!



Art work depicting the Holodomor by Romana Halay, 13, of Lviv.

Luba Markewycz lives in the Ukrainian Village. A multi-talented Chicago public school teacher (now retired), Luba has taught English in Ukraine every summer since 1992.

Ms. Markewycz is also a photographer whose original photos of Chernobyl were exhibited at the Lviv Polytechnic Institute, the National University of Ostroh Academy, and Chicago's Ukrainian National Museum.

Since 1972 Ms. Markewycz has spent a lot of time hanging around Chicago's Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art. She was once the vice-president and then the president; she currently chairs the education committee.

A recent project for Ms. Markewycz involved children in Ukraine commemorating the Holodomor through art. In her mind, "one of the best ways to honor the memory of all the lives lost, and to keep it alive for generations to come, is to make certain that our children know what happened."

Ms. Markewycz's belief took her to 20 schools in Kyiv, Lviv, Poltava, Odesa, Chernivtsi, Kharkiv, Uzhorod, Stryi, and Rymarivka. She met with principals, teachers and students (primarily grades 7 to 11), distributed art materials, asked students to reflect on the Holodomor and to create their impressions.

Students "had to find a means in the depth of their minds and hearts to render that understanding on paper," she explained. The result was some 400 pieces of art work and 40 pieces of written work consisting of poems, essays and interviews with Holodomor survivors.

That was only the beginning. The art work became part of an exhibit titled "Holodomor Through the Eyes of a Child: The Famine Remembered," at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago. Choices had to be made regarding which pieces would be displayed. "I agonized over why I didn't choose this or that piece of work," Ms. Markewycz said. "Each and every piece of art had to be photographed and catalogued because I felt that every child's name should be in the catalogue, if not every piece." A total of 186 pieces were finally selected for the exhibit.

Local artist Liaila Kuchma designed the exhibition catalogue. Ms. Kuchma and Stano Grezdo mounted the exhibit, which opened on November 23, 2008. Local clergy and the consul general of Ukraine, Oleksander Gwan, participated in the opening. Students from local Ukrainian Saturday

schools read the poems and essays of Ukraine's children, while pupils led by Nadya Ilkiv provided background music during the readings. It was an emotional moment for all. "I felt as if all of the paintings were gossamer threads that I brought over from Ukraine to America," Ms. Markewycz told me. Students from local public schools and many other non-Ukrainians visited the exhibit, which closed on January 18.

Funding for Ms. Markewycz's project was provided by Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, the Heritage Foundation, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council. The Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation, U.S.A., provided \$1,000, which Luba portioned off to the artists, some 10 to 15 hrv per child.

Just because we Ukrainians commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor in 2008, doesn't mean our responsibilities have ended. True, we took a giant step forward last year, but we need to keep the momentum going. Today, every conscious person in the world knows about the Holocaust. Why? Reminders. Constant, unending reminders.

Ms. Markewycz's exhibit is a reminder, an important Holodomor reminder. She did it. You can too. All the heavy lifting has been done. Ms. Markewycz would like to take the exhibit, which is easily put up and dismantled, to other Ukrainian cultural centers, museums and church halls in North America this year. Think about it. Will Ukraine's child artists exhibit in your neighborhood? Will non-Ukrainians see it?

Ms. Markewycz exemplifies the power of one in our community. She deserves our support. She is an enthralling individual who loves to talk with one and all. You can reach her at 312-863-9519. Call her and congratulate her for her imaginative project. Better yet, invite her to bring her inspired project to your city. Her bags are packed. Call her now and keep the Holodomor ball rolling. You won't regret it.

The catalogue is available for \$20 plus \$2.95 shipping and handling from the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL, 60622.

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is kuropas@comcast.net.

NEWS AND VIEWS

'Blood and Belonging': Ignatieff removes Wrzesnewskyj from shadow Cabinet

by Myroslava Oleksiuk

TORONTO – Liberal Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff on January 22 announced his shadow Cabinet, removing Borys Wrzesnewskyj, member of Parliament for Etobicoke Center, from the position of critic for citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism, and not naming him to any position in the shadow Cabinet.

Since his election in 2004, Ukrainian Canadian Borys Wrzesnewskyj has been a very active member of the Parliament and has been a longstanding advocate for the Ukrainian community and, for that matter, for other communities as well, including the Sudanese, Somali, Polish, Croatian and Italian communities.

However, the issue here is Mr. Ignatieff, who has a history of differences and an enduring problematic relationship with the Ukrainian community. Mr. Wrzesnewskyj's removal from the position of critic for citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism seems to once again underline the fears the Ukrainian community has had concerning Mr. Ignatieff, which originate from Mr. Ignatieff's writings in his book "Blood and Belonging" (1993).

Even after Ukraine attained independence in 1991, for the sixth time in its history, Mr. Ignatieff questioned Ukrainians' claim of a national identity apart from Russia. "I feel like declaring my basic prejudices on arrival," he writes. "Isn't nationalism just an exercise in kitsch, in fervent emotional insincerity? Especially so in Ukraine. It has been part of Russia for centuries."

"Into this inauthentic void streams nationalist emotionalism," he continues, "striving to convince them that there always was a Ukrainian nation; that it has been suppressed for centuries; that it has at last found its freedom, and so on. The reality is different."

Where have we heard this sentiment expressed more recently, although more succinctly? Ah yes, in Sochi on April 4, 2008, when President Vladimir Putin tutored President George W. Bush on

Myroslava Oleksiuk of Toronto is editor of e-POSHTA Internet weekly.



Supporters of Borys Wrzesnewskyj who traveled to Ottawa from Toronto to witness his swearing in when he was first elected in 2004. The number of votes he received placed him seventh out of the 135 Liberals who were elected across Canada

Ukraine's genesis: "Ukraine is not even a nation!"

What prevents the former professor, Mr. Ignatieff, and Mr. Putin from taking the opportunity to incorporate new data into their wisdom banks? Why do they refuse to revise their positions when in 2004 they observed a people's national spirit, as Ukrainians traveled from all parts of Ukraine to the capital, Kyiv, to stage the Orange Revolution in Independence Square? The demonstrators were immovable even when rumors flew of Russian tanks and planes crossing the border into Ukraine. Indeed, this brought out more supporters for, in fighting for free elections, Ukrainians understood that the "shield against its enemies is its own identity, vigorously asserted and framed by a commitment to democratic values," as articulated by Ukrainian-born Soviet dissident, political prisoner and Israeli Cabinet Minister Natan Sharansky in "Defending Identity" (2008).

Mr. Ignatieff guides us to the answer to his inability, on this subject of Ukrainians, to think rationally and act justly in Blood in Belonging: "My difficulty in taking Ukraine seriously goes deeper than just my cosmopolitan suspicion of nationalists everywhere. Somewhere inside, I'm also what Ukrainians would call a Great Russian, and there is just a trace of old

Russian disdain for these 'little Russians.'

The first scholar and political analyst to react to the news of Mr. Wrzesnewskyj's removal was Taras Kuzio. "Borys Wrzesnewskyj is an energetic and committed Ukrainian Canadian who has accomplished a lot in a short period of time in the Canadian Parliament," he noted. "His removal from the shadow Cabinet undermines the Liberal Party's professed allegiance to diversity and inclusiveness, and throws a dark shadow over Michael Ignatieff's support for traditional Liberal values."

"Ukrainian Canadians need to unite and refuse to be treated as second-class by a new Liberal leader who has repeatedly shown in his past behavior a contempt for Ukrainians. If Mr. Ignatieff continues to treat Ukrainian Canadians in such a manner, the Ukrainian Canadian community should bring home to the Liberal Party the realization that Ukrainian Canadians have a choice in a democracy – that is, to vote for alternative political parties. Ukrainian Canadians should bring this message home by uniting with other ethnic communities who have suffered from Russian oppression," Dr. Kuzio underscored.

Dr. Kuzio's suggestion will find resonance among many Canadians who do not regret that the Soviet Union fell apart

and do not support an orientation that aligns itself with the regrets of Mr. Putin, Russia's current prime minister and former president, who famously said in an address to the nation on April 25, 2005: "The collapse of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century."

FOR THE RECORD: A letter to Ignatieff

Following is the text of a February 2 letter sent by Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk of Kingston, Ontario, to Liberal Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff.

Dear Dr. Ignatieff:

I was very disappointed to learn that you have removed Mr. Borys Wrzesnewskyj from his position as Liberal critic of government multiculturalism and Canadian heritage policies. Over the course of several years I have found myself to be increasingly impressed by Mr. Wrzesnewskyj's intelligent, determined and effective leadership. He has certainly been very widely appreciated for this work within Canadian Ukrainian circles, particularly with respect to the redress issue, which you personally affirmed your commitment to. As such, your recent decision to demote him – particularly given the concerns with which many members of our community have regarded some of your writings and public statements on Ukraine – is now fueling renewed angst about your intentions with respect to our community's interests. May I recommend that you either reinstate Mr. Wrzesnewskyj to his previous role or afford him an even more responsible one so that he can continue to serve our country well.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2009, AT 2:00 P.M.

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Proposed Agenda:

1. Opening remarks
2. Verification of minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
3. Reports: Management
Credit Committee
Supervisory Committee
4. Discussion and approval of reports
5. Election of three members to the Board of Directors
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

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NEWS ANALYSIS: The Russian-Central European gas conflict continues

by Roman Kupchinsky

Eurasia Daily Monitor

February 6

While the Ukrainian-Russian gas conflict appears to have been resolved, its fallout is still reverberating throughout Central Europe.

In Poland, RosUkrEnergo (RUE), the Swiss based middleman that was dropped from the Ukrainian-Russian-Central Asian gas trade on January 20, has failed to meet its contractual obligations to supply the Polish oil and gas distribution company Polskie Gornictwo Naftowe i Gazownictwo (PGNiG) with 7 million cubic meters of gas per day. The Polish business daily Puls Biznesu reported on January 29 that PGNiG was considering suing RUE for breach of contract.

According to Kommersant of January 28, RUE failed to meet deliveries because on January 20 Naftohaz Ukrayiny bought RUE's \$1.7 billion debt from Gazprom and then took possession of 11 billion cubic meters (bcm) of RUE's gas in Ukrainian underground storage facilities, effectively preventing the export of this gas to RUE's clients.

Poland imports 76 percent of its annual consumption of 14 bcm of gas, and 90 percent of this comes from Russia and Central Asia. In 2006 PGNiG signed a three-year contract with RUE to buy 2.3 bcm of Central Asian gas per year. The remaining 6.2 bcm was contracted for with Gazprom Export, a 100 percent subsidiary of Gazprom headed by Gazprom

Deputy CEO Alexander Medvedev.

Mr. Medvedev, however, is also a member of the RUE coordinating committee, along with two other Gazprom deputy CEOs who jointly represent Gazprom's 50 percent ownership of the company.

The mystery of this arrangement is why Gazprom created the scheme allowing Gazprom Export to compete with RUE in sales to Poland and other markets. Why did it allow two private Ukrainian entrepreneurs, Dmytro Firtash and Ivan Fursin, to make hundreds of millions of dollars for a number of years, thus depriving Gazprom of substantial profits and the Russian budget of cash?

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk was quoted by the UNIAN news service on January 28 as saying that he intended to raise this matter with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Mr. Tusk apparently is concerned by Gazprom's demand that Poland lower its transit fee for Russian gas going to Europe via the Yamal-Europe pipeline, as compensation to Gazprom for delivering the 7 million cubic meters a day that RUE could no longer provide.

The conflict over RUE and gas supplies to Poland from Russia did not begin in 2009, however. On August 9, 2006, the Polish daily Rzeczpospolita reported that PGNiG was on the verge of dropping its contract with RUE over a dispute involving new Gazprom demands – some would call it blackmail. Gazprom was apparently insisting that if Poland wanted to con-

tinue receiving cheap gas (most likely of Central Asian origin), it would have to give Gazprom access to the management of the Polish section of the Yamal-Europe pipeline as well as the right to operate in the Polish domestic market.

The Russian portion of the pipeline is owned and operated by Gazprom. The Belarusian section is owned by Gazprom and operated by Beltransgaz, the Belarus state-owned pipeline company that is 25 percent owned by Gazprom. The Polish section is owned and operated by EuRoPol Gaz S.A., a joint venture of Polish PGNiG and Russia's Gazprom (each with 48 percent of the shares) and Polish Gas-Trading S.A. (4 percent).

RUE was apparently being used by the Kremlin to pressure the Poles into accepting Russian gas hegemony, and this tactic has now been resurrected by Prime Minister Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia.

Although RosUkrEnergo was excluded from the Gazprom-Naftohaz scheme, it still has a number of active contracts with other European countries, including Romania and Hungary.

In Hungary, RUE has been deeply involved in selling gas to Emfesz, a company established by Mr. Firtash in 2003 when he was secretly heading Eural Trans Gas, the predecessor of RUE. Emfesz operates on the Hungarian domestic market and is currently the second largest gas importer in Hungary, supplying 3 bcm annually (www.emfesz.hu).

If Emfesz can no longer obtain gas

from RUE, Hungary will stand to lose billions of dollars and the current government of Ferenc Gyurcsany, which has dogmatically supported Russia's gas strategy, will have to explain why it supported Mr. Firtash's fly-by-night scheme. Were bribes distributed to members of the Gyurcsany government by Russian and pro-Russian companies to allow Emfesz to remain in business or was permission freely given? Interestingly enough, in 2005 the European Commission stated that the "independent character of Emfesz was questionable" (EU Regulation No. 138/2004). This was apparently ignored by the Hungarian government in its rush to please the Kremlin.

RUE is also under contract to supply 1.5 bcm of gas to Romania (Kommersant, January 28). Will it be able to meet this commitment or will Gazprom be faced with a slew of new lawsuits for non-performance?

The consequences of RUE's shady role are becoming more evident daily. Mr. Putin put together a crooked scheme; and together with Dmitry Medvedev, Alexei Miller, Leonid Kuchma, Mr. Firtash, Semen Mogilevich and scores of others, he has defrauded the Russian and Ukrainian people and denied them the services they deserve from their elected officials.

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

COMMENTARY: The gas wars, Russian lies and European interests

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn

It is widely believed that had Ukraine rejected interest in NATO membership or allowed political quarrels of the last two months to replace pro-Ukraine's Prime Minister Tymoshenko with pro-Russia's Viktor Yanukovich, Russia would not have been harassing it or threatening Europe by turning off gas supplies.

Furthermore, Russia's nasty behavior is designed to recoup some of its lost petro-dollars and address the concern that its energy advantage may be curtailed. Thus, Russia is resorting to deception and bribery to get its way.

Here's why.

Russia has benefited handsomely from the energy boom, allowing the state to rebuild a substantial war machine, provide assistance to Communist states like Cuba and Venezuela, and win wars against little Chechnya and, most recently, Georgia. Although there's been little improvement to Russian lives – mainly to oligarchs in centers like St. Petersburg and Moscow – its wealth spawned influence, including membership in Group of Eight, and the ability to call the shots on Ukraine's membership in NATO.

The fall of 2008, however, brought change. The global economy tanked, and the sky fell on energy prices. Suddenly Russia was poorer and less powerful. One way to recoup losses was to exert pressure on Ukraine, a thorn in Russia's side since the Orange Revolution and a key element in the energy sector as its pipelines carry most of Russia's gas to Europe.

Despite two energy agreements between both countries' presidents and prime ministers – setting a price of \$192

per 1,000 cubic meters of gas – as temperatures fell, Russia insisted Ukraine pay outstanding debts immediately or else it would receive no more gas. Ukraine obliged, but Russia demanded repayment of penalties too. The matter being before an international tribunal, Ukraine refused. Russia then raised prices to \$210, then \$250, then \$450, then \$470. And then Russia turned off the taps.

Then Russia lied. It stated that as a reliable partner it had not turned off the gas – it was Ukraine that had stopped transmitting. Then Russia changed its story. Yes, it had turned off the gas because Ukraine was siphoning off energy. President Dmitry Medvedev and Alexei Miller of Gazprom, proclaimed publicly that Ukraine was a thief. Ukraine denied this and called for international monitors. At first Russia refused, then agreed – but only if its conditions were met.

The conditions were unilateral and posed a danger not just to Ukraine but to Europe. Bowing to them would have encouraged Russia's continued outrageous behavior and further destabilization of the globe in these precarious times.

Russia's one-sided conditions demanded that only Russian and European Union representatives comprise the inspection team, and that the monitoring be restricted to Ukraine's pipeline. There was to be no monitoring of Russia's delivery at the source. Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel participated in negotiating these terms. Keeping in mind that her predecessor, Gerhard Schroeder, joined Gazprom shortly after leaving his post, it is not surprising that Germany hoped to get away with a position favoring Russia.

Ukrainians know this. Their country has been sold out before by Western powers determined to placate Russia at its expense. The centralization of the former Soviet Union's nuclear power in Russia's hands is an excellent, if troubling, example. So is much of the media's coverage

of the gas war.

Despite some well-earned criticism of Russia, much international coverage, particularly television, has been transmitted from Moscow with accompanying bias. Thus, Ukraine's concern about the one-sidedness of monitors was justified. On January 10 Prime Minister Tymoshenko insisted that the process must be fair and balanced; she demanded that Russia's gas supply be included in the monitoring process, and that Ukraine have equal representation on the monitoring team.

In this latest gas war Russia lied and demonstrated again that as far as its political or economic ends are concerned, the ends justify the means. Russia underscored its aim of exclusive control of the entire gas system – production, refine-

ment, distribution – that had been diversified during Soviet times. Hence Russia's attacks on Georgia and now on Ukraine (where Russia also aims to exert political control), both key to such control.

But time is working against Russia. In addition to lower gas prices and talk in Europe of supply diversification, there are rumors that relations between Russia and key producers – Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan – are strained. It must act now, therefore, or lose the advantage permanently. In this latest gas confrontation Russia is waiting for the other side – Ukraine and EU – to blink.

Ukraine's interests in the gas war need to be fiercely protected. Its interests are all of Europe's interests and, ultimately, that of the entire globe.

Making contact with The Weekly

Readers/writers who send information or queries to The Ukrainian Weekly are kindly asked to include a daytime phone number and a complete mailing address. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact correspondents regarding additional information, clarifications, questions, etc.

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We welcome submissions from all our Ukrainian communities, no matter where they are located. Let the rest of us know what you're up to in your corner of the Ukrainian diaspora!

Any questions? Call The Weekly, 973-292-9800, ext. 3049.

Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, a political commentator and editor of the bilingual quarterly Nasha Doroha, has served frequently as an elections monitor.

NEWS AND VIEWS: Verkhovna Rada interns meet in Kyiv



The interns of the Verkhovna Rada meet with Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program Director Ihor Bardyn (center).

by Ruslana Kostina

KYIV – Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program (CUPP) Director Ihor Bardyn met recently with the 2008-2009 interns of the Verkhovna Rada.

The Verkhovna Rada internship program is sponsored by the Association of former members of the U.S. Congress in cooperation with the University of Indiana and was started in 1995. Both the CUPP and Rada programs are similar in that both are housed and function within the structures of Parliament, of Ukraine and Canada, respectively.

The key difference between the programs is that the Rada interns complete their internship by working, in most cases, with the various committees of Verkhovna Rada. CUPP interns work directly with individual

members of the Canadian House of Commons. CUPP was the first program of assistance to Ukraine by the Diaspora in Canada, and was established upon agreement with the Speaker of the Canadian Parliament, John Fraser, in 1990. The first CUPP Interns arrived in Ottawa in the spring of 1991. In the fall of 2009 the House of Commons will welcome participants of the 27th internship program.

The meeting, held on November 25, 2008, took place in the Great Hall of the Verkhovna Rada's Committees Building on Hrushevsky Boulevard opposite the Verkhovna Rada.

Attending the meeting was Maryna Rudenko, director of the Verkhovna Rada Program; Prof. Stephen Velychenko, Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of

Toronto, who is currently teaching at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy under the Yaremko Lectureship Program of Katedra Foundation; Lucia Hicks of the CUPP Program Selection Committee; CUPP 2009 Coordinators Ruslana Kostina, a graduate of Mykolaiv University of Shipbuilding who is currently completing graduate studies at Haugesund/Stord University in Norway, and Oleksander Pankiv, a graduate of the University of Lviv, Faculty of Law.

Mr. Bardyn spoke about the 18-year history of CUPP, the achievements of some CUPP graduates and the possibility of linking the two internships in a joint program. He also urged the Verkhovna Rada interns to question the political culture of their Parliament and its practices, and to encour-

age the interns to compare the work of their Parliament with that of other more established Parliaments in order to improve the governance of the country.

He encouraged the Rada Interns to pursue graduate studies abroad and to seek out other opportunities for internships with European institutions and governing agencies, and bring this experience back to their homeland.

The meeting concluded with a lengthy question and answer session over tea and coffee.

"We are very pleased that the meeting with Ihor Bardyn was the first meeting of this year's VR Internship Program," said Ms. Rudenko, coordinator of the Verkhovna Rada program. "It was extremely interesting

(Continued on page 19)

Eastern Ukrainians...

(Continued from page 3)

officials called the station and ordered General Director Volodymyr Tkachenko to never show the film again, Ms. Mahrytska said.

On the eve of the broadcast, both Ms. Mahrytska and her film were smeared in the local media. Afterwards, the State Oblast Administration "ended all contact with me," she said. "They thought I couldn't do the film without them. The general director was a brave man for showing it, and I don't even know if he still has his job."

For all her struggles, Ms. Mahrytska said the rewards are worth it. Walking in her neighborhood, she overheard two women discuss the film. "They taught us that those scum were heroes – (Stanislav) Kosior, (Yona) Yakir, (Klyment) Voroshylov," Ms. Mahrytska overheard.

To this day, a Luhansk city block bears the name Yakir, who commanded Soviet Ukrainian army divisions during the Holodomor, while the city center is adorned with the statue of Voroshylov, the Soviet military hero in whose honor Luhansk was named Voroshylovhrad until 1990.

"It was great to see people react positively to the film's message," Ms. Mahrytska said. "The film broke stereotypes that the Holodomor didn't happen in Luhansk because its residents were never exposed to this information."

While the residents of Myrhorod in the Poltava Oblast are largely aware and respectful of the Holodomor's devastation on their city and district, Mayor Oleksander Pautov of the Party of Regions isn't much interested. Although he recently established monuments of a jolly Kozak and Mykola Hohol in the city center, local activists with the Memory Charter civic group didn't bother asking him for a Holodomor monument.

Myrhorod has two churches for its 40,000-plus residents (compared to seven before the Holodomor), both under the Moscow Patriarchate. When the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate asked Mr. Pautov, an ethnic Russian, for land to build a church, the mayor agreed, offering an exorbitant, unaffordable price.

"On the one hand, I am a maximalist, but on the other hand, I am realistic," said Andrii

Levchenko, the chair of Memory Charter. "I know the mercantile thoughts of our mayor. He would have put such a price on it as to make it impossible, which is what he is doing with our Ukrainian Orthodox Church."

What Mr. Levchenko realized was that one of the town's most tragic sites during the Holodomor, its railway station, was beyond the mayor's control. That land belonged to UkrZaliznytsia, the nation's railway monopoly.

Based on the testimonies of several Myrhorod survivors of the Holodomor, Mr. Levchenko and other researchers concluded that nine mass graves containing tens of thousands of corpses lie underneath and around the train station.

These Holodomor victims came to Myrhorod from surrounding villages in a desperate bid for food at the nearby Vynohradov Mill, which was processing the corn and grain that had been confiscated from them.

"The burial brigades dug graves at the railway because it was convenient and away from the city center," Mr. Levchenko said.

Despite numerous letters to city, oblast and state officials, the Memory Charter received no moral support from the government, so it turned to Bishop Fedir of the Poltava Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. "Without your blessing, this matter will fail," Mr. Levchenko told the spiritual leader, who gave the monument project his blessing.

The monument's construction consists of several phases; the first, already completed, is a 10-foot granite silhouette of the Orthodox cross at the monument's base. A temporary wooden cross stands atop the four-tiered concrete foundation, to be replaced by a sculpture of a woman, her arms extended in Christ-like crucifixion, looking sorrowfully at the sky.

"It will have a symbolic appearance, crucified on the shackles of our captivity, our enslavement, which the whole world recognizes as an unprecedented catastrophe of the Ukrainian people," Mr. Levchenko said. "She prays to the sky for rescue ... because the earth betrayed her. She is degraded, offended and betrayed but not conquered, because she is Ukraine. She will live as long as the sun shines, and the sun shines eternally."

A massive water tower overlooking the monument will be painted to depict a candle. Meanwhile, the fence in the monument's background depicts a vibrant, idyllic Ukrainian countryside "with certain characteristics of Ukrainian natural wealth – God's ideal where Ukrainians lived," Mr. Levchenko said.

Once the monument was envisioned, the Memory Charter needed permission from Kyiv.

Realizing he needed to recruit some heavy hitters to his cause, Mr. Levchenko hopped on the Internet and made attempts to contact diaspora organizations, drawing the attention of Mykola Mischenko's Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation U.S.A. and the Ivan Bahriany Foundation, both based in Chicago.

They learned that Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Dmytro Tabachnyk, notorious for his derisive comments about Ukrainian culture, was going to attend a financial forum in Chicago in December 2006. The diaspora leaders made an offer that Mr. Tabachnyk apparently couldn't refuse, and the order came from Kyiv to the Myrhorod railway station director to allow the monument.

"Tabachnyk was awaiting funds from these folks, so he couldn't turn them down," Mr. Levchenko said. "The events coincided, and we managed to force him. If he weren't in Chicago, we might not have a monument under way."

Construction began in April 2007, and \$12,000 of the needed \$27,000 has been raised from 2,500 donors. Among the contributors were Myrhorod residents, including local activists Oleksander and Valentyna Ksionzenko; Oleksii Konowal and Ivan Derkach of Chicago; and Olha Matula of the Sisterhood of St. Olha and Liudmyla Murphy (nee Ksionzenko) of Washington.

Mr. Levchenko urges any other interested donors to contact him, or the Ksionzenkos, through their relative, Ms. Murphy.

Ukrainian dissident legend Lev Lukianenko, chair of the Holodomor Researchers Association, and nationalist leader Oleh Tiahnybok, have already visited the monument-in-progress. Mr. Mischenko will arrive for its dedication when it is finally complete and restores historical memory in a corner of the train station once covered in garbage and weeds.

"They [the victims] were robbed, looking for rescue, and instead found their final resting place and last breath of life," Mr. Levchenko said. "The place reflects the tragedy, and we will honor this as the place where the casualties lie."

Kyiv researchers are also playing a critical role in reviving eastern Ukraine's memory, on February 10 presenting "Pavlohrad Uprising 1930: Documents and Materials," a 380-page book published this month by the Ukrainskyi Pysmennyk publishing house and the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU).

While much is finally known of the infinite suffering imposed on the Ukrainian people, unable to defend themselves because of Soviet gun control laws, researchers are beginning to offer the public more information on the citizens' revolts in the years leading up to the Holodomor.

In April 1930 villagers throughout the Pavlohrad district of the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast could no longer tolerate the Soviet government's violent brutality and attempted an uprising. They formed alliances with peasants in neighboring districts as well.

"This event refutes separate assertions on the Ukrainian people's submissive acceptance of the government's policy, which led to the massive destruction of the population by hunger, and directs scholars toward fundamental work on the anti-Soviet movement in Ukraine during the 20th century," said Dr. Vasyl Danylenko, the director of the SBU archives who compiled the extensive collection of Soviet documents related to the uprising.

Largely deprived of weapons and poorly organized, the few hundred villagers inflicted 30 casualties in the battles of April 5 and 6, while incurring 13 losses themselves. As a result, 360 insurgents were arrested, and 210 were swiftly prosecuted, receiving prison sentences of three to 10 years. Another 27 were executed by gunfire, while 19 were freed.

"From the example of the Pavlohrad uprising we see how organized, spontaneous and uncoordinated actions on the level of instinctual self-defense were nipped in the bud in Soviet Ukraine," Dr. Danylenko said. The government, he underscored, "used unbelievably fierce measures to completely exterminate this freedom-loving national spirit on a genetic level."

St. Nicholas Cathedral School rolls out the welcome mat

by Maria Kulczycky

CHICAGO – St. Nicholas Cathedral School extended a warm welcome to the entire community on Sunday, January 25, when it held an open house as part of Catholic Schools Week in Chicago.

A strategic campaign had been launched weeks earlier, with posters and leaflets announcing the event in stores, libraries, financial institutions, coffee houses, supermarkets and churches. Church bulletins, newspaper ads and web announcements were part of the promotion, supplementing a direct mailing to 3,000 families in the surrounding area. A video commercial was created and posted on YouTube.

On an unseasonably cold day, with the streets covered in snow, multi-colored balloons festooned the school building to welcome visitors. Members of the administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni and parents were present to tell the story of a school with a distinguished history and an enviable record of excellence in education.

Located in the heart of the Ukrainian Village and conveniently accessible to the Loop, the school has provided not only a superior learning environment, but also a

firm foundation in Ukrainian language and culture with an understanding of the traditions of the Byzantine rite as practiced in Eastern Churches. St. Nicholas Cathedral School has been a full-day school for more than 70 years, with numerous school clubs and an extended after-school. It has offered Ukrainian studies for interested youth since 1906.

Many Ukrainian community leaders took their first academic steps at St. Nicholas. Alumni include the nation's current assistant surgeon general, two Olympians, a state senator, two state representatives, as well as many physicians, lawyers, educators, journalists and other professionals, who are the mainstay of the Chicago and the Ukrainian community in the United States.

The focus at St. Nicholas is to provide a solid grounding in academics with an emphasis on discipline, character, integrity, values and an appreciation of cultural differences within a nurturing educational environment. Graduates are accepted, often with scholarships, at the area's top private and public schools. Many go on to win scholastic honors.

"We continue a long tradition of sound education enriched by our cultural heri-



Student Ambassadors Yuliana Nalysnyk (class of 2009) and Khrystyna Vatsaba (2009), Principal Maria Klysh-Finiak (1968) School Board member and former president of DeVry University Oleh Skubiak (1964) and his wife, Luba (1967), welcome visitors to St. Nicholas School's open house.

tage," noted Principal Maria Klysh-Finiak (class of 1968) "Our students score above-average in standardized tests in each grade level. We raise the academic bar at St. Nicholas to challenge our students."

St. Nicholas offers an early childhood program (accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children) for 3- and 4-year-olds in addition to the standard kindergarten and grade 1 through 8 elementary school curriculum. An after-school program makes

it convenient for parents commuting from the suburbs who work in the Loop (about one mile from the school) to pick up children after the workday.

"For Ukrainian families in particular, this is a very effective way to provide a Ukrainian education within an outstanding academic program," explained the Very Rev. Bohdan Nalysnyk, rector of St. Nicholas Cathedral. "We have invested

(Continued on page 18)



Bishop Richard Seminack, Family School Association President Jacqueline Owerko (class of 1983) and Rector Bohdan Nalysnyk at the open house.



The girls' varsity volleyball team stages a scrimmage in the school gym for visitors.

Tymoshenko seeks...

(Continued from page 1)

The IMF mission also stated, "The sharper-than-expected contraction in economic activity requires a recalibration of economic policies. In particular, the IMF team and the authorities have discussed potential revisions to the program's balanced budget target for 2009, taking into account the availability of financing." Discussions are ongoing "on appropriate fiscal measures, monetary and exchange rate policies, and measures to strengthen confidence in the banking system," the IMF said.

Several days later, on February 10, The Wall Street Journal reported that the IMF was likely to suspend loan payments to Kyiv. "Ukraine is failing to meet the terms of its loan deal with the IMF, and likely won't get the next installment this month, according to a person close to talks between the fund and the government in Kiev [sic]," wrote the Journal's Alan Cullison.

The story also pointed out that an IMF mission left Ukraine last week without an agreement that would have allowed further disbursements of loan tranches and quoted Ms. Pazarbasioglu as saying, "further actions, including structural fiscal measures, are needed for us to recommend completion of the review." Ukraine had received \$4.5 billion, the first tranche

of the \$16.5 billion stand-by loan from the IMF, in November 2008.

Petro Poroshenko, head of the National Bank Council, reacted to the news by saying that Ukraine's failure to receive the next tranche of the IMF loan "will have devastating consequences for the entire European economy." An Associated Press story reported that European banks have major stakes in Ukraine's financial institutions and that Europe relies on Ukraine for steel and grain exports, as well as the transit of Russian natural gas.

In the United States, State Department Acting Spokesman Robert Wood was asked on February 10 whether the U.S. would come to Ukraine's aid with financial support. After stating that the U.S. is "a strong supporter of Ukraine's IMF program," Mr. Wood said, "Ukraine is an important partner for the United States. We'd have to take a look at the request, should one come in."

In Europe, according to Bloomberg News, a group of six banks is pressing the European Union to organize financial aid for countries to its east, including Ukraine and Romania.

Among the signs that Ukraine's economy is in deep trouble: Ukraine's currency has lost about 40 percent of its value in 2008, the gross domestic product is expected to decline by 5 percent in 2009, and the annual inflation rate now stands at more than 20 percent.

FOR THE RECORD: Statement by head of IMF mission to Ukraine

WASHINGTON – A mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) headed by Ms. Ceyla Pazarbasioglu has been holding discussions with Ukrainian authorities regarding the first review of Ukraine's stand-by arrangement with the fund.

Ms. Pazarbasioglu issued the following statement on February 6 on the status of discussions.

"Since the adoption of the IMF-supported program, the global economic environment has deteriorated markedly. Ukraine's economy has not been excluded from this process. The economic situation remains difficult associated with decline in demand for steel products and the sharply reduced access to international capital markets. While the economic outlook for Ukraine has become more uncertain, the underlying dynamism of the economy and a consistent implementation of sound policies should allow a gradual resumption of growth.

"The authorities have responded to these challenges. The currency has undergone a large adjustment, which has improved the outlook for Ukraine's export industries. The current account

deficit has started to narrow and, despite the currency depreciation, inflation has continued to decline. The diagnostic phase of the bank recapitalization program has been completed, and its effective implementation should help restore confidence in the banking system.

"The sharper-than-expected contraction in economic activity requires a recalibration of economic policies. In particular, the IMF team and the authorities have discussed potential revisions to the program's balanced budget target for 2009, taking into account the availability of financing. The ongoing discussions are focusing on appropriate fiscal measures, monetary and exchange rate policies, and measures to strengthen confidence in the banking system.

"Significant progress has been made in discussions on fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies, and on measures to strengthen confidence in the banking system, but a few issues remain outstanding. Discussions between the Ukrainian authorities and fund staff on these issues will continue in the coming weeks, and we expect the mission to return soon to complete discussions."

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TRAVELS: Skiing and shopping in Ukraine's Carpathian winter wonderland

by Victoria Varvariv Markowicz

For our second winter holiday season in Ukraine, my daughter, my husband and I spent four nights, five days in December 2008 at the lovely ski resort of Bukovel in the Ivano-Frankivsk region of Ukraine. We took a direct train from Kyiv, reserving the whole wagon's compartment, and were in Ivano-Frankivsk 12 hours later. It was then another two hours by car to Bukovel.

Bukovel is said to be Ukraine's first world-class resort with 14 ski lifts on beautiful slopes covering 50 kilometers. Its base elevation is almost 900 meters above sea level, making it the second highest ski resort in the Carpathian Mountains after Drahobrat.

The slopes accommodate all levels of skiing and snowboarding experience. There is a nice ski school for children, and lessons for adults are also available. Night skiing is

Victoria Varvariv Markowicz, the daughter of Olena Kozar Warvariv and the late Constantine Warvariv, is a first-generation Ukrainian American born in New York City. An artist, she holds a B.A. in art history (American University, Paris), an M.A. in aesthetics and a doctorate in fine arts (both from the University of Paris, Pantheon-Sorbonne). She has exhibited her works at over 50 group and individual exhibitions in Europe and North America. She is married to fellow Ukrainian American John Markowicz, who was the U.S. Defense and Army attaché in Slovakia in 1997-2000, and since then has worked for a U.S. defense contractor providing military transformation assistance both to the Slovak and Ukrainian armed forces. Ms. Varvariv now resides in Kyiv with her husband and daughter, Maryna Ivanna, who attends sixth grade at the Kyiv International School.

another possibility – this can be very “romantic.” The resort has snow-making machines that can provide “fresh snow,” no matter what the weather forecast is.

Bukovel visitors can rent what they need for skiing, and items that can be purchased at the one and only pricey boutique include ski clothing, gloves, goggles and sunglasses. The resort provides the option of buying ski lift passes for a variety of time periods, including mornings or afternoons (half-days), a day or for several days. There is also a small grocer, pharmacy and ice skating rink open daily and in the evenings in Bukovel.

Last year, we made reservations at the resort's Bukovel Hotel and were pleased. Breakfast was in the Restaurant Kozachok, housed in the hotel's reception “main” building. This year we noticed that the hotel capacity, composed of many log buildings, had expanded during the past year as a result of new construction. We were unhappy with our room this year because of its distance from the main building and our favorite ski slope. Last year we were next to the main building. As a result, I insisted on another room and, after some persistence on my part, we were offered a room at the new Shelter Hotel located right by our favorite ski lifts/slopes.

We were delighted with our room at the Shelter Hotel even though we had to pay an upgrade. My husband and I had a double bed, and there was a very comfortable “fold-out” in the adjoining room for our daughter, Maryna. We had a huge bathroom with tub, telephone, shower, sink and WC, and in our room there was a large flat screen TV mounted on the wall, a CD player and a mini-bar. In addition, there were two tiny balconies from which I could observe my daughter and husband on the slopes. These mini-balconies also doubled as a “refrigera-

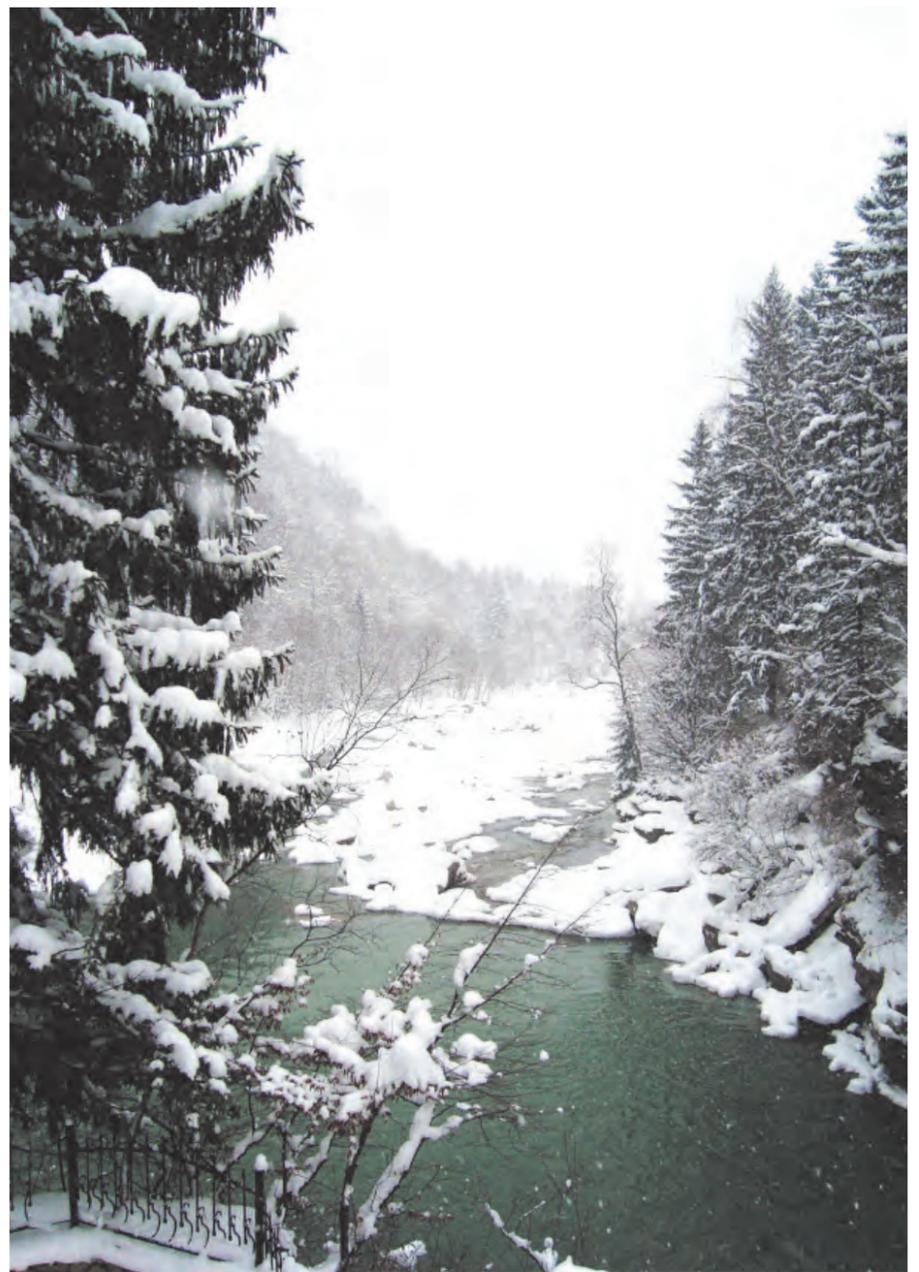
(Continued on page 22)



Maryna and John Markowicz at the Bukovel Ski Resort.



A view of the Bukovel Ski Resort.



A snowy day in the Carpathians.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Tymoshenko at Munich conference

KYIV – Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said at the 45th Munich Security Conference on February 7 that "the time is ripe for great, large-scale agreements and serious work" due to the global financial downturn. She said that only through joint efforts is it possible to overcome the fallout from the global financial slowdown. Ms. Tymoshenko said one should speak not only about the responsibility of states' leaders – in particular, those of powerful states – for developments in their countries, but their responsibility for the financial and economic position all across the globe, as all countries are interconnected. (Ukrinform)

Calls for Donetsk-Kryvyi Rih republic

KYIV – Calls for the creation of the so-called Donetsk-Kryvyi Rih Republic, which were issued in Donetsk, might be a political provocation caused by national and foreign opponents to Ukraine's authorities. "The non-governmental organization, called the Donetsk Republic, which supports the revival of the Soviet republic of Donetsk and Kryvyi Rih, including several south-eastern Ukrainian regions, is a marginal and small organization that exists only thanks to support from pro-Russian forces in Ukraine and abroad," said the director of the Donetsk-based Institute for Social Studies and Political Analysis, Volodymyr Kipen. He added that this separatist movement has always stepped up its activities at the start of powers struggle in Ukraine and at signs of the worsening of the country's economic situation. Mr. Kipen said that provocative actions by separatists could be part of the street protests announced by the Party of Regions against the policies of the government led by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. (Ukrinform)

Both sides say ICJ verdict is fair...

KYIV – Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko and his Romanian counterpart, Traian Basescu, have confirmed that the two countries accept the verdict on demarcation of the continental shelf and exclusive economic zones of Ukraine and Romania in the Black Sea announced by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague as fair and definitive. The two presidents spoke about this by phone, the presidential press service reported on February 5. Mr. Yushchenko noted that the judgment puts an end to the intricate aspect of bilateral relations and de facto means the removal of this problem from the agenda of mutual relations between Ukraine and Romania. At the same time, he underlined that the court ruling opens new possibilities for fruitful cooperation in all areas of bilateral relations. Messrs. Yushchenko and Basescu also dwelled on preparations for an official visit of the Romanian president to Ukraine on February 25-26 and the holding of the second meeting of the Ukraine-Romania joint presidential commission. Mr. Yushchenko said that the signing, during the Romanian president's visit to Ukraine, of an intergovernmental agreement on local border movement rules will further promote development of contacts between the residents of the border regions of Ukraine and Romania. (Ukrinform)

...Ukraine's rep at ICJ concurs

KYIV – The judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague on demarcation of the continental shelf and exclusive economic zones of Ukraine and Romania (relative to Serpent's Island) is fair and legal, Ukraine's envoy to the ICJ, Ambassador Volodymyr Vassylenko, announced at a briefing on February 5. "The decision is fair, legal, it is based on the international law and announced by the U.N. main judicial agen-

cy, and no one can doubt its fairness. At the same time, one should not speak about defeat of one or another party. This is a victory of the common sense," the ambassador said. Commenting on the judgment, Mr. Vassylenko said that the court satisfied the claims of neither party. Ukraine's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Oleksander Kupchynshyn underlined that with this delimitation line the court demarcated exclusive economic zones of Ukraine and Romania in the ratio of 2:1 in favor of Ukraine, with Ukraine receiving a larger water area to explore and extract oil and gas. The diplomat also said that Ukraine kept 21 developed fields out of 24. "This now opens huge opportunities for practical exploitation of these fields. We should not now speak about who has lost and who has won. We have to start working there," he underscored. (Ukrinform)

46,000 became Ukrainian citizens

KYIV – The Ukrainian president's commission on citizenship this year considered a package of statements from 891 individuals on acquiring and relinquishing Ukrainian citizenship. The commission decided to grant Ukrainian citizenship to 425 people, while 343 individuals decided to relinquish it. In 2008 Ukrainian citizenship was granted to 45,873 people and 5,456 relinquished their citizenship. In 2008 Ukrainian citizenship was granted in the highest numbers to Russians (32 percent), Armenians (17 percent), Azerbaijanis (8 percent) and Moldovans (7 percent). All of the new citizens have a certain degree of education (higher education, 26 percent; specialized secondary education, 19 percent; and secondary education, 51 percent). Applicants from 49 countries obtained Ukrainian citizenship last year. (Ukrinform)

Nazar and Anastasia most popular

KYIV – Nazar and Anastasia were the most popular names during the registration of newborn babies in Ukraine in 2008, according to the press service of the Justice Ministry. The list of the most popular male names includes Danylo, Maksym, Vladyslav, Mykyta, Artem, Kyrylo, Ihor, Illia, Andriy, Bohdan, Denys, Dmytro, Yaroslav, Oleksander and Volodymyr. The most popular female names are Angelina, Alina, Daria, Diana, Kateryna, Maria, Natalia, Sofia, Yulia, Viktoria, Yelyzaveta, Anna, Veronika, Uliana, Oleksandra and Khrystyna. Yelisey, Ioann, Hordii, Erast, and Demian were among the most popular Slavic names in 2008. Foreign names were also very popular for newborn children. Boys were named Dominic, Herman, Mark, Robert, Felix, Oscar, Adrian, Harold and Jan, while girls were named Nicole, Sabina, Camila, Liana, Beata, Evelina, Dominica, Emma, Sabrina, Vanessa, Michelle, Annette, Carmelita and Isabella. (Ukrinform)

NBU takes over two more banks

KYIV – The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) took Bank Kyiv under temporary administration on February 9 and Nadra Bank the next day. The central bank earlier took Prychornomia Bank, UkrPromBank, Natsionalny Kredit Bank and PromInvestBank under temporary administration. The media reported earlier that Bank Kyiv recently had not paid deposits or interest on them to its clients. Bank Kyiv is one of Ukraine's medium-sized banks, while Nadra Bank is one of the country's largest. (Ukrinform)

Rare plants and animals smuggled

KYIV – Each year, the profit from the smuggling of rare plants and animals in Ukraine is about \$200 million (U.S.), reported Volodymyr Boreiko, director of Kyiv's ecology culture center. Birds of prey, ginseng, monkeys, boas, crocodiles, tropical butterflies, big parrots and other

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

plants and animals enter Ukraine as “grey” contraband, via illegal contracts with zoos, as well as by charter flights from tropical countries. Although Ukraine in 1999 ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), only 2 percent to 5 percent of such “live commodities” are detained on Ukrainian borders, and over 90 percent of rare animals and plants freely pass through customs, Mr. Boreiko noted. According to ecologists, Kyiv’s zoo market alone annually trades about 400 gray parrots and 150 monkeys whose sale is forbidden by CITES. Mr. Boreiko also noted that damage is caused not only to the economy of Ukraine, but also to its natural resources, due to the illegal export from Ukraine, primarily to Europe and Russia, of valuable timber, rare early plants, insects, snakes, lizards, frogs, edible snails, etc. Experts from EcoLaw-Kyiv attributed the situation to problems with domestic laws, particularly the absence in the relevant article of the Criminal Code of Ukraine of a specific list of rare species. Moreover, the customs officials lack special training and registers to detect species on the CITES lists. Ecologists are urging the government and Parliament to settle the problem, proposing the creation of an agency to stop illegal business with live contraband in Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Essay contest: “I Am Obama”

KYIV – Within the framework of celebrating its fifth anniversary, the Dipcorpus International Relations Politologists League, jointly with the information-resource center of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and the American Library, summed up results of the essay competition titled “I Am Obama: 10 Steps in Foreign Policy.” The competi-

tion was held between December 22, 2008, and January 20 of this year – inauguration day for President Barack Obama. The competition’s jury, consisting of experts of the Dipcorpus League, recognized 10 essays as winners. A work by Ivan Horodensky, a student of the international relations department at Lviv’s Ivan Franko National University, earned first place. Almost all the winners of the competition wrote that the first steps for President Obama in the realm of foreign policy should be the following: looking for new ways of fighting terrorism and a way out of the economic crisis, settlement of problems with Iraq and Iran, and providing assistance in ending confrontations in the Gaza Strip. Another task for Mr. Obama should be to help end racial and religious discrimination. The winners’ essays will be published in the mass media and on a website specially created by the Dipcorpus League. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine’s oldest wood church

KYIV – A noted researcher of Ukraine’s wooden churches, Vasyl Slobodian from the UkrZakhidProektRestavratsia Institute based in Lviv, has established that St. Nicholas Cathedral, located in the village of Stara Skvariava, Zhovkiv district of the Lviv region, is the oldest wooden church in Ukraine. The researcher revealed a carved inscription on the church’s north wall with the date of 1508. The unique church is now undergoing restoration and will be turned into a museum. The structure will be equipped with a fire prevention system. The iconostasis from the church is also unique: it is the only preserved example of the prayer and holiday row of icons of the mid-16th century. Local authorities announced plans to consider the possibility of establishing a Museum of Art Monuments of the 16th century including the Skvariava iconostasis in the wooden church of St. Nicholas. (Ukrinform)



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I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, or play;
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found that place at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembering joy;
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I've savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved
one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart and share with me.
God wanted me now - He set me free.

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To view video/slide show go to: www.IvanKuziw.BlogSpot.com



Tillie Kuzma Decyk

was born June 2, 1916, in Chicago, Illinois to Agnes and Dmytro Kuzma. She took her nursing degree at St Mary of Nazareth Hospital in Chicago and in 1943 joined the US Army Nurses Corps where she served in New Orleans, Wales and Paris. Tillie rose to the rank of captain and was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, WW II medal, and a Bronze Star to EAME Theater Ribbon, having participated in the establishment of the first Allied field hospital after the Allied invasion at Normandy and the first Allied hospital in Paris following the liberation of Paris.

After WW II, Tillie returned to Chicago and continued her nursing career in the Veteran's Administration and completed her bachelor of science degree at DePaul University and master of science at the University of Chicago.

She married Walter Decyk in Chicago in 1950, and they had two daughters, Roxanne and Christine.

Tillie served as a role model to health professionals and to women, pursuing her career as a psychiatric nurse, nursing educator and hospital administrator at the VA Hospital in North Chicago. Following her retirement from the V.A. in 1972, she continued teaching nursing at Lake Country Junior College. She also served as president of the Lake County Red Cross and was active in other civic organizations in Waukegan, Illinois.

Tillie and Walter moved to Sun City Arizona in 1983 where they founded the Ukrainian Club of Sun City. Following Walter's death in 1993, Tillie served as the president of the club for more than 10 years and was active in other organizations including the World War II Nurses Club and the Women in Armed Forces Memorial. She was a lifelong advocate for recognition of the contribution of women in the military and appreciation for the nursing profession.

Tillie is survived by her daughters Christine Decyk of Chicago, Illinois and Roxanne Decyk of The Hague, Netherlands.

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THE ARTS: Pianist Roman Rudnytsky completes concert tour

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio – Globetrotting concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky recently returned home after completing a number of concert trips during the fall of 2008.

His most recent one was in Thailand, where he did a tour in the second part of November 2008 with recitals in Bangkok, Nakhon Ratchasima (the second-largest city), and Chiang Rai in the far north. This tour was organized by the binational center American University Alumni, which has branches all around Thailand.

The tour concluded on November 26, 2008, but Mr. Rudnytsky remained in Thailand until December 15 as he became one of the approximately 400,000 travel-

ers stranded and unable to fly out of Thailand due to the occupation and closure of the two Bangkok airports by political protesters who were trying to topple the government of then-Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat.

Earlier in the fall, Mr. Rudnytsky did several tours organized by U.S. Embassies. One was in the Caribbean, where he played recitals on the islands of Antigua, St. Kitts, and Nevis; this was organized by the US Embassy in Barbados. Then he traveled to Belgium, where he played two recitals in Brussels and also in the Flemish towns of Hasselt, Genk, and Izegem. He also conducted master classes in the latter.

In mid-October 2008, Mr. Rudnytsky traveled to Venezuela, where he played recitals in the cities of Merida and Maracay, and performed as soloist with the Orquesta Sinfonica del Zulia of the city of Maracaibo. He performed with them the Rachmaninoff Concerto No.3 in D minor, Op. 30 – considered by many to be perhaps the most difficult piano concerto in the standard repertoire.

Mr. Rudnytsky will be playing in a number of countries during 2009. So far, these include performances in Honduras (late February-early March), Britain (March and May), Honolulu (mid-April), and his 16th Australian tour (mid-May to mid-August), which will be his largest

one there to date, as it already encompasses over 40 concerts

Later in the year he will be on tour in Colombia and Venezuela, and will play several recitals aboard P&O's cruise ship Oceana (Southampton to Barbados). Currently pending are several engagements in several countries through U.S. Embassies.

Mr. Rudnytsky has now played concerts in over 90 countries. He remains a member of the music faculty of the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University.

Olena Onufriv, artist from Lviv, exhibits in Chicago

CHICAGO – The Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago is hosting an art exhibit by visiting artist Olena Onufriv of Ukraine. This is the artist's first exhibit in the United States.

Ms. Onufriv is a graduate of the Ivan Trush College of Decorative and Applied Art in Lviv and the Lviv Academy of Arts. Her work has been shown at La Galeria in Toledo, and Galeria Nova Rua in Lugo, Spain; Galleria Apt+ in Kassel, Germany (2004); Vuosaari House in Helsinki, Finland (2005); as well as at exhibits in Turkey and Poland in 2006. The largest collection of her works may be found at the Hyatt Hotel in Kyiv.

The Chicago exhibit will showcase some of her lovely landscapes captured on canvas, ranging from colorful sun-drenched paintings to sublime views. Ms. Onufriv belongs to a generation of young Ukrainian artists who started working in the 1990s.

The exhibit, which opened on Friday, February 6, will continue through February 28.

The Ukrainian National Museum is located in the heart of the Ukrainian Village, at 2249 W. Superior St. in Chicago. Hours: Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Monday through Wednesday by appointment only. Admission: adults, \$5; children under 12, Free. Parking is available beside the museum. For driving instructions visit the museum's website at www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org



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Continuum presents "Illuminating Ukraine: Virko Baley and the Avant-Garde"

NEW YORK – Continuum, the adventuresome new music performance ensemble led by Cheryl Seltzer and Joel Sachs, this year celebrates the prodigious Ukrainian American composer and musical activist Virko Baley on the occasion of his 70th birthday with a concert of his works, including several premieres, and those of major Ukrainian composers he has championed.

Artists performing at the February 22 concert at New York's Merkin Concert Hall include Rachel Calloway, mezzo-soprano; Moran Katz, clarinet; David Gresham, bass clarinet; Tom Chiu, violin; Stephanie Griffin, viola; Claire Bryant, cello; Cheryl Seltzer, piano; and Joel Sachs, piano and conductor.

The program will include works by the following composers:

- Mr. Baley (born 1938) – "Palm of the Hand" for clarinet, violin and piano (world premiere); "Song Without Words" for cello and piano (world premiere); "Dance Without Words" for clarinet and piano (New York Premiere); "Klytemnestra" for mezzo-soprano, clarinet, violin, cello and piano (New York premiere of second version, written for Continuum);

- Valentin Bibik (1940-2003) – Piano Sonata No. 4;

- Leonid Hrabovsky (born 1935) – "Hlas II" for bass clarinet;

- Alexander Shchetynsky (born 1960) – "Music in Memory of Valentyn Bibik" for clarinet, cello, piano (world premiere);

- Valentin Silvestrov (born 1937) – "Epitaphium (L.B.)" for viola and piano.

Of special note is "Klytemnestra," set to a text by Ukrainian poet Oksana Zabuzhko, that explores the complicated and intense emotions and desires of Agamemnon's queen as she awaits his victorious return from Troy. Mr. Baley experienced the horrors of World War II, and the domination of his native country, Ukraine, by the foreign powers. These childhood experiences are perhaps present in this monumental work, where love and lust are eclipsed by murder.

Mr. Baley emigrated to the United States in 1949, and received both B.A. and M.A. degrees from the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music and Arts (now CalArts.) He has written a variety of compositions for orchestra, chamber groups, solo instruments and vocal arrangements. He was co-producer and composer for Yuri Illienko's film, "Swan Lake: The Zone," that won two top awards at the 1990 Cannes International Film Festival. He is Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of Nevada and until 1995, served as the founding music director of

the Nevada Symphony.

Grants and commissions have come from the National Endowment for the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, National Symphony Orchestra of Washington, the Project 1000-Winnipeg Symphony, the California E.A.R. Unit, Continuum, the New Juilliard Ensemble, the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Nevada Symphony orchestra and the Nevada State Council on the Arts. He is completing his first opera, "Red Earth: Hunger," themed on the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

Ukrainian music is now prominent among the music of other nations, and native composers' music best expresses the richness of their heritage. Valentin Bibik was a leading figure in the musical life of Kharkiv, an industrial center that boasts a lively musical tradition, with a major opera house and two orchestras. Bibik mobilized interest and performances of modern American music. He taught composition at the Kharkiv Conservatory and was secretary of the Composers' Union. Mr. Bibik has composed nine symphonies, the opera "Flight," major works for chorus, concertos with piano and other solo instruments, seven piano sonatas, and chamber and vocal works.

Valentin Silvestrov, one of the most important figures of the rich European new-music world, was a pupil at the Kyiv Conservatory of Borys Liatoshynsky, the "father" of Ukrainian experimentalism, and is considered one of the leading representatives of the Kyiv avant-garde. Despite being awarded the Koussevitzky Prize in 1967, Silvestrov's music met with no response in his own country. One of his earliest champions was Mr. Baley, a longtime advocate of contemporary Ukrainian music in general and Mr. Silvestrov's, as well as the other three composers on this program, works in particular. His music is now featured in many festivals in Ukraine and the rest of Europe, performed by major symphonic and chamber ensembles and generously represented on CD. A DVD of his music, filmed by an Estonian documentary studio, is being released.

Alexander Shchetynsky's compositions range from solo instrumental to orchestral, choral pieces and opera, and have been performed by internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles at festivals and concerts in Europe and America. New Juilliard Ensemble audiences heard his "Face to Star" in 2004. He organized several contemporary music festivals in Ukraine and Russia, and founded the concert series, "New Music in Kharkiv." A frequent lecturer on Ukrainian music, he



Virko Baley

serves on the Art Council of the Contrasts festival in Lviv, the most prestigious international contemporary music festival in Ukraine. Two CDs of his music have been released in the United States and France. He now lives in Kyiv.

Leonid Hrabovsky also attended the Kyiv Conservatory as a composition student of Liatoshynsky. After winning first prize in the 1959 All-Soviet-Union competition, he received national recognition. Mr. Hrabovsky taught at the Kyiv Conservatory and wrote music for Kyiv film studios. Now living in the New York area, he was composer-in-residence at the Ukrainian Institute of America. His music displays an exterior of tremendous variety and inventiveness, but is united by the meticulousness of its construction.

Continuum has enjoyed a long association with Mr. Baley, performing his music around the world, including works written for the ensemble and a Baley retrospective in 1998. Continuum has recorded two of his compositions, "Orpheus Singing" and "Dreamtime Suite No. 1," on the CD "Orpheus Singing" (Cambria-1087). The members of Continuum have performed together for 43 years and have forged a strong musical connection with the Ukrainian composers on this program.

The recipient of the Siemens international award for distinguished service to music and four ASCAP-Chamber Music America Awards for Adventuresome Programming, Continuum has given over 125 different retrospective concerts in New York City, individual concerts devoted to the century's foremost composers and to major topics. Continuum has recorded on Naxos, Musical Heritage Society, Nonesuch, Bridge, CRI, Capstone, Cambria/Troppe Note, TNC and New Albion, and has been broadcast on national and European television and radio.

The concert "Illuminating Ukraine: Virko Baley and the Avant-Garde" will take place on Sunday, February 22, at 2 p.m. at Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center, 129 W. 67th St. Tickets – \$20; \$10 for students and senior citizens – are available at the box office or at merkin-concerthall.org or by calling 212-501-3330.

The next performance of Mr. Baley's music will be on April 5, when the TALEA Ensemble, conducted by the composer, presents "Dreamtime" (the complete 19-movement work) for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano and percussion at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

enter the country on a Panamanian passport.

A potential presidential candidate for the Hromada Party, Mr. Lazarenko proclaimed himself in the official opposition to President Leonid Kuchma. According to Mr. Lazarenko, he was the victim of a

political plot to eliminate him as a rival before the 1999 presidential election.

Various news sources reported on February 17, 1999, that Mr. Lazarenko had left a hospital in Greece and that his whereabouts were unknown.

Source: "Ukrainian Parliament votes 310-39 to strip Lazarenko of deputy's immunity," by Pavel Polityuk, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 21, 1999.

Making contact with The Weekly

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Tymoshenko defeats...

(Continued from page 1)

Yanukovich, which organized this motion, but lost the game because of internal differences and the lack of trust among potential allies. If Mr. Yanukovich fails to consolidate the PRU, it will be very difficult for him to win the next presidential poll, and the party itself may lose its leading positions.

As in December 2008, the PRU was abandoned by its would-be allies at the crucial moment.

Although the majority of the Communists backed the motion, several of them, including leader Petro Symonenko, were simply absent from Parliament.

Although President Viktor Yushchenko's aide Roman Bezsmertny called for Ms. Tymoshenko's dismissal ahead of the vote (ICTV, February 3), Mr. Yushchenko himself failed to take a clear stance, so only one splinter group from the pro-Yushchenko Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD) caucus – the United Center linked to Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha – supported the motion. Another pro-Yushchenko group, headed by Viacheslav Kyrylenko, apparently abstained, afraid to lose its ministers in the Tymoshenko government (Zerkalo Nedeli, February 7).

The reluctance of the other potential allies

of the PRU to back it against Ms. Tymoshenko, whose government is very weak due to both the economic crisis and incessant conflicts with Mr. Yushchenko, is due to the PRU's own weakness. The PRU has earned a reputation for being an unreliable partner in coalition talks because several groups of influence within it have been tearing the party in different directions. When the chair under Ms. Tymoshenko was shaky last fall, the PRU negotiated a possible coalition simultaneously with her party and her bitter rival, Mr. Yushchenko. As a result, a new coalition was formed, but without the PRU.

The problem for the PRU is that it is essentially a business corporation driven by the economic interests of its major sponsors like the metals tycoon Rinat Akhmetov and the gas tycoon Dmytro Firtash, which do not always coincide. In the conditions of the Ukrainian political war of all against all, it is hard for the PRU to compete when everything is at stake with such political machines as the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), where everything depends on the iron will of the leader, and the ideological parties of Messrs. Yushchenko and Symonenko.

The PRU lost the most recent battle against Ms. Tymoshenko even before it started. A day before the vote, the PRU gathered to decide what to do if the no-confidence motion failed and how to persuade

several of its least disciplined members to turn up for the vote, rather than how to proceed after Ms. Tymoshenko's possible ouster. Moreover, a conflict erupted between the three strongest groups of influence within the PRU linked to Mr. Firtash, Mr. Akhmetov and Andriy Klyuyev, a businessman from Donetsk who is believed to be the main supporter of the idea of a PRU-Tymoshenko coalition.

Mr. Firtash's people reportedly accused Mr. Klyuyev of secretly supporting Ms. Tymoshenko. Mr. Klyuyev accused the pro-Firtash group of weakening discipline in the party (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 6). Borys Kolesnikov, who is Mr. Akhmetov's right-hand man, reportedly alleged that Serhii Liovochkin, the PRU deputy chairman and a Firtash supporter, used his connections in the Presidential Secretariat to instigate the opening of criminal cases against his party colleagues (Obkom.net.ua, February 6).

After the vote, Mr. Kolesnikov called for the expulsion from the PRU of "certain colleagues whose corporate interests dominate over party interests." He said Mr. Liovochkin and his allies played into Ms. Tymoshenko's hands by pushing for a no-confidence motion without properly preparing it (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 6).

The Firtash group pushed for the motion because Ms. Tymoshenko's tenure as prime minister threatens his gas busi-

ness. She managed to oust Mr. Firtash's UkrHazEnergo from the domestic gas trade in early 2008, and RosUkrEnergo, a joint venture between Mr. Firtash and Russia's Gazprom, has been removed from gas trade between Ukraine and Russia in 2009. Now she reportedly plans to put an end to Mr. Firtash's control of Ukraine's several regional gas distribution companies (Ukraina TV, January 23; Kommersant-Ukraine, February 5).

A possible expulsion of Mr. Firtash's people from the PRU should give Mr. Yanukovich a chance to consolidate the PRU around its Donetsk core. The PRU's internal differences have not yet affected either its own or its leader's popularity.

According to recent opinion polls, the PRU remains the most popular party in Ukraine and Mr. Yanukovich the most popular leader (Segodnya, February 10).

Addressing Parliament on February 5, Mr. Yanukovich, who understands that his popularity may evaporate after a series of political defeats by the time of the presidential election scheduled for January 2010, called for simultaneous early presidential and parliamentary elections (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 5). The United Center is apparently the only major party that supports the PRU in this area. Quite naturally, Ms. Tymoshenko flatly dismissed the idea (Kommersant-Ukraine, February 6).

St. Nicholas...

(Continued from page 11)

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the school cafeteria, observe the award-winning varsity volleyball team's scrimmage, view artwork created by the students for the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, and meet recent graduates and many older alumni.

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Pirates release...

(Continued from page 1)

Africa is not new – six Ukrainian ships were captured last year – the Faina siege drew international attention for the heavy weaponry onboard, the controversy about its destination and the role played by shady international businessmen in the Ukrainian arms trade.

Military hardware

Among the cargo aboard the ship when it was captured on September 25, 2008, were 33 Soviet-era T-72 battle tanks, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, anti-aircraft guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

Other than the cargo itself, international law prohibits arms aboard merchant vessels, which explains the irony of how a ship full of military hardware was helpless before armed sea gangsters, among them a 14-year-old.

The pirates admitted they didn't expect to find military cargo on the MV Faina and, soon enough, they received offers from insurgent armies throughout Africa. Initially, the pirates asked for a \$35 million ransom, a figure that dropped gradually during the protracted negotiations over the ship's release.

"Faina's cargo drew the interest of many who tried to intrude into the process of very sensitive negotiations and, thus, made the negotiations particularly difficult," Mr. Alperin said.

Although Ukrainian and Kenyan officials insisted the arms were destined for the Kenyan national army, Agence France-Presse reported that the tanks were actually bound for Sudan.

The pirates allegedly found documents onboard stating the arms were destined for Juba in southern Sudan. If confirmed, this would mean the Ukrainian government violated the United Nations Security Council arms embargo with Sudan.

The Kenyan government has faced embarrassment as well, since the suspected arms trade would breach a 2005 peace deal the country struck to avoid supplying either side in the Sudanese civil war.

The suspicions mark the second time in the last six months that the Ukrainian government has faced accusations of illegal arms trade. After the South Ossetian War, Moscow accused Kyiv of selling weapons to Georgia in violation of international law.

More mysteries

The Faina incident revealed more mysteries.

That an Israeli citizen could transport Ukrainian military hardware to an unconfirmed African nation amidst waters swarming with Somali pirates reveals just how shady the Ukrainian arms business is.

Having belonged to the Party of Regions of Ukraine, the nation's biggest political party notorious for its corrupt businessmen, Mr. Alperin is a partner in Waterlux AG, a company registered in Panama that owns the MV Faina.

Tomex Team, the Odesa firm that manages the cargo, acted as an intermediary between Ukrinmash, a private subsidiary of the UkrSpetsEkspost state monopoly that approves overseas arms sales, and the Kenyan government.

The only other information known about Mr. Alperin is that he also has business dealings in real estate and transportation, according to the Ohliadach news website.

International involvement

Unable to combat maritime crimes, Somali authorities allowed international forces to enter its territorial waters to deal with the pirates.

After the pirates divided their ransom and left the vessel on February 6, a U.S. doctor examined the sailors and confirmed they were in a sound mental and physical condition. However the ship's Russian captain, Vladimir Kolobkov, had died of a heart attack a couple of days after the capture.

As U.S. warships and helicopters and a Russian frigate patrolled the Somali coast out of concern that terrorists could get hold of the heavy weaponry, the U.S. Navy escorted the Faina to the Kenyan seaport of Mombasa to unload the military cargo.

Indeed, the pirates have links to terrorist groups such as Al-Shabaab, which could receive part of the ransom money, said Chatham House, a London-based think-tank.

On February 11 a Ukrainian plane arrived in Mombasa carrying representatives of Ukrainian armaments officials, journalists and Mr. Alperin to greet the Faina's arrival the next day.

The sailors were to arrive at Kyiv's Boryspil International Airport on the morning of Friday, February 13.

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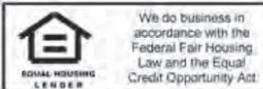
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Pre-Cana conferences at Newark parish mark 40th anniversary

by Ksenia Hapij

NEWARK, N.J. – In our modern world, lectures and various classes are very much part of our lives. We prepare for our jobs, and we prepare for our hobbies, so why should we not prepare for one of the most important steps of our lives – for marriage?

The Catholic Church has developed a program known as Pre-Cana, and over the years it has become one of the requirements for a parish wedding. Though many churches have adopted this quite recently, Pre-Cana conferences have been around for quite a while. St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J., can attest to this – this year, its Pre Cana program will be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Through the years, many priests and lecturers have participated in the Pre-Cana conferences at St. John's, but through it all one thing has remained unchanged. The Church is concerned that young couples should stop to think. Their impending marriage is not all about the wedding dress and the new apartment, for these will soon be thrown aside. There are matters of dire importance that should be addressed, and the Church provides these young people a forum for this.

The organizers of the Pre-Cana at St. John's go through a great deal of trouble to find qualified lecturers who are specialists in their given fields. Every year they invite a

Ksenia Hapij is the office administrator at St. John's Church in Newark and the Pre Cana Conference coordinator.

psychologist, a physician, an attorney and a financier to speak with the couples, and to provide them with the opportunity to discuss topics upon which they may not have touched otherwise.

The pastor is always prepared with a lecture of his own, touching on the topics of God in marriage and the meaning of the wedding ceremony. In today's day and age, when there are so many mixed marriages, an introduction to the world of the Ukrainian rite and Ukrainian customs is imperative.

One of the lecturers in this series at St. John's is a young widower. He speaks of having lost his wife a mere few years after their wedding. And although this may seem senseless in the wake of optimism and bright futures, it is very much a reality of life, and many couples leave this lecture realizing that they need to value every single day that they have together.

St. John's Pre-Cana conference is particularly effective in its format. After each lecturer's presentation, the couples are encouraged to take part in a group discussion. Questions may be asked either openly or anonymously, via notes written on index cards. Afterwards, the couples are given written questionnaires, which they fill out and discuss privately with one another. Couples are often surprised to learn that the concerns they have, and the questions that trouble them, are not unique.

The objective of this conference is to spark a desire in young couples to question – to question themselves and to question one another. They are asked to focus on their



Participants of the 1979 Pre-Cana at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J., with three Redemptorist fathers – the Revs. Myroslav Dziurman, Demetrius Byblow and Michael Kuchmiak, and the organizers of that time, Jean and Jerry Muench.

future, and to see what they can do to effectively communicate with one another and avoid conflict. In doing so, the Church attempts to provide these young couples with a healthy perspective.

The conference is also invaluable in helping couples realize the questions with which they are faced – Do we want to have children? How will we discipline them? How do we relate to our in-laws and to the extended family? How do we approach our family finances? What are our priorities? What kind of role will God play in our marriage? – are universal, and that all other couples preparing for marriage are faced with

the same questions.

It is encouraging to see that, through the years, the couples who attended St. John's Pre-Cana benefited much from the program and were grateful to have taken part in it. Though the Pre-Cana Conference at St. John's in Newark has always been offered to couples getting married in Ukrainian Catholic churches in the state of New Jersey, everyone is welcome to take part. This year's Pre-Cana is scheduled for the weekend of March 14-15. For further information or to register for this program readers may call the parish office, 973-371-1356.

Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 10)

because it gave us the good example and demonstration of a successful internship program for young Ukrainians in the Canadian Parliament. Mr. Baryn's address opened for the Rada interns a 'window' to Canada and once more reminded us how sincerely and constructively the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada supports us," she added. "Ihor Baryn's activity inspires us and persuades us that we can achieve much on our own if we apply our skills and energy, and spare no efforts to educate our youth in good governance."

Ms. Rudenko commented that she is confident that the interns from both the Rada program and CUPP in five to seven years will be able to influence the operation of the Ukrainian government and, most importantly, "these changes in governance and decisions of Parliament will be professional and serve the people of Ukraine."

Both programs are currently experiencing hard times. The Verkhovna Rada program is supported by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) but that support is far from enough, and soon the financial aid will be fully transferred onto the Ukrainian side.

CUPP has been financially supported for more than 18 years by an endowment fund established by the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada. Taking into consideration the great drop in interest rates and earnings of the Endowment Fund over the past several years, as well as the substantial increase in operating costs, CUPP is facing the prospect of closing down in 2010.

This is a very disappointing development, as CUPP has made a very positive impact on Ukrainian youths and the Ukrainian image abroad.

As one of the Verkhovna Rada interns, Yaroslav Lyn of Lviv, commented: "Ihor Baryn is a person who helps the light to appear in the Canadian sky. And this light is progressive Ukrainian youth who demonstrate their intellect and industriousness during their internship in Canada. I would also like to mention that it is so reassuring that

this world has such a strong and true Ukrainian Diaspora that continues to support the land of their forefathers. The Canadian internship program has a lot in common with Ukrainian one, and sharing of experience between the interns can sufficiently improve the effectiveness of work in both Parliaments. Such programs should exist, since they help not only the youth in their growth, but also change the work of Parliament for the better."

Oleksander Bondarenko of Kharkiv noted: "It was very interesting to learn about the care and attention which some Canadian MPs give to the Ukrainian interns. As well, it was important to learn about the positive impact and long-lasting goodwill which our Ukrainian students leave in the Canadian Parliament and how this plays positively on the development of the Canadian-Ukrainian diplomatic relationship."

Representatives of both programs were very satisfied with their meeting in Kyiv and left with ideas about possible future cooperation.

These two internship programs are the only programs that focus on the changes needed in the political culture of the country in order to make that culture more transparent, more responsive to its citizens, and more responsible for building a strong Ukrainian society. The programs are aimed at rooting out corruption by comparing the political cultures and systems of other democratic countries with what currently exists in Ukraine.

It is not difficult to assess the value of the two programs: Every year another hundred or so young university students appear who understand the true state of affairs in Ukraine and in the world outside, are re-assured and given confidence in what they are pursuing through these programs. They are encouraged to pursue graduate studies abroad and are helped to find their future and place in life.

It is important to note that there are only three countries in the world that support such internships: Germany, Canada and Ukraine. And it would be unforgivable if two of them disappear due to financial difficulties.

Fall fund-raisers...

(Continued from page 5)

Readers may also contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, which raises about half of UCU's annual operating budget of approximately \$2.5 million. One of the effects of this assistance is to provide scholarships to worthy students, allowing them to get an excellent education that they otherwise might not be able

to afford. Of every dollar the UCEF spends, more than 84 cents goes to its charitable programs, ranking the UCEF among the most efficient and effective charities in the nation.

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

Remembering...

(Continued from page 6)

or rather on the stage. The two writers did meet Updike and talked to him about literature and politics and Ukraine. A group of us organized poetry readings for them at Harvard, Columbia, Rutgers and ... Southern Illinois University. Where? I knew British literary scholar and translator Herbert Marshall, who was on the faculty of SIU. He also was acquainted with Messrs. Pavlychko and Drach. When I told him they were in New York, Marshall invited them to Southern Illinois: from New York they had to fly to St. Louis, where a university airplane ferried them to the Carbondale campus. All this Ukrainian activity was done on days off from Mr. Pavlychko's and Mr. Drach's

day job: participating in the General Assembly session and U.N. committee meetings.

There also was a need for English translations of the two poets' works. Half a dozen people in New York, Toronto and Philadelphia worked days and nights to produce good translations of very good, modern Ukrainian poetry. The guests read their poems in Ukrainian, followed by English translations, in lecture halls and theaters on various college campuses.

All that came to mind recently as we read obituaries of John Updike. He was a disciplined, busy writer. He didn't have to take the time to meet the Ukrainian writers. But he did. And that chagrined some Sov chekists. And that was good. The iron curtain of ignorance over Ukraine was lifted just a little.

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SPORTSLINE

Soccer

• Ukraine's under-16 team finished in fourth place at the Aegean Sea Cup in Turkey on February 1. Ukraine led the match 2-0 but let in two goals late in the second half and lost against the host country 5-4 in penalty kicks.

• Since his return to Milan, Andriy Shevchenko commented on January 23: "I felt like a new man. Both on the field and outside I feel like another man. I have to thank Milan for that. Those who do not believe me are wrong as I have repeatedly spoken that my main task is to return to the team. Now I want to further play here so that Milan becomes my future. You will shortly see the former Shevchenko as the recovery process, both physically and mentally, is fully completed."

• Preparations for the UEFA under-19 Championship 2009 in Donetsk are in the final stage, according to members of the Donetsk City Council. The matches will be held in Donetsk and Mariupol from July 21 through August 2.

• Ukraine's soccer team was ranked on February 11 in 14th place in the FIFA/Coca-Cola world rankings. Ukraine (932 points) moved up two slots from last year, but Spain remains in top position with 1,693 points.

• Ukraine defeated Slovakia 3-2 in a Cyprus Football Federation friendly tournament on February 11 in Nicosia, Cyprus. Ukraine took the lead in the ninth minute with a shot by Serhiy Valyayev from the top of the box, but Slovakia equalized in the 42nd minute. Ukraine inched ahead when Yevhen Selznov scored in the 46th minute,

but Slovakia came back in the 69th minute. Artem Milevskiy clinched the game for Ukraine in the 83rd minute from the penalty spot. Ukraine defeated Serbia in the finals, 1-0, on February 11 with a shot by Serhiy Nazarenko.

• Ukraine's progress for the UEFA Euro 2012 championship is on track, according to Vice-Prime Minister Ivan Vasiunyk. Reuters reported that a UEFA delegation, led by David Taylor, no longer harbored doubts about Ukraine's preparations after a tour of Ukraine's host cities. "David Taylor stated that Ukraine had managed to maintain the pace of Euro 2012 preparations despite the global financial crisis," Vasiunyk said. Taylor said UEFA would not make its final announcement on which Ukrainian cities are to host Euro 2012 matches until at least May 15. The head of Ukraine's soccer federation, Hryhoriy Surkis, said on Friday, February 6, that Mr. Taylor's tour had produced positive results. "This was the first time since we won the right to co-host Euro 2012 that I did not have a difficult discussion with UEFA," he told reporters.

Boxing

• The Klitschko brothers, Wladimir and Vitali, vowed on January 28 to claim all heavyweight titles this year. A fight for the lone remaining belt, the WBA, held by Russian Nikolai Valuev, is hampered, according to the Russian, by his promoters. Currently, Wladimir Klitschko holds the IBF, IBO and WBO belts, while Vitali Klitschko holds the WBC belt.

• Andreas Kotelnik retained his WBA junior welterweight title in Rostock, Germany, on January 7. Kotelnik fought Argentine Marcos Rene Maidana and won

by split decision 115-114, 115-113, 113-115. Kotelnik improved to 31-2-1, 13 KO, while Maidana suffered his first loss, and his record now stands at 25-1, 24 KO.

Sailing

Victor Kovalenko, a native of Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, was named Australian Coach of the Year by the Australian Institute of Sports in February. Kovalenko, who works with three yacht clubs, including the Middle Harbor Yacht Club, Royal Queensland Yacht Club and Royal Perth Yacht Club, coaches the 470-class fleet in men's and women's teams. Ten of his crews went on to win world titles, including three gold and three bronze medals at the Olympic Games.

Circus

• Oleksandr Koblikov, 19, won a circus competition in Paris on February 10. The competition attracted competitors age 18-25, but what set Koblikov apart was his ability to juggle 10 balls at once. The 15 judges joined the audience in applauding the performer.

• Ukrainian gymnasts Dmytro Hryhorov and Olesia Shulha on January 26 won the circus festival competition in Monte-Carlo, France. Their original performance, "Flight of Passion," choreographed with assistance from Debbie Brown (known for her work with Madonna and Prince) demonstrated a variety of complicated elements and unique stunts without any safety ropes. The duo also has performed with Cirque du Soleil.

Fencing

Olha Kharlan won the silver medal in saber at the Orleans Women's Saber Grand Prix 2009 on February 10. Kharlan defeated China's Xue Tan (15:6) in the quarterfinals and Russia's Svetlana Kormilitsyna (15:8) in the semifinals. The Ukrainian team won bronze.

Tennis

• Ukraine's women's team, including Alona Bondarenko, Kateryna Bondarenko, Mariya Koryttseva and Olga Savchuk, defeated Israel 3-2 in the first round of the ITF Fed Cup on February 7-8. In doubles, the Bondarenko sisters defeated Tsipi Obziler and Shahar Peer 6-3, 6-2.

• Nadia Kichenok, 16, won the junior International Tennis Federation tournament in Notting Hill, Australia, on January 22. In the final match Kichenok, ranked 10th, defeated Russia's Yana Buchina (7-6, 7-2, 2-6, 7-5).

Judo

• Maryna Pryshchepa tied for bronze with China's Xiuli Yang in the 78 kg. division at the International Judo Federation Paris Grand Slam on February 8.

• Volodymyr Soroka (73 kg.) won the gold medal and Tigran Kazarian (66 kg.) won the bronze medal at the 2009 Judo World Cup in Tblisi, Georgia, on January 25.

Chess

• Stanislav Savchenko, a grandmaster, won the FINEC 2009 international chess tournament in St. Petersburg, Russia, with 6/9 points. Mykhailo Brodsky won second place.

• Serhiy Kriakin, a grandmaster, had his greatest achievement on February 1 when he won the Corus Chess Tournament 2009 in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. After this victory, Kriakin advances to the Chess Grand Slam Final in Bilbao, Spain.

Kraikin finished the Corus tournament with eight points.

Paralympians

Ukrainian athletes won 22 medals – including six gold, eight silver and eight bronze medals – at the IPC Biathlon and Cross-Country World Championships in Vuokatti, Finland, on February 3. Olena Yurkovska won the gold medal in women's biathlon pursuit (LW10-12), Lyudmyla Pavlenko won silver and Tetyana Tymoshenko won bronze. Serhiy Khyzhnyak won gold and Yuri Kostiuk won the bronze in men's biathlon pursuit (LW10-12). Vitaliy Lukyanenko and Volodymyr Ivanov won the silver medal in men's biathlon pursuit (B1-B3). Olena Yurkovska won the silver medal and Lyudmyla Pavlenko won the bronze in women's cross-country skiing. Yulia Batenkova won the gold medal in women's cross-country skiing (LW2-9). In cross-country skiing team relay, the women's team of Yurkovska, Oleksandra Kononova and Batenkova won silver. The men's cross-country relay team of Kostiuk, Grygorii Vovchynskiy and Ivanov-Lukyanenko won the bronze medal. Yurkovska and Pavlenko won silver and bronze, respectively, in the women's cross-country freestyle (LW10-12). Batenkova won silver in the women's cross-country freestyle event (LW2-9). In long-distance biathlon, Yurkovska won the gold medal and Pavlenko won the bronze (LW10-12). Khyzhnyak won the silver medal in men's long-distance biathlon (LW10-12). Kononova won gold in the women's long-distance biathlon (LW2-9). The Ivanov-Lukyanenko team won bronze in the men's long-distance biathlon. Yurkovska won the gold medal in women's cross-country sprint (LW10-12) and Kononova and Batenkova won silver and bronze, respectively (LW2-9). Athletes from 20 countries participated. These games are in preparation for the X Winter Paralympic Games, to be held on March 2-12, 2012, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Swimming

Yana Klochkova, a four-time Olympic champion, announced her retirement from the sport on January 26. Klochkova won five Olympic medals in the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Summer Olympics, and set 50 Ukrainian records in 25-meter and 50-meter pools, also in the 100-meter, 200-meter and 400-meter individual medley, 200-meter, 400-meter and 800-meter freestyle, 100-meter and 200-meter backstroke, 200-meter butterfly and relay.

Hockey

• Ukraine will participate in the 2009-2010 Champions Hockey League, along with 22 other countries, playing 59 matches. Ukraine is ranked 20th by the International Ice Hockey Federation.

• Ukraine's Express Hockey Club of Lviv won third place at the Slavic Brotherhood International Hockey Tournament in Pruzhany, Belarus, on January 25. Five teams from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine participated.

Youth Olympic Games

Yuriy Pavlenko, Ukraine's minister for family, youth and sports, signed a decree on January 25 to hold the fifth Junior Sports Games of Ukraine, on February 19 through September 2009 with 30 summer Olympic events. The games are in preparation for the Youth Olympic Games 2010 in Singapore. Qualifying stages for the games in Ukraine will take place at secondary schools and specialized sports schools.

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Philadelphia's UECC holds 2008 annual Christmas Bazaar

by Andrea Zharovsky

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – December for Ukrainians in the Philadelphia area is a busy time of year. It involves getting ready for the holidays – finding time to buy presents, cook and clean for expected guests, decorate the home and visiting the Christmas Bazaar here at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center.

For some in the Ukrainian community, it also means finding the time to spend a week of volunteering at the UECC. Lists need to be made, items need to be purchased, and spaces need to be cleared and cleaned in preparation for the bazaar.

Volunteers spend days and weeks preparing the varenyky, holubtsi and borsch sold at the bazaar. An assembly line forms daily to produce thousands of varenyky. Nimble hands swiftly roll out and pinch the dough, as women's voices are heard over the banging of pots and pans, laughing, singing and sharing the latest good news. It is a time of bonding for these women, who come together year after year to begin their Christmas season and give back to the Ukrainian community.

With the tantalizing aroma of fried onions in the air, the UECC opened its doors early Saturday morning, December 13, 2008, confident that it was ready to greet, feed and entertain the local community. Shifts were organized and filled by UECC volunteers, family members and friends of the UECC board of directors.

Some sold the delicious homemade food in the food court in the Main Hall; others sold the baked goods; still others worked the takeout food station, featuring frozen varenyky, various types of kovbasa, poppy and wheat in the Gallery.

Evidencing the increasing demand to participate in this annual event, vendors filled both the main hall and the Gallery, enticing all with their beautiful books, ceramics, jewelry, music, clothing, pysanky, honey, artwork and more.

A visit to "Babusia Nastusia's" in the Gallery appealed to many. Visitors were transported back to Ukraine and could taste a delicious "kanapka" (canape), "oseledtsi" (herring) or "salo" (salted pork fat) while seated in the decorated yard of a traditional Ukrainian village house created specifically for the bazaar. To warm everyone up, MB Financial Bank treated the visitors to coffee.

"Babusia Nastusia offered friends a place to meet and enjoy lighter fare, catch up on news, watch the hourly performances and tend to parcels, while more gifts were purchased from the vendors in the Gallery," said Laryssa Krywusha, Babusia Nastusia's long lost relative.

"Some of our [non-Ukrainian] neighbors tried salo for the first time and vowed to be back next year for more!"

Throughout the day, performers welcomed guests to the holiday bazaar. Students of local piano teachers Lesya Nestor and Lesia Penkalskyj played carols on the piano in the Gallery. In the Main Hall, various classes of the Ukrainian Heritage School, a program of the UECC, under the musical direction of Halyna Bodnar, sang traditional Ukrainian Christmas carols. A recently formed quintet of students of the Ukrainian Heritage School, under the direction of Maria Kaminska, performed as well.

The combined youth choir of the Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church Choir, under the direction of Ivan Velenchuk, also performed. Members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association sang carols and ended with an amusing Ukrainian Christmas rap about St. Nicholas. Youths of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization also sang carols. The Children's Choir of the Ukrainian Music Institute, under the supervision of Ms. Penkalskyj with piano accompaniment by Helen Porytko, sang and greeted all with traditional Ukrainian "vinshuvannia" (Christmas and New Year's wishes).

Representatives of the Voloshky Dance Ensemble, along with Taras Lewykyj, lifted spirits with their beautiful dance and gorgeous costumes. The children of Svitlychka, the Ukrainian Cooperative Nursery, also a program of the UECC, brought smiles to all with their adorable performance and "stage presence." To the delight of the Ukrainian boys and girls on stage and children of all ages gathered, St. Nicholas made a surprise visit. He spoke briefly reminding all of the beauty and meaning of Christmas.

"This year's Christmas Bazaar at the UECC was a lot of fun," stated Natalka Firko, vice-president of Programs. "It was a great group effort by not only the board and the staff, but again by the many devoted volunteers. We tried a new layout this year due to the overwhelming interest in our homemade food. The dining area was expanded and the Alexander B. Chernyk Gallery was busting at the seams with vendors and buyers and carolers. What a great day it was! Thank you to everyone who helped and to those who came to support us."

A team of volunteers for every bazaar need was assembled under the direction of Natalka Firko, who was in her 14th year as chairwoman of the Bazaar Committee. Lesia Korchagin provided support to the



Andrea Zharovsky

St. Nicholas greets the children of Svitlychka.

devoted kitchen women; Larysa Stebly headed the baked goods section; Lesia Nowak was in charge of dried goods; Laryssa Krywusha and Luba Kalyta created and manned the "Babusia Nastusia's"; Borys Pawluk and Borys Zacharczuk headed the kovbasa station; Bohdan Mizak was responsible for the bar; Sophia Koropecyk was in charge of food ticket sales; the UECC office, along with Ms. Firko, was responsible for the vendors; and Andrea Zharovsky organized the musical program. Of course, the maintenance staff, under the direction of Building Superintendent Wasyl Sichkar and UECC Executive Director Orysia Hewka, was

responsible for the whole set up.

"The bazaar was a huge financial success for the center – the best ever," stated Sophia Koropecyk, vice-president of finances. "The proceeds will be used to fund much-needed center renovations."

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

Passaic Choir performs 'Christmas Story'



PASSAIC, N.J. – The St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir (seen above) performed "Christmas Story" on January 4, featuring the music of Ukrainian composer Dymytriy Tuptalo. The choir was led by Andriy Legkyj and featured solos by Romaniya Voloshchuk, Halyna Newmerzyckj, Klara Lehka, Myhailo Moczula and Mychail Newmerzyckj. The Ricecare Early Music Ensemble also performed with Halyna Lehka and Anastasia Antoniv on baroque violin, Andriy Legkyj on keyboard, Yuriy Legkyj on percussion and Michael Antoniv on triangles. The church is located on President Street in Passaic.

– Tom Hawrylko



The small army of hard-working UECC kitchen volunteers.

Celebration of Ukrainian culture at San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO – The March 7 Shevchenko Program, organized and directed by Ivanna Taratula Filipenko of Julivanna Music Studio, will launch “Ukraine Month” at the San Francisco Public Library.

The program will feature poetry by Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine’s national bard, in Ukrainian and English, and Ukrainian dance and music. Performers – children and adults from the Bay Area – will be attired in national costumes representing various regions of Ukraine.

The program will take place at Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Main Public Library, 100 Larkin St. (at Market, Eighth, Hyde and Grove streets), San Francisco. The program is free and open to the public.

Parking is available at the Civic Center Garage off McCallister Street. To use public transportation, go to the Civic Center Station (BART and MUNI) to the Eighth Street Exit; many bus lines stop at Eighth and Market. For more information see the library website, www.sfpl.org.

Putin retains...

(Continued from page 2)

victory, making Mr. Barroso confirm that the EU was broadly in favor of the Nord Stream and South Stream pipeline projects and did not see the latter as a competitor to the Nabucco project, which constitutes Brussels’ best hope for diversifying the import of gas.

Whatever Mr. Barroso’s diplomatic neutrality, controversies around these pipelines have, in fact, reached a new peak since the “gas war,” and it is plausible that Russia’s security maneuvering is aimed at these targets. By postponing the deployment of the as yet non-existent Iskanders, Moscow has removed a shadow of militarization from the Baltic area, thereby clearing the way for Nord Stream, perhaps expecting the difficult Swedes to lift their objections.

By shutting down Manas, Russia demonstrates to the forever ambivalent Turkmenistan that the United States has no leverage in Central Asia. The decision on strengthening the military component of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) was another gentle reminder to Presidents Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov of Turkmenistan and Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, who remain outside this dubious institution, that Russia’s ability to project power was not diminished by the crisis (*Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, February 5).

Under such pressure, Turkmenistan would hardly procrastinate much longer with final consent on constructing a pipeline to the north, and Azerbaijan would have to reconsider Gazprom’s offer to buy all free volumes of gas produced at Shah-Deniz. Without this supply base, the Nabucco project will remain wishful thinking.

It may be far easier to torpedo a “hostile” pipeline project than to advance your own, and Gazprom admitted for the first time last week that it would have to reduce its 2009 investment program estimated at \$26 billion (www.newsru.com, February 6). There is nothing worrisome about Gazprom’s falling production, as both domestic and European

demand is set to contract; but economizing on investments is a policy that guarantees a shortage of gas in the admittedly uncertain recovery phase in the first half of the next decade. This horizon may be too far away for most politicians, but Mr. Putin thinks very much in gas business terms, hence the unwavering focus on tightening control over “green fields” in Central Asia that must fill the gap until Yamal comes on-line sometime by 2020.

There is, however, a significant hole in this strategic vision: Gazprom, with its bloated operational expenses and enormous apparatus, cannot function normally with the level of export prices that will be fixed in April and will most probably remain flat until the end of the year. Its survival strategy is set to clash with the interests of domestic consumers, and Mr. Putin would be hard pressed to reconcile them.

Mr. Putin becomes irritated when European partners raise issues pertaining to the rule of law or human rights, assuming that these irrelevant matters should be dropped in the situation of an unfolding economic disaster. This irritation is probably induced by a suspicion that Mr. Barroso’s persistence is not just a ritual or habit but a reflection of doubts about the survival chances of the inflexible and corrupt regime that makes Russia so special in the European arena.

Most speakers at the Munich conference argued for engaging Russia closer by every available means from arms control to tourism, because nobody is prepared to entertain such alternatives as isolation and implosion. These possibilities are nevertheless looming larger every day as Mr. Putin swings from suppressing regional protests to staging loyal demonstrations and from placating pensioners with small income raises to dumping billions of dollars into black holes in the collapsing economy, among which Gazprom is the unrivaled champion.

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

Skiing and shopping..

(Continued from page 13)

tor,” where we stored our water, juices, and snacks. This new hotel was still unfinished when we were in Bukovel in December 2007, so it really is very new and at the foot of the one of the higher ski runs.

On the ground floor of the Shelter Hotel is its cafeteria-style restaurant/bar. There are also tables under an awning just outside where you may take your food and/or drinks to dine. You may, of course, eat indoors as well. Downstairs in the hotel is another restaurant/disco noted for grilled items on the menu. It is also where the breakfast buffet is served every morning. We really preferred this breakfast buffet to the one we had at the Kozachok Restaurant last year (offered when you stay at the Bukovel Hotel).

The Shelter’s breakfast buffet is more of a brunch/lunch, offering shashliyka, roast chicken, grilled fish, fish burgers, pan fried potatoes, mashed potatoes, buckwheat (kasha), sausages, yogurt, fresh fruit, fruit juices, coffee, tea, bread and sweets, as well as the traditional eggs (either sunny side up or egg whites omelets) that you would expect for breakfast. This was enough to keep us well nourished until dinner, which we usually ate at the Kozachok Restaurant.

Our favorites at the Kozachok were Ukrainian borsch, pampushky (rolls with garlic butter) and the restaurant’s mushroom soup with dumplings. Their potato pancakes (Deruny) with onion and sour cream were delicious and came as a large portion that we shared. I really enjoyed the banosh (corn meal) with bryndzia cheese that reminded me of one of my favorite Romanian dishes – mămăligă. The varenyky with meat, potatoes or cabbage were delicious and were served in little ceramic pots.

An interesting dish that all three of us enjoyed and I made my own version of in Kyiv is potrocha – a stew of chicken hearts,

livers, gizzards and mushrooms in a cream sauce, also served in individual ceramic pots. The corn meal banosh was a wonderful accompaniment to absorb the lovely sauce of the potrocha. These are just a few of the specialties that we tried.

For dessert we only tried the homemade cheese cake and our daughter had ice cream (vanilla only with chocolate sauce). Kozachok offers wine, vodka and beer together with a variety of cocktails, juices, teas and coffee. The menu was in the Russian language only.

On the way back to Ivano-Frankivsk to get our direct train back to Kyiv, we stopped, as we did last year, in the picturesque town of Yaremche (30 kilometers from Bukovel). There we visited the outdoor market stands near a fantastic waterfall and had a nice lunch at the famous Hutsulschyna Restaurant, which is classified as a historic landmark since this beautiful wooden building is all built without a single nail.

The wooden ceiling and walls are all beautifully hand carved, and the dishes used to serve the food are hand-painted Ukrainian ceramics. The four of us (we invited our driver) all had an excellent cream of mushroom soup. My husband and daughter had a schnitzel, and the driver and I had fresh river trout.

The market stalls at Yaremche offer Ukrainian embroidery, ceramics, beaded necklaces, amber, coral and Ukrainian costume dolls (I purchased several last year), and lots and lots of sheepskins and slippers. There is also a souvenir market at Bukovel which I visited daily, but there is a much larger choice at Yaremche.

I highly recommend this Carpathian winter wonderland – with its ski slopes and wonderful food and shopping opportunities – to all, but remember your stay must be longer than a weekend to make it worthwhile. You can read more about the Bukovel Ski Resort in English on its website (<http://bukovel.com/en>).

Who owns the gas...

(Continued from page 2)

remained in force (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, January 27).

Gazprom tried to distance itself from the dispute, leaving it to Naftohaz to persuade RosUkrEnergo to pay the \$1.7 billion debt (*Ukrayinski Novyny*, January 30). Ms. Tymoshenko accused Mr. Khoroshkovskiy of being part of Mr. Firtash’s team (Mr. Khoroshkovskiy is indeed a partner of Mr. Firtash in several mass-media projects, including Inter TV), and she dismissed him from the Customs Service on January 28.

On the same day Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, confirming his reputation as Ms. Tymoshenko’s bitter rival, appointed Mr. Khoroshkovskiy as first deputy chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). The SBU immediately instructed the Customs Service to prevent the government from confiscating RosUkrEnergo’s gas (*Kommersant Ukraine*, January 29). Speaking in his new capacity, Mr. Khoroshkovskiy warned that if the government took the disputed gas, it would violate several laws on property and investment protection (*Inter TV*, January 30).

The new leadership of the Customs Service, appointed by Ms. Tymoshenko, apparently ignored the SBU’s warning, as Ms. Tymoshenko announced that her government had given the go-ahead to start pumping RosUkrEnergo’s gas from the reservoirs (UNIAN, January 31). Mr. Firtash insists that the gas in question is destined for consumers of the Europe Union. RosUkrEnergo was cut out of the market in Ukraine, but it is still bound by contracts to

supply gas to Poland, Hungary and Romania in 2009. Mr. Firtash warned that those countries would not receive the gas that Ms. Tymoshenko ordered to be taken for Ukrainian domestic needs (*Inter TV*, February 1).

RosUkrEnergo already has problems with its clients in the EU. Polish Petroleum and Gas Mining (PGNiG) was considering suing RosUkrEnergo over the company’s failure to fulfill its obligations. RIA-Novosti quoted a PGNiG spokesperson as saying on February 2 that Poland expected to receive 14 million cubic meters of gas a day under its contracts with RosUkrEnergo but was receiving only 7 million.

If Mr. Firtash manages to prove that the disputed gas does not belong to Naftohaz and if RosUkrEnergo’s disgruntled clients turn to Ukraine for it, Naftohaz may be in serious trouble. It is unlikely to receive any more international loans to keep it afloat, not only because of the global financial crisis but also because Naftohaz is considered untrustworthy as it even has trouble making payments on earlier loans.

Naftohaz can hardly expect Ukraine’s cash-strapped industry or households to pay more for gas, nor will it receive much money from the Ukrainian state budget, which is already running a huge deficit if a recently published report to the cabinet by Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk is to be believed (*Ekonomichna Pravda*, January 27).

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



Maryna and Victoria Markowicz.

OUT AND ABOUT

- February 19
Stanford, CA
Lecture by Joseph Coleman Carter, "Crimean Chersonesos from Independence to the Present: Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Politics," Stanford University, 650-723-3562
305-798-0190 or 954-536-2213
- February 19-20
Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec
International ice sculpting competition, featuring a team from Ukraine, 819-763-7627 or abivventure@yahoo.ca
- February 20
Washington
Lecture by Ihor Lylo about Lviv's Greek heritage, Shevchenko Scientific Society, Embassy of Ukraine, 240-205-1889 or olex@ukremb.com
- February 20
New York
Night at The Ukrainian Museum, Lisovi Mavky Sorority - Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or mavkamuseumnight@gmail.com
- February 20
Toronto
Lecture by Ostap Hawaleshka, "The Exceptional Work of the Aerospace Constructor Oleh Antonov as Part of Ukraine's Contribution to World Aerospace Technology, Canadian Ukrainian Art Foundation, 416-766-6802
- February 20-22
Toronto
51st National Congress, Ukrainian Canadian Student Union, 416-951-2440
- February 21
Pearl River, NY
50th "Chervona Kalyna" Debutante Ball, Pearl River Hilton, 718-291-4166
- February 21
Los Angeles
Presentation of debutantes and ball, California Association to Aid Ukraine, Manhattan Beach Marriott, 800-228-9290 or 818-783-9773
- February 21
New York
Book presentation by Vitaly Chernetsky of Yuriy Andrukhovych's "Moskoviada," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- February 21
Miami, FL
"Vyshyvani Vechornytsi" zabava, Miami Educational and Cultural Group, Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary hall,
- February 22
Colebrook, CT
Winterfest ice skating party, Bobrivka, 860-883-1391 or 203-932-4376
- February 22
New York
Lecture by Serhiy Bilenky, "Kyiv in the Imagination of Ukrainians, Russians and Poles in the Epoch of Romanticism," Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences, 212-222-1866
- February 22
Toronto
Lecture by Andriy Makuch and Maegon Young, "Pride, Patriotism, Enlightenment and Entertainment: The Toronto Ukrainian People's Home in the 1920s and 1930s," St. Vladimir Institute, 416-923-3318
- February 23
Cambridge, MA
Lecture by Andriy Danylenko, "The Gospels in Vernacular Ukrainian: Contrasting the Language Programs of Panteleimon Kulish and Antin Kobylanskyi," Harvard University, 617-495-4053
- February 23
Washington
Panel discussion, "The Russian-Ukrainian Gas War: Lessons for Europe and the United States," The Heritage Foundation, 202-546-4400
- February 25
Washington
Lecture by Rakesh Sarma, "Dissatisfaction and Disillusionment in Ukraine - Findings From the 2008 IFES Public Opinion Survey," Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4000
- February 26
Brooklyn, NY
Ukrainian Village Dance Party "Vechornytsi," Brooklyn Ukrainian Restaurant, 212-571-1555 ext. 35 or 646-453-9909

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.

Дебютантки ВЕЧОРНИЦЬ ЧЕРВОНОЇ КАЛИНИ в суботу, 21 лютого, 2009

Hilton Pearl River Hotel
Pearl River, New York

грають: "Темпо" і "Луна"
Коктейл 6-7ма вечора
Бенкет 7-9-та
Презентація дебютанток 7-ма вечора
Вечерниця від 9-тої до 2-ої ранку
Вечірній одяг

50
Літня
Формальної
презентації
дебютанток
Запрошення
зі інформацією:
Ihor Sochan
tel. (201) 391-2581



Зоряна Каспрук
ескорт Юрій Володимир
Каватиук

Zoryana Kaspruk
escort Yuriy Volodymyr
Kavatsiuk



Ганна Кім
ескорт Андрій Кирилюк

Hanna Kit
escort Andriy Kirilyuk



Александра Татяна
Лодинська
ескорт Артем Деркач

Alexandra Tatiana Lodynsky
escort Artem Derkach



Надія Павлишин
ескорт Александер Кобрин

Nadiya Pavlishyn
escort Alex Kobryn



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ескорт Іван Шанта

Ana Larisa Tivadar
escort Ivan Santa





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877-968-7828



PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, February 20

NEW YORK: The young adult Plast sorority Lisovi Mavky is hosting a special evening event at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St. The museum will be open late, from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., giving visitors a chance to enjoy the various exhibits on display after regular museum hours, with a docent-led tour beginning at 7:45 p.m. A \$10 admission charge includes beverages and hors d'oeuvres. For those interested in becoming museum members, there will be a membership sign-up table. All ages are welcome. For more information e-mail mavkamuseumnight@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 21

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a presentation by Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky (Miami University of Ohio) of the English translation of Yuriy Andrukhovych's novel "Moskoviada," which was published by the Spuyten Duyvil Publishing House in New York in 2008. The presentation will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Sunday, February 22

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Academy of Art and Sciences in New York will host a lecture by Dr. Serhiy Bilenyk, who holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Toronto and who this semester is teaching courses on modern Ukrainian history at Columbia University. The lecture, "Kyiv in the Imagination of Ukrainians, Russians and Poles in the Epoch of Romanticism," will be

held in the academy's building, 206 W. 100th St., at 3 p.m. The lecture will be in Ukrainian. All are invited. For more information contact the academy, 212-222-1866.

Monday, February 23

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture given by Andriy Danylenko, lecturer in modern languages and cultures at Pace University and associate of the Ukrainian Research Institute. His lecture, "The Gospels in Vernacular Ukrainian: Contrasting the Language Programs of Panteleimon Kulish (1871) and Antin Kobylanskyi (1874, 1877)," will be held at 4 p.m. in Room S-050 (Concourse Level), CGIS Building South, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 617-495-4053 or e-mail huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Thursday, February 26

NEW YORK: The Center for Traditional Music and Dance and Ukrainian Wave present a midwinter "Vechornytsi" (Village Dance Party) at 6-9 p.m. at the Brooklyn Ukrainian Restaurant, 1223 Ave. U (between East 12th Street and Homecrest Avenue; Avenue U stop on the Q train) in Brooklyn. Enjoy Carpathian mountain music by acoustic folk band Cheres, led by Andriy Milavsky. Learn folk dances such as the dribka (shivering) polka, arkan, pleskan and more with dance master Tamara Chernyakhovska. Dance instruction, 6-7 p.m.; dance party, 7-9 p.m. Admission: \$10; admission and buffet, \$15. All ages welcome. For further information call 212-571-1555, ext. 35.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information.

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

Being Ukrainian means:

- Malanka in January.
- Deb in February.
- Sviato Vesny or Zlet in May.
- Soyuzivka's Ukrainian Cultural Festival in July.
- "Uke Week" at Wildwood in August.
- Back to Ukrainian school in September.
- Morskyi Bal in New Jersey in November.
- Koliada in December.
- A subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly all year round.

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 220

Please be advised Branch 220 has merged with Branch 125 as of February 1, 2009. All inquiries and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Gloria Paschen.

Mrs. Gloria Paschen
641 Alice Ct.
Elgin, IL 60123
(847) 697-5630

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 338

Please be advised Branch 338 has merged with Branch 96 as of February 1, 2009. All inquiries and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Jaroslawa Komichak.

Mrs. Jaroslawa Komichak
129 Warwick Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15241-2106
(412) 833-6657