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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Senate hearing focuses on Ukraine's association with the European Union

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – The U.S. government has been working with its European allies and talking with Russia with the intent of making it possible for Ukraine to sign an Association Agreement and a comprehensive trade agreement with the European Union at the EU summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, on November 28-29, a senior State Department official told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Testifying on November 14 at the committee hearing about the outlook for this happening for Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Belarus, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland said that Washington was working “in lock-step” with its allies and partners to help these countries meet the tough conditions for a “yes” vote of the EU in Vilnius.

“Ukraine still needs to take three important reform steps to meet the EU’s conditions,” she told the committee, among them: passage of legislation reforming its Procurator General’s Office and its parliamentary election code, and the release of the imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko for medical treatment.

With Russia putting economic pressures on Ukraine not to sign the Association Agreement (AA), she added, Washington has been working with the EU on possible options “to help Ukraine make difficult trade adjustments and weather the EU implementation period if Ukraine makes the political decisions necessary to sign its AA at Vilnius.”

At the same time, the United States is “encouraging Moscow to abide by its commitments in the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and elsewhere regarding their neighbors’ rights to pursue any political and economic arrangements they choose,” Secretary Nuland said.

Also testifying before the Senate committee and sharing their assessment of how these issues could be resolved were Anders Aslund, senior fellow at the



Yaro Bihun

Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee concerning the possibility of Ukraine and other East European countries signing on to the European Union Association Agreements in Vilnius.

Peterson Institute for International Economics; Ariel Cohen, senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation; and Damon Wilson, executive vice-president of the Atlantic Council.

Dr. Aslund told the Senate committee “it is doubtful” the EU will agree to sign the Association Agreement with Ukraine, since President Viktor Yanukovich is reluctant to fulfill the European demands for political freedom and rule of law. “In particular, he does not want to pardon former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, whom he narrowly defeated in the presidential elections in February 2010.”

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BREAKING NEWS

Kwasniewski: Kyiv will not sign AA at Vilnius summit

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – As The Weekly was going to press on November 21, the BBC reported that Ukraine had suspended preparations for a trade deal with the European Union, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) quoted Aleksander Kwasniewski, a leader of the EU diplomatic mission to Ukraine, as saying that Kyiv would not sign an Association Agreement (AA) with the EU at the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit.

The BBC noted: “A government statement said the decision [to suspend preparations for a free trade agreement] had been taken to protect Ukraine’s ‘national security.’ Hours earlier MPs rejected a bill that would have allowed jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko to leave the country – which the EU had demanded as a condition for the deal to proceed.”

A story by RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service noted that Mr. Kwasniewski, who along with Pat Cox had traveled numerous times to Ukraine as part of a special EU mission, told Poland’s TVN24 the Association Agreement would not be signed at the Vilnius summit on November 28-29. His comments came in reaction to the Ukrainian government’s decision to suspend preparations for signing the agreement.

Mr. Kwasniewski underscored that “This is a decision by Ukraine, not Europe.” He also noted: “In essence, this is a request for a suspension in negotiations until such time as economic questions in Ukraine are put in order.”

The English-language RFE/RL reported: “The Ukrainian government has suspended work on preparations to sign a key association and free-trade agreement with the European Union at a summit later this month. A government decree on November 21 said the process was halted in order to fully analyze the impact of the planned agreement

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EU foreign ministers issue ‘urgent appeal’ to Yanukovich

RFE/RL

BRUSSELS – European Union foreign affairs ministers have called on Kyiv to take action over jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko as they gathered in Brussels to discuss Ukraine ahead of an EU summit in Vilnius on November 28-29.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel meanwhile said it remained unclear whether Ukraine was “willing” to meet the criteria needed for a key free-trade deal with the European Union.

Speaking to the German Parliament, Ms. Merkel added that if Kyiv met the criteria needed to sign the agreement, the EU could help Kyiv ward off economic pressure from Russia, which wants Ukraine to join its own Customs Union with Belarus and Kazakhstan.

“We know that reforms cannot completely be carried out in a day,” Ms. Merkel said on

November 18. “We also want to support Ukraine in its reforms with offers of cooperation, with financial means from the European Neighborhood Policy. But the conditions for this must be achieved by Ukraine itself and not just sometime, but rather now.”

The EU has conditioned the signing of an Association Agreement with Kyiv on democratic reforms and permission for Ms. Tymoshenko, whose conviction for abuse of office is seen by Brussels as “selective justice,” to travel abroad for medical treatment.

The Ukrainian Parliament was to debate a bill on November 19 that would allow Ms. Tymoshenko, who suffers from back pain, to travel to Germany.

The debate in the Verkhovna Rada was scheduled last week after legislators failed to discuss the bill.

Ahead of the meeting in Brussels on November 18, German Foreign Affairs

Minister Guido Westerwelle issued an urgent appeal to Ukraine to act.

“We want Ukraine to orientate itself toward the EU, but the conditions have to be right,” he said. “That is, above all, the rule of law and for that the Tymoshenko case surely has a particular significance. I urgently call on Ukraine to act and to unify in a practicable way toward the rule of law, and not play for time. The clock is ticking, time is running out, and everyone in Ukraine should be aware of this.”

Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Minister Linas Linkevicius, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the EU, indicated that Mr. Yanukovich has to show decisiveness and said that the “moment of truth” has arrived for Ukraine.

Swedish Foreign Affairs Minister Carl Bildt said that “everything is in the hands” of the Ukrainian president.

Ukraine’s signing of an Association Agreement has been held up by the 2011 jailing of Ms. Tymoshenko on abuse-of-power charges largely seen as political revenge by Mr. Yanukovich.

Mr. Yanukovich narrowly defeated Ms. Tymoshenko in a presidential runoff in February 2010.

Mr. Yanukovich has been criticized by the opposition after it emerged that he traveled to Moscow for secret talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on November 9.

With reporting by Reuters, the Associated Press and Agence France-Presse.

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ANALYSIS

Kyiv tests 'pause' in EU integration

by **Maksym Bugriy**
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The political situation in Ukraine has been heating up as the European Union's November 28-29 Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius approaches. Kyiv is preparing to sign an Association Agreement (AA) with the EU at Vilnius, but it is not yet certain whether the signing will go forward. Reaching this agreement could be a blow to Russian President Vladimir Putin's "Eurasianist" integration policy and eventually challenge the current Russian political model. Consequently, Moscow has been applying substantial economic pressure on Kyiv to turn the tide in Russia's favor (see *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, August 15, September 3, October 10, 16).

President Viktor Yanukovich made a hasty working visit to Moscow on November 9, which his press office pre-announced as motivated by the need to discuss "trade and economic relations with Russia on the eve of the Vilnius summit." Earlier, on October 27, Mr. Yanukovich met with Mr. Putin in Sochi.

Both visits received virtually no media coverage, which led one of Ukraine's opposition leaders, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, to sharply react on November 11: "If this is about secret negotiations with the president of another state, then this is a direct cause for impeachment [...] because it is about state treason" (<http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2013/11/11/7001904/>).

Apparently, during the Sochi meeting, President Putin presented his Ukrainian counterpart with some "carrots." The director of the Institute of Ukrainian Policy, Kost Bondarenko, told Jamestown on November 11 that Mr. Putin's proposals included a \$15 billion financing program for Ukraine, reduced natural gas prices, and promises to continue cooperation on joint projects in nuclear energy and technology, as well as the manufacturing sectors.

Subsequently, the Russian proposal to launch "multi-billion dollar joint projects with Ukraine aimed at diversifying the country's economy if Kyiv fails to sign an EU association agreement" were repeated by presidential advisor Sergei Glazyev (RIA Novosti, November 10).

According to Mr. Bondarenko, the November 9 presidential summit in Moscow was, therefore, designed to discuss Russian-Ukrainian cooperation, as well as Russian guarantees and various scenarios for the evolution of bilateral relations based on whether Kyiv does or does not sign the AA with the EU, or whether the agreement is postponed until 2014. Furthermore, Mr. Bondarenko wrote on November 12 that, apparently, in an effort to appear more accommodating, Russia has lifted its insistence on Kyiv joining the Customs Union (<http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/bond/528165a709e31/>).

Sentiments for resolving the trade issues with Russia have been on the rise in Ukraine recently. For instance, on November 11, Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov told the Ukrainian TV channel Inter, "It is not simply that we 'do not want' confrontation [with Russia], but that we will 'never allow' it... There will be no enmity between Russia and Ukraine, at least while our government and our president are at the helm" (http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013_11_11/Ukraine-doesnt-want-confrontation-with-Russia-Ukrainian-PM-8001/).

Furthermore, on that same day, the

heads of Ukraine's pro-government trade union federation (FPU) and industrialists association (USPP) requested that President Yanukovich meet with them as soon as possible to discuss the worsening of trade with Russia. The USPP specifically mentioned the economic hardships of railroad car building companies caused by Russia's refusal to certify Ukraine's production (<http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2013/11/11/7001921/>). Official statistics show that Ukraine's railroad equipment exports fell 35 percent year-on-year in August 2013, where Russia was a key export market.

At a meeting with the USPP on November 12, National Deputy Valentyn Landyk asked the president to "postpone the [EU Association Agreement] signature by one year" (<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/29439.html>). Meanwhile, President Yanukovich characterized Kyiv's European integration efforts as "pragmatic" (<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/29368.html>).

Yet, despite such mixed signals toward signing the AA, Mr. Yanukovich's government appears to be more steadfast in developing broader cooperation with the West, including in the security and defense spheres with the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) – much to Russia's irritation.

Ukrainian marines based in Crimea recently successfully participated in the NATO Steadfast Jazz 2013 exercise (<http://www.mil.gov.ua/index.php?lang=ua&part=news&sub=read&id=31418>), while the military is also preparing to participate in a multi-national Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian brigade (October 23, www.bns.ee), as well as the proposed Visegrad Four + Ukraine EU Battlegroup. Kyiv has also been proactive in easing energy dependence from Russia and tries to seek U.S. and Chinese financial support to address Ukraine's fiscal deficit (see EDM, July 30, 2012; January 28, November 8, 2013).

There seems to be little such pragmatism from the Russian side, however. In fact, Kremlin advisor Mr. Glazyev challenged European liberal values as running counter to the Russian elite's "[Christian] Orthodoxy" and characterized the Ukrainian leaders' European choice as "in essence, anti-Christian" (<http://obozrevatel.com/interview/50384-glazyev-rar-i-tsarev-za-zavtrakom-s-berezovskoj.htm>).

Moscow clearly would like Ukraine to abandon its role as a "political transit state" and finally choose between East and West. The Russian ambassador to the EU, Vladimir Chizov, told the Russian International Affairs Council on November 12: "Both Moscow and Brussels are sending a certain signal not only to Kyiv, but also to some other so-called focus states of the Eastern Partnership, so that, in practical terms, the time of comfortably sitting between the two chairs is coming to an end" (http://russiancouncil.ru/en/inner/?id_4=2671#top).

Nevertheless, the main formal obstacle preventing the European Union from agreeing to sign the Association Agreement with Ukraine remains President Yanukovich's unwillingness to release from prison the former prime minister and opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko. The government needs to release Ms. Tymoshenko to demonstrate to Brussels that Ukraine is effectively addressing the

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NEWSBRIEFS

Tsariov: U.S. Embassy incites civil war

KYIV – A member of the Party of Regions faction in Parliament, Oleh Tsariov, has sent a deputy's request to Ukrainian authorities to take measures to stop and prevent representatives of foreign countries from interfering in the internal affairs of Ukraine. He said the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv is promoting preparations for inciting a civil war in Ukraine. He said this from the Verkhovna Rada rostrum on November 20, the press service of the Party of Regions reported. "Activists of the Volia public organization addressed me as a national deputy of Ukraine and provided strong evidence that the TechCamp project is being implemented in our state with the support and direct participation of the U.S. Embassy, as part of which preparations for inciting a civil war in Ukraine are under way. The TechCamp project is aimed at training information war experts and potential revolutionaries to organize protests and overthrow the regime. The project is being implemented under the patronage of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt," Mr. Tsariov said. He added that, under the guise of teaching the peculiarities of the use of modern media, U.S. instructors are talking about the use of social networking and Internet technologies for purposeful influence on public opinion and intensification of protest potential in order to organize protests and radicalize the struggle for power. "As examples American instructors cited the use of social networks for the organization and management of street riots in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya," he said. The political added that TechCamp graduates are conducting subversive activities in Ukraine, openly recruiting like-minded people on the Internet for organizing riots, protests and provocations, while citing the support of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine. Mr. Tsariov demanded that law enforcement agencies find out whether representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv are violating the United Nations Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States. (Ukrinform)

Sikorski: 50% chance of AA for Ukraine

KYIV – The chances of an Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union being signed at the Eastern

Partnership Summit in Vilnius are less than 50 percent, Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Radoslaw Sikorski told Polish Radio on November 20. "If I had to guess now whether we will sign in Vilnius, I believe that the chances are lower than 50 percent," Mr. Sikorski said. The Polish diplomat noted that he had warned Ukrainian authorities at the highest level not to leave matters for the last minute. He explained that, if Kyiv fulfilled all the requirements now, it would be possible to focus on helping Ukraine to overcome the economic and political pressure from Russia. Mr. Sikorski said that Armenia had already succumbed to the pressure and "Ukraine is still hesitating." In his view, "Ukraine has made significant mistakes in the process." The Polish minister said that the postponement of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius for another term is not being considered at all, as Georgia and Moldova are ready for initialing their Association Agreements. Mr. Sikorski said that he and many other politicians had received assurances from Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich that Kyiv would fulfill EU requirements for rejecting the Stalinist model of public prosecution, creating a democratic electoral code and addressing the problem of selective justice. "There is significant progress, several people from the previous government have been released [from prison]. But the matters are left until the last minute, and at the end it is very easy to make mistakes," he said. Mr. Sikorski recalled that the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union at a meeting on November 18 in Brussels did not make the final decision regarding the signing of the Association Agreement with Ukraine at the Vilnius summit on November 28-29. According to him, Ukraine "must do something extraordinary" that EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton could convene an extraordinary meeting of EU ministers on Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Visiting Kyiv, Fule is encouraged

BRUSSELS – European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule has positively assessed the results of his visit to Kyiv and expressed

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Walter Honcharyk, administrator
and advertising manager

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

Subscription Department

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
e-mail: subscription@ukrweekly.com

Outspoken nationalist Farion exposed as former Communist

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – Among Ukraine's most outspoken and controversial nationalists, National Deputy Iryna Farion of the Svoboda party was confirmed this week by reporters of the Lviv news site zaxid.net to be a former member of the Communist Youth League (Komsomol) and Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The revelation served as the latest embarrassment for Svoboda, not only because of the party's fierce criticism of the Soviet government and Communist Party. In another embarrassing episode, just five days before the documents were published on November 19, Ms. Farion smeared the journalists who confirmed she had lied about her past, fervently denying their claims.

"Svoboda haters have the task from the Medvedchuk, pro-Muscovite and anti-nationalist websites to find the speck in Farion's eye, because they don't see the log under their feet. As if I was a member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union," Ms. Farion said in a statement published on the Svoboda party website on November 14.

"I tell you, plebeians and lackeys, Muscovite henchmen, Regions hirelings ... No. I was never who you are trying to cast me as. Free and bright people understand that this is merely another feeble, and, therefore, useless struggle against the nationalist Svoboda [party], which is the single threat to contemporary politics that's on the path to the destruction of Ukrainian-centric values and murderous globalization."

In recent years, Ms. Farion, 49, has gained national notoriety for her inflammatory anti-Russian policies and ruthless anti-Soviet rhetoric.

As recently as September 30 she told the

gazeta.ua news site that among the reasons she entered politics was "to destroy the Communist Party" because "it destroys my people."

"A ban on the Communist Party is its destruction," she said. "This party sits in Parliament with bloodied sleeves. It's the party of murderers. There's no more twisted monster in our state than the intergrowth between communism and capitalism into the Communist Party and Party of Regions. Such political forces aren't tolerated in civilized states."

Yet, according to the Communist Party documents uncovered in the Lviv Oblast State Archives (located in central Lviv), Ms. Farion joined the Komsomol in September 1978, when she was 14 years old.

Her candidacy for the Communist Party was approved in March 1987, while her application for Communist Party membership was approved in its final round on April 1988, when she was 24.

Ms. Farion continued her denials until she finally admitted her party membership to the Lvivska Khvylya radio station during a live interview on November 20.

"In 1988, exclusively with the motive of academic and career growth, I joined that crap, and in 1989, immediately within a year, I left that crap," she said, adding that she made her decision after "realizing that mistake."

Another amusing revelation was Ms. Farion's active involvement in teaching the Russian language to foreign students at the time.

"Being a member of the faculty's International Friendship Club, she engaged in conversations with foreign citizens numerous times with the goal of their learning the Russian language better,"



Outspoken Communist critic Iryna Farion, a national deputy of the Svoboda nationalist party, was herself a Communist Party member.

according to a document in her application.

More than two decades later, Ms. Farion declared on Lviv television in 2010 that those not wanting to learn Ukrainian should be held criminally responsible. She offered France as an example, alleging that the country punishes citizens for using Anglicisms with a half-year prison term.

"We have 14 percent of Ukrainians who indicated their native language is Russian, meaning the language of the occupant. That testifies to a horrid mutation of their consciousness. That's 5 million Ukrainian degenerates who need to be rescued," she said on the "Direct Words" television program hosted by Ostap Drozdov.

Indeed, many of the leaders of Ukraine's pro-Western and nationalist political par-

ties were Communists. Former President Viktor Yushchenko joined the Communist Party when he was 23 years old.

Mr. Yushchenko's vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs, Ivan Vasiunyk, who led the Holodomor recognition efforts, even sat on the Communist Party committee of Ivan Franko State University in Lviv that approved Ms. Farion's application in 1988, according to variant.net news site that originally confirmed the existence of the documents on October 30.

Imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko never joined the Communists, but her father-in-law Hennadii, who gave the Tymoshenkos their first start in busi-

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U.S. Senate criticizes Russia for pressure on EU aspirants

by Heather Maher
REF/RL

WASHINGTON – The head of a U.S. Senate committee on November 14 criticized Russia for putting "considerable pressure" on Eastern European countries who want to join the European Union.

Chris Murphy, who heads the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations' Subcommittee on European Affairs, made the comments at a hearing looking at countries in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus that might someday join the European Union.

"Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Belarus should be free to chart their own future. Our message should be that the door to Euro-Atlantic institutions is open, and if you're prepared to meet reasonable conditions, we will support you," Sen. Murphy said.

Sen. Murphy slammed Russian bans on goods from aspiring EU countries.

"Unfortunately, it seems as though Russia sees this whole contest as a zero-sum game and has put considerable pressure on each of the [Eastern] Partnership countries to discourage them from strengthening relations with the EU. We've seen a ban on wine imports from Moldova, chocolate from Ukraine, fertilizer from Belarus, and the list just goes on and on," he said.

The European Union is set to vote on whether to sign an Association Agreement and a Deep and Comprehensive Trade Agreement with Ukraine at a summit in Vilnius on November 28-29. It will also decide whether to initial those same agreements with EU aspirant countries Moldova and Georgia.

Members of the committee questioned

U.S. Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland about progress in countries that have Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

Summit could be 'historic moment'

Ms. Nuland said the Vilnius summit will represent "a historic moment" for Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, and "a key step towards their dream of one day being fully integrated into Europe."

She said all three "have worked very hard to bring their judicial and law enforcement structures closer to the EU standard and to prepare their political systems and their economic and energy markets for greater integration with Europe."

Ms. Nuland singled out Georgia for spe-

cial praise. "The Georgians, I would say, have taken a great leap in countering corruption, largely through efforts to do things like put all government contracting on the Internet, those kinds of things that could be done in other Eastern Partnership countries," she explained.

She also noted that although Ukraine has passed more than 18 pieces of legislation harmonizing with EU standards to prepare for Vilnius, it has more work to do if it wants a "yes" vote at the summit.

"Ukraine still needs to take three important reform steps in order to meet the EU's conditions for signature at Vilnius. It needs to pass justice reform legislation, it needs to pass electoral reform legislation, and it needs to take action to release jailed for-

mer Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko for medical treatment," Ms. Nuland said.

Ms. Nuland told the committee that in its discussions with Russia, U.S. officials have encouraged Moscow to see the benefits of deeper integration between its neighbors' economies and the EU's 500 million customers, "including the likelihood that more prosperous neighbors will buy more Russian exports."

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U.S. Senate calls on Kyiv to release Yulia Tymoshenko

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate on November 18 unanimously approved a resolution calling "for the release from prison of former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko in light of the recent European Court of Human Rights ruling."

The measure calls on Kyiv to release the opposition leader "from imprisonment based on politicized and selective charges" and it urges European Union members "to include Ms. Tymoshenko's release as a criterion for signing an Association Agreement with Ukraine at the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit in Lithuania."

Senate Resolution 165 was sponsored by Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and co-sponsored by Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Christopher Murphy (D-Conn.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) John Bozman (R-Ark.) and James Inhofe (R-Okla.).

It was introduced on June 10, in the aftermath of the European Court of Human Rights ruling that Ms. Tymoshenko's imprisonment was "arbitrary and unlawful."

The non-binding resolution:

- "calls on the government of Ukraine to release former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko from imprisonment based on politicized and selective charges and in light of the April 2013 European Court of Human Rights verdict";
- "calls on the European Union members to include the release of Ms. Tymoshenko from imprisonment based on politicized and selective charges as a criterion for signing an association agreement with Ukraine at the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit in Lithuania";
- "expresses its belief and hope that Ukraine's future rests with stronger ties to Europe, the United States and others in the community of democracies"; and
- "expresses its concern and disappointment that the continued selective and politically motivated imprisonment of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko unnecessarily detracts from Ukraine's otherwise strong relationship with Europe, the United States, and the community of democracies."

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. holds Sobor



The Council of the Metropolia of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

UOC-U.S.A.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. held its 20th regular Sobor at the Metropolia Center of the Church on October 17-20. The triennial gathering of clergy and faithful is a forum for the discussion of the progress of the Church's various ministries and for setting the course for its future direction. This year's theme was "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The Sobor officially opened on Thursday, October 17, with a divine liturgy at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church that was led by Metropolitan Antony and concelebrated by Bishop Daniel, with assistance from clergy from across the U.S.

After a brunch that was held following divine liturgy, delegates, clergy and participants, in procession, entered the meeting room of the Ukrainian Cultural Center led by the icon of the Mother of God of Pochayiv. Metropolitan Antony opened the meeting with an invocation of the Holy Spirit to guide the Sobor, followed by the singing of the national anthems of the U.S. and Ukraine. A video message was played from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople, who greeted the clergy and delegates of the Sobor.

Metropolitan Antony reflected on the theme of the Sobor and noted how the Church, guided by the shepherding of its hierarch, has journeyed with this theme recurring throughout all of its ministries. "Our Lord Jesus Christ used examples that said if we clothed anyone who was naked, visited anyone in prison, even just gave a cup of cool water in His name then it would be as if we had done it directly to Him. The love your neighbor commandment, the story of the Good Samaritan – all these infer that we are in some sense our brother's keeper, even as he or she is our keeper. In a culture that breathes and exhales independence, that's soaked in capitalism more than 'community-ism,' we tend not to want others keeping watch over our souls much less the added responsibility of us having to care for them. As much as we may resist the idea that we are our brother's keeper, in God's eyes we must be our brother's keeper."

The Sobor presidium was appointed, led by co-chairs the Very Rev. John Nakonechny (St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio) and Dr. Paul Micevych (St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles), who were joined by secretaries and a parliamentarian.

Next on the agenda was the report of the president of the Consistory, Bishop Daniel, who introduced the directors of the Consistory of Offices of Ministry: the Very Rev. Bazyl Zawierucha (Office of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations); the Rev. Ivan Synevskyy (Office of Public Relations and Publications); Protodeacon Dr. Ihor Mahlay (Office of Missions and Christian Charity); Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon (Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry); the Rev. Harry Linzinbigler (Office of Religious Education); the Rev. Vasyl Sendeha (Office of Adult and Family Ministry); Dr. Michael Andrec (Office of the Archive and Historical Information); and the Very Rev. Timothy Tomson (Office of Clergy Development).

Each director, whose reports were sent to all delegates in advance of the Sobor, was able to make necessary additions to their reports and answered questions from the delegates.

Bishop Daniel examined the future of the Church, using the Sobor's theme to illustrate the ways the Ukrainian com-

munity's needs have changed since the first immigrants arrived in the U.S. and the role that the Church played and will play in community life.

Bishop Daniel stated: "First, in spite of the continuous phenomenon of immigration, our Church is by no means any longer a Church of immigrants, or an ecclesiastical entity of the diaspora, but a Church which is naturally, firmly and proudly rooted in the American soil. ..."

"Secondly, there exists no longer a full homogeneity-likeness in our communities, the way it existed among the first immigrant communities. Today there is a certain difference between first-generation immigrants and fourth-generation Ukrainian Americans. Also, the constantly increasing number of interfaith marriages has caused a change in the composition of the membership of the Church. A typical, well organized parish of our Metropolia, presents an internal differentiation because of the difference in terms of levels of generations from first to fifth and of ethnic and even religious origin of several of its members," he continued.

"Thirdly, in the present new reality of the Church, there is a serious problem with the youth. A certain number of high school, college and university students, and young adults, which means the people from 16 to 35 years of age, are somehow disconnecting themselves from the Church and her life. This is a phenomenon occurring in all major religious communities in the U.S.A., but its general character does not diminish the fact that it constitutes a sad phenomenon, a major problem, and a grave concern for us.

"Fourthly, there is a new reality in the religious landscape of contemporary America. This is the existence of the 60 million people characterized as 'un-churched.' These people are not atheists at all. They are individuals who for various reasons are not connected with any Church or organized religious body. Many were connected but at some point left their religious community. Others were never related to any religious body at all," Bishop Daniel said.

A formal banquet concluded Thursday's events with a video display about the life of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, the ministry of the Orphanage Adoption program of the Church and a promotional video about the ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox League.

A representative of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Bishop Sevastianos, greeted the Sobor participants at the banquet.

The Council of Bishops announced the creation of a new annual award, and presented The Great Benefactor – Blahodiynyky – of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which recognizes individuals, both clergy and laity, whose lifetime contributions to the welfare of the Church and her faithful are exemplary. The inaugural recipients were Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Emil Skocypec, Valentyna Kuzmycz, Nadia Mirchuk and Dr. Anatolij Lysyj (posthumously).

The Rev. Diakiw, Mr. Skocypec and Ms. Mirchuk were present at the banquet and were visibly moved when receiving the medallions with the engraved likeness of St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle and the words "Great Benefactor and Blahodiynyk"; on the back the medal reads,

"Continue the legacy of St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle."

Ms. Kusmycz's award was presented during a visit to Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York by Metropolitan Antony, and Dr. Lysyj's award is to be presented to his wife, Daria, by Bishop Daniel during his visit to St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Minneapolis.

Friday's events began with divine liturgy at St. Andrew Memorial Church led by the Very Rev. John Harvey, dean of the Pennsylvania-Ohio Deanery of the Western Eparchy of the UOC-U.S.A., who was joined by approximately 20 clergymen from local parishes and deaneries concelebrating.

Following liturgy, various meetings of the Sobor committees were held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center and the Holiday Inn (located across the street from the center).

Each delegate participated in at least two committee meetings (one in the morning and one in the afternoon), including Church Ministries, Missions, Seminary, Historical and Education Complex, Education, Publications, Parish Rejuvenation and Development, New Immigrant Issues, Interchurch Relations, Finance, Stewardship, Resolutions, Nominations and Constitution.

Following the meetings, each committee prepared a report that was presented during the plenary session, where delegates were able to recommend resolutions and motions. The committee members are responsible for taking these reports and decisions by the Sobor to their home parishes, and the official record – the Sobor minutes – will be sent to all parishes. (For more information, readers may visit www.uocofusa.org.)

One such decision, based on financial necessity, eliminated the hard-copy publication of the Ukrainian Orthodox Word, leaving readers with only the digital version. Parishes are asked to print out copies for those members who need them.

On Friday afternoon, a workshop/seminar on "The Role of Women in the Orthodox Church" was presented by Carry Frost, a Ph.D. candidate, and Dr. Kyriaki FitzGerald of Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Mass.

Participants of the fourth Youth Sobor then guided clergy and delegates of the Sobor on a Prayer Trail walk through the Metropolia grounds, ending at the Three Holy Hierarchs Chapel located within the St. Sophia Seminary. In the evening, approximately 150 people gathered in the chapel for evening prayer and to hear Bishop Daniel reflect on the theme of the Sobor.

Bishop Daniel led divine liturgy on Saturday morning at St. Andrew Memorial Church; he was joined by the deans and clergy of the New York/New Jersey and Mid-Atlantic Deaneries. Later that morning, the Sobor heard reports and remarks from various committees, including the participants of the Youth Sobor, who addressed the needs and pastoral challenges facing youths and young adults. A new Metropolia Council was elected from the delegates of this year's Sobor.

On Saturday afternoon, with the conclusion of the Sobor's plenary session, an in-depth tour of the Metropolia Center was held, including the St. Sophia Seminary. (Election results will be published on the UOC-U.S.A. website, www.uofusa.org.)

Approximately 300 people attended the Sobor's concluding divine liturgy on Sunday, led by Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel. The hierarchs were greeted by the Very Rev. Yuriy Siwko, pastor of St. Andrew Memorial Church, children of St. Andrew School of Religious and Ukrainian Studies, and members of the Pokrova Sisterhood. During the liturgy, Bishop Daniel ordained subdeacon Theophan Mackey, a seminarian and parishioner of St. Anthony of the Desert Ukrainian Orthodox Mission in Las Cruces, N.M., to the holy diaconate.

The hierarchs blessed a new icon, "The South Bound Brook Icon of the Offering of First-Fruits," gifted by iconographer Cheryl Pituch, her husband, Eugene, and his three brothers, Gregory, Gary and Stephen, in memory of their parents, Eugene and Julia Pituch. The icon will be on permanent display in the rotunda of the Consistory, and will be reproduced for utilization and presentation in educational programs in the Church's deaneries by the Office of Stewardship and Development.

A farewell brunch closed the Sobor at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, following divine liturgy. As participants and guests said their good-byes, the hierarchs expressed their sincere gratitude to all who participated in the Sobor, and reminded them to build up their local communities, reaching out to the world around them by living life reflective of God's love and willingly being their brothers' and sisters' keepers.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Nina Bilchuk, licensed insurance agent and UNA underwriter, has been a member of the UNA Home Office insurance staff since 1996.

by Irene Jarosewich

Underwriter. That title sounds a bit scary, Nina. What is underwriting?

I know, I know. It does sound scary. Basically, it means I make sure that applicants for life insurance are, what we call, insurable. I check for insurability. I review an applicant's information and check that medical and financial criteria are met. Many policies require medical exams. We review if people can afford the premiums. People sometimes hesitate to share medical and financial information. We are diligent about privacy. I understand. People need to feel comfortable that their information will not be disclosed. We are vigilant in safeguarding personal information. We have strict security policies in our insurance operations. My goal is not to make this process of review scary for new applicants, however, there are quite stringent state regulations that we, as a registered fraternal society in New Jersey, follow in each assessment of an application. On top of that, we need to conform to the regulations in each of the 15 states where we are registered to do business.

That sounds like an awful lot of regulations ...

Yes. A lot. Yet, life insurance has always been regulated in order to assure that people's money is safe for the long term. And that's good. But, there have been many other changes to the insurance industry in recent years that we need to keep up with – partly because of the economic crisis, but also because of technology, and the fact that people now live longer. In 2001, the entire life insurance industry switched over to new mortality tables. The UNA has implemented changes in our life insurance products so they comply with industry standards. Life expectancy has been raised to 120 years. Ten years ago, for example, if you were 85 years old, it would have been difficult to find an

insurance policy for you; now, with the exception of term life, there are policies that you can buy at age 90, 95. That's a huge change.

You've been with the UNA Home Office now for 17 years. What insight has this given you?

Only after I came to the UNA did I begin to appreciate fully the purpose of this organization, to help people achieve financial stability and help immigrants, their children by keeping important parts of our Ukrainian culture alive. In my role as sales agent, that's what I try to pass on. That generations of Ukrainians have kept this going for a reason. The purpose of a fraternal is to focus on people, and those who buy a policy from the UNA will benefit from this focus. That's the difference between being a fraternal and simply being a for-profit insurance company. We care both about our members and our community.

Recent immigrants appear to be somewhat hesitant about purchasing life insurance. Has this been your experience?

There are many new ideas that an immigrant must absorb, and life insurance is only one of many. Then there is misinformation – life insurance is sometimes incorrectly translated as "protektzia" from "protection," that you are paying for protection – and that can have a really negative meaning. However, any and all these issues can be discussed with an agent or branch secretary you trust. The Home Office staff is bilingual – and this is important since our community is diverse. UNA annuity products tend to be more popular with newer immigrants. Saving for the future, guaranteed growth and guaranteed payout, these are attractive elements.

Nina Bilchuk can be reached at (800) 253-9862 ext. 3025 or via email at bilchuk@unamember.com.



Nina Bilchuk

“Generations of Ukrainians have kept this going for a reason. The purpose of a fraternal is to focus on people, and those who buy a policy from the UNA will benefit from this focus. That's the difference between being a fraternal and simply being a for-profit insurance company. We care both about our members and our community.”

UNA MEMBER BENEFITS

PUBLICATIONS

- Svoboda published since 1893
- The Ukrainian Weekly published since 1933
- UNA Almanac published since 1903
- Open-access electronic archive of all publications

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Monetary award given upon successful completion of Ukrainian Saturday School
- UNA scholarships available for qualified members during college years
- Special scholarships ranging from \$750-\$2,000 available annually (must meet qualifications)



SOYUZIVKA HERITAGE CENTER

- Summer camps
- Cultural events year-round
- Organization meetings, reunions, educational seminars, retreats
- Annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

- ScriptSave prescription plan
- Hertz Rent-a-Car
- Auto insurance through Plymouth Rock Assurance (NJ only)
- Reduced rates for lodging at Soyuzivka
- Reduced subscription price for UNA publications

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION

- Support of community events and organizations
- Humanitarian aid Student scholarship and Awards

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Sharing our nation's story

We've written before in this space about the Holodomor and the importance of telling the world the true story of the Famine-Genocide that ravaged Ukraine. This week, we'd like to highlight several successful efforts by our community to do just that.

On page 10 of this issue, readers will see a story about a unique interactive workshop on the Holodomor – utilizing art, photography, historical artifacts, film, survivors' testimony – for students of Chicago-area Ukrainian studies schools. Mykola Mischenko, president of the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation-USA, told the students, "You are the ambassadors and you have a task: tell your friends, your teachers, tell everyone about the terrible tragedy, the Holodomor, forced by Stalin on Ukraine in 1932-1933." Our suggestion to the organizers of this praiseworthy project: try to hold such workshops for other students, not just students of our schools.

Last week, the work of New York state's Capital District Holodomor Ukrainian Genocide Commemoration Committee figured prominently on our front page. The goal of the commemorations in Albany was, as Dr. Andriy Baran put it, "to commemorate and to educate." The Ukrainian American community's commemorative event on Empire State Plaza, as well as the subsequent solemn procession and memorial service at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, attracted a lot of media attention, thus ensuring that the general public learned about this genocide of our nation.

Moreover, the Capital District committee is pushing incorporation of the study of the Holodomor into the mandatory genocide curriculum in the state's schools – a project that is likewise being pursued in Massachusetts by a group of dedicated Ukrainian community activists as well as others across North America.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Ukrainian World Congress, via their "Share the Story" project, have been posting the accounts of Holodomor survivors. The goal is to post 80 stories for the 80th anniversary of the genocidal Famine. This is an invaluable contribution to oral history. The survivors' stories are told on video with English subtitles; translations (English) and transcripts (Ukrainian) are also made available in pdf form (see <http://www.sharethestory.ca/index.html> or <http://www.ucc.ca/programs/projects/holodomor/share-the-story/>).

And, it's not just our organizations that can do good work in this field of endeavor. Take, for example, Nadia Deychakiwsky of Ohio. She authored a guest column posted on Cleveland.com titled "Ukrainian Famine-Genocide still lacks awareness" (see http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2013/11/ukrainian_famine-genocide_nadi.html) and informed readers they that could learn more by attending a local screening of Yuriy Luhovy's award-winning documentary "Genocide Revealed." Certainly there are other Ukrainian community members in the United States and Canada who could write letters, commentaries, etc. on this topic. Local newspapers are the most open to this type of reader input.

As we mark yet another somber anniversary of the Holodomor, we see that our community is making progress in informing others about our nation's genocide. Let's keep us these essential efforts.

Nov.
26
1978

Turning the pages back...

Thirty-five years ago, on November 26, 1978, approximately 8,000 people attended a rally in New York at the Mission of the Soviet Union to the United Nations, located on East 67th Street, to condemn Soviet violations of human rights in Ukraine.

The protest was organized by Ukrainian groups throughout the New York area and was the culmination of the four-day meeting of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (WCFU) that was held at the Americana Hotel in New York. Joining the protest were representatives of the Belarusian, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian communities.

The column of protesters stretched from the Americana Hotel on 52nd Street (between Seventh and Sixth avenues) to East 67th Street, at one point spanning more than 10 city blocks.

Guest speakers included former Soviet political prisoners Nadia Svitlychna, Leonid Plyushch and Gen. Petro Grigorenko, who were joined by Simas Kudirka, a Lithuanian, Dr. Vitaut Kipel of the Belarusian community, Janis Riekstins of Latvia and Paul Saar of Estonia.

Mr. Plyushch, who was committed by the Soviets to the Dnipropetrovsk psychiatric asylum, told the crowd that Soviet government leaders feared the small number of dissidents. "Their weapons are words, and the government is afraid of words."

Ms. Svitlychna urged the crowd to join together not only for one demonstration, but for a continuous struggle, for then "will the strongest concentration camp in the world be destroyed." Commenting on the human rights movement in the Soviet Union, Ms. Svitlychna added, "A smart person once said that there will be no more wars, only a struggle for peace, and not one stone will be left unturned."

While in front of the Soviet Mission to the U.N., representatives of the world congresses of Ukrainians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Belarusians and Estonians, received permission to approach the Soviet Mission in hopes of presenting a memorandum on decolonization. When the representatives reached within 100 feet of the building Patrolman George Hardy stopped the group with notice that the Soviet officials did not want to meet with them and that they would not receive the memorandum.

Minutes after returning from the Mission, police forcibly dispersed the remaining 2,000 protesters from the area of East 67th Street. Three protesters were arrested and at least four were hospitalized with head lacerations, bruises and concussions.

Police Capt. Mat Coyle said that the protesters were unruly, having thrown eggs and

(Continued on page 7)

COMMENTARY

Yanukovich excels in Orwellian doublethink

by Taras Kuzio

"The party seeks power entirely for its own sake. We are not interested in the good of others; we are interested solely in power."

– George Orwell, "1984"

On a recent episode of "Saturday Night Live" (SNL), the Ukrainian cleaner, played by the ever excellent Kate McKinnon, jokes that with the U.S. government closed down she is thinking of returning to Ukraine where the government is more "stable."

Ukraine is not only more "stable," but its politics are far more surreal, in a manner that befits George Orwell's well-known novels "1984" and "Animal Farm."

The biggest obstacle for U.S. and European policymakers in understanding Ukraine and Eurasia has always been the major disconnect between what is said and what actual steps are undertaken by Ukrainian leaders. This is incredibly frustrating – even for long-term Ukraine watchers such as me – and last year I began collecting examples of such Orwellian doublethink (<http://blog.taraskuzio.net/2013/01/23/sovokistan/>), which, as Orwell wrote in "1984," means "the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them."

Of course, the key to this doublethink is in the Soviet mind-set that cannot see a contradiction between saying one thing and doing another, between, for example, working on legislation permitting Yulia Tymoshenko to travel to Germany while at the same time opening additional criminal cases against her. As written in Orwell's "1984": "To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just as long as it is needed, to deny the existence of objective reality and all the while to take account of the reality which one denies – all this is indispensably necessary."

President Viktor Yanukovich's and Prime Minister Nikolai Azarov's words are not to be taken as representing the policies they will actually implement. The most frustrating example of this has been the stringing along of EU policymakers over Ms. Tymoshenko, whose release from imprisonment is a requirement for Ukraine to receive an Association Agreement on November 28-29 in Vilnius.

For the last two years there has been an Orwellian tennis match of "will they" or "won't they" release her. Today [this commentary was posted on November 17 – ed.]

Dr. Taras Kuzio is research associate at the Center for Political and Regional Studies, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, and non-resident fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, School of Advanced International Relations, Johns Hopkins University.

The article above is reprinted from the blog "Current Politics in Ukraine" (<http://ukraineanalysis.wordpress.com/>) created by the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine, a program of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta.

– with less than two weeks to go before the Vilnius deadline – it is clearer than ever that Mr. Yanukovich does not understand the concept of "selective use of justice," of which the most blatant example is the Tymoshenko case. A few days ago Mr. Yanukovich fired back, saying "all citizens are equal before the law. In Ukraine, rule by laws and the rule of law, applies to everyone."

Examples of such doublethink are countless. A few days ago President Yanukovich said that Ukrainian "mass media play an important role in establishing democratic society" at a time when media freedom in Ukraine has been on the decline each year during his presidency. Ukraine is ranked fourth out of six Eastern Partnership countries in media freedom with CIS Customs Union member Armenia higher and only Azerbaijan and Belarus below. We would all applaud, if it was not for the fact that Ukraine resembles Orwell's "Animal Farm," where some are more equal than others, as they were in the Soviet Union.

At a recent event I attended I asked Prime Minister Azarov why Ukrainians did

Ukrainian politics resembles George Orwell's "1984," only better.

not believe the president was committed to fighting corruption, regardless of official rhetoric. He replied robustly that his government had done more to fight corrup-

tion in the last three years than had been undertaken in the last two decades. Unfortunately, it slipped his mind that he had been a government member for six of those years.

Mr. Azarov and other members of the Ukrainian government may not have availed themselves of the opportunity to read a book authored by their president, because no such books exist. After Mr. Yanukovich declared huge royalties for books on his last two tax returns, Ukrainian television stations scoured Ukrainian bookstores to no avail; either they had been sold out or, as is more than likely, they were never published.

President Yanukovich's last two annual official salaries have been 757, 000 hrv, while his declared income in those two years was 17 million and 20 million hrv. The differences between his official salaries and declared incomes were \$2 million and \$2.4 million, which was allegedly received from royalties paid for his hard-to-find books. Unluckily for him, the Donetsk publishing house that allegedly paid him the royalties does not actually publish books, and therefore the entire falsity was an exercise in Orwellian doublethink.

In contrast to the difficulty in finding his books, the location of his palaces can be easily found thanks to Google Earth.

Indeed, it is very likely that members of the government have been invited to President Yanukovich's palatial Mezhyhiria mansion outside Kyiv which Prof. Alexander Motyl of Rutgers University described as "a nightmarish amalgam of nouveau riche kitsch, late Ottoman excess, Disneyland vulgarity and Donald Trump tastelessness." The grounds include a massive hunting preserve, tennis courts, a fake Spanish galleon and undoubtedly other facilities to reduce the stress of overworked Ukrainian officials.

(Continued on page 14)

PASTORAL STATEMENT**80th anniversary of the Holodomor**

To the beloved clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Churches beyond the borders of Ukraine in North and South America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the genocidal famine in Ukraine 1932-1933.

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters,
Glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Once again we have come to the annual commemoration of the victims of one of, if not the worst, acts of genocide ever committed against mankind – the purposefully created and perpetrated 1932-1933 artificial and genocidal famine in Ukraine, masterminded by Joseph Stalin himself and managed by those who devoted their lives to him and carried out every command – regardless of what the consequences were for not only the 7 to 10 million Ukrainian men, women and children who succumbed to the Famine, but also for the countless thousands or even more millions of Ukrainians and others who dared to challenge the “plan” of the day – all throughout the Stalin era. The Famine was a part of the master plan to destroy the mind (intelligence), the soul (the church and her clergy) and the spirit (farmers and villagers, who embodied the national culture and ancient traditions) of the Ukrainian nation.

We call to mind those who were too long forgotten – many of them relatives, neighbors, co-workers and friends of a significant number of people still alive today. In spite of the fact that the government of the former Soviet Union and those of other nations in the world deliberately attempted – and in some cases still do today – to eradicate the memory of this horrific disaster from historical annals – we again make the promise that we will never forget. We will not allow their martyrdom to go without meaning. We will remind the world’s political leaders that they no longer have unlimited and unquestioned power to destroy life. We will remind mankind of the sanctity of life and the God-given rights of every individual human being. We call to mind the words of Edmund Burke: “Those who don’t know (or ignore – George Santayana) history are destined (condemned) to repeat it.”

Our deceased brothers and sisters did not perish in vain. Today they are commemorated also throughout Ukraine, regardless of the attempts of some powerful political figures to prevent it. Although stifled, the memory of those victims and the memory of the Famine itself festered beneath the surface consciousness of the people of Ukraine and maintained, regardless of all efforts of the 74 years of a godless regime, maintained a self-identity, which led to the independence of the nation – an independence achieved without the shedding of blood. The endurance of the horror of the Famine – and other almost incredible conditions of life through most of the 20th

century preserved – albeit deeply within the conscience and social fabric of the nation – that self-identity, which serves as the foundation for nation-building in Ukraine today and tomorrow into what will certainly be one of the most important, productive and freedom-loving nations of the world.

We pray to God this day – to the Helper of the helpless, the Hope of the hopeless, the Savior of the storm-tossed, the Haven of the voyager, the Healer of the sick. We stand before Him in humility and beseech His eternal blessings upon us and that He will grant eternal rest where the Light of His Countenance shines upon those we remember. May their souls rest in eternal happiness and their memory be eternal in God’s Heavenly Kingdom.

As your spiritual fathers, we call you all to personal prayer and actions, which will serve to remember our brothers and sisters. Fast for an entire day to reach – in a minimal way – a better comprehension of what they endured for months, each day suffering more until the end finally came. During these holy days prior to the great feast of the Nativity of our Lord – Philip’s Fast – set aside a sum of your riches daily – and make a Nativity gift to the establishment of national memorials – or – to your local food bank to aid those in your own communities who know none of the riches you enjoy on a daily basis. If our memory of those who perished in the Famine does not result in a willingness to act some way in their name, it will mean little to us.

As always, we pray for you, we pray for our Ukrainian nation, which still endures an extremely difficult path to true democracy and we ask for your prayers for us. May the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

+ YURIJ

Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ ANTONY

Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., and locum tenens Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

+ IOAN

Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

+ JEREMIAH

Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil and South America

+ ANDRIY

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ ILARION

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ DANIEL

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

firecrackers at the Soviet Mission building, but they unintentionally landed among the policemen, endangering their safety and that of the horse-mounted officers. One police officer suffered a contusion to his right index finger.

Many demonstrators felt that the police

actions were a reprisal from the September 1977 protest at the Soviet Mission, where four police officers were injured. A formal protest was filed by Dr. Askold Lozynskyj for what he called “excessive and undue police actions.”

Source: “8,000 attend decolonization rally in New York; Svitlychna, Plyushch, Kudirka speak, Scuffle breaks out, 3 arrested, 4 hurt,” *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 3, 1978.

From a Canadian Angle

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn

**Running with Chrystia**

Chrystia Freeland and Justin Trudeau.

I am pleased with many policies of Canada’s Conservative government. What’s best, it supports democratic values and European integration for Ukraine. Shortly after ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was illegally imprisoned, Prime Minister Stephen Harper took a lead among democratic heads of state. He wrote to President Viktor Yanukovich, warning of “serious consequences” should he continue trampling on the rule of law. (The Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine lobbied for this letter. I’m a founding member.) Prime Minister Harper repeated the message once again last week.

However, it’s my children’s dear friend Chrystia Freeland that I’m rooting for. Her considerable achievements spell “star.” And, after hearing her discuss political issues central to many Canadians with her Liberal Party leader, Justin Trudeau, I want her elected to Canada’s Parliament.

On November 25 the voters of Toronto Center will make a choice between her and the other candidates. Since 1993 the riding has been held by Liberals, but in 2011 the party was devastated – primarily due to a leader not up to the job. Now the son of one of Canada’s outstanding prime ministers, with intelligence and pizzazz to boot, is leading the party. The younger Mr. Trudeau is working on a Liberal comeback. Having talent like Ms. Freeland on his team, helps.

Both participated in a recent telephone discussion with the press. Most questions dealt with immigration. Mr. Trudeau attacked Quebec’s misguided Charter of Values, which pits religious symbols against jobs, and the federal government for focusing on bringing in workers to Canada instead of nurturing future citizens.

Ms. Freeland illustrated with her own story. Her great-grandfather, a Glasgow Scot, settled in Canada’s west. His son returned to the United Kingdom during World War II and brought back a war bride. Their son, Chrystia’s father, fell in love with a Ukrainian whose family fled the ravages of that war. The point of the story? Previous immigrants settled in Canada to put down roots, work, participate and prosper – the classic Canadian immigration model. The Conservatives, Ms. Freeland says, want to change this by denying immi-

grant workers a chance to become citizens. She does not.

Ms. Freeland exudes confidence. She’s at home in debate and policy considerations of local, national and international issues. She has first-hand knowledge of the global political reality honed by head-to-head discussions with warring desert tribal chiefs, dinners with the richest oligarchs while Kalashnikov-armed guards lingered about, and working to solve, with top leaders, the economic concerns of ordinary citizens, particularly the shrinking middle class. Her ideas have turned into books, articles and commentaries for such media outlets as CNN and the Globe and Mail.

She tempers her worldliness and journalistic sharpness with knowledge of day-to-day matters familiar to most Canadians. A mother of three school-aged children who, like many Torontonians attend Saturday school to learn their mother tongue, she demonstrates flexibility and sensitivity, both desirable qualities in a politician of a diverse multicultural society.

She and Mr. Trudeau are comfortable with one another. The immigration questions keep coming up: the anguish of divided families, years of backlogs due to foreign service cuts, financial extortions from criminal agents and, once in Canada, years of poverty and re-qualification due to lack of professional equivalencies. They promise a shift from the Conservatives’ “short-sighted” approach. She wants “full Canadian citizens,” not a supply of cheap labor designed to satisfy short-term needs of the corporate sector. Her words and tone say “elect me.”

The duo tackled the difficult job situation, recognizing that the world has changed for the middle class. Despite doing as they’re told – go to school and work hard – young people cannot find jobs and feel betrayed. Job-creation incentives are used to out-source rather than create jobs at home. The exceptions are in resource-based economies like Alberta’s Fort McMurray, where salaries are 50 percent better. New directions in education and training will be offered by the Liberals. They will rework tax incentives to ensure real benefits for both the private sector and individuals to remedy the job crisis. If elected.

I asked about the global war between democracy and autocracy being waged in Ukraine as symbolized by Yulia

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

(Continued on page 14)

REFLECTIONS

Yara Arts Group crosses borders: From Capt. John Smith to Donetsk

by Virlana Tkacz

This September Yara Arts Group presented "Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine," an original theatre piece featuring Bob Holman, poet and founder of the Bowery Poetry Club, Susan Hwang, New York performance artist and musician, and Julian Kytasty the legendary bandurist, in Lviv and Kyiv.

I first had the idea to do this show several years ago when I heard Mr. Kytasty play a *duma* and Mr. Holman, a great performer, "translate" it. Basically, Mr. Holman improvised in English on what he thought the piece Mr. Kytasty was performing might be about – and Mr. Holman does not understand any Ukrainian. Here was a ridiculously radical approach to translation that produced some fabulous poems. I just had to get involved.

Messrs. Holman and Kytasty were fun to watch on stage, but I thought the performances would be stronger if they were part of a play, and they portrayed characters. As I listened to this *duma* sitting in the dark old Bowery Poetry Club, an idea floated into my head – Mr. Holman should play Capt. John Smith. Hadn't I read somewhere something about a Ukrainian connection? He sure seemed like a character straight out of an epic song. I went to the library a few days later and checked out some books on Smith. As I read I slowly realized there was something to this idea.

I am interested in projects that reach deep into history and re-envision our perception of the past, creating a new vision of ourselves in the present. I believe that the best modern art does this. For instance, Igor Stravinsky's "Rites of Spring" is based on ancient folk rituals and songs, but cast in such a completely different light that they changed our picture of both the past and our modern moment.

Most Americans know that Capt. John Smith founded Jamestown in 1607 and have heard about his relationship with Pocahontas. But this production focuses on his "other" history – his adventures fighting in the Turkish wars in Eastern Europe before he came to America and his unexpected journey through Ukraine in 1603. In 1630 Smith published "The True Travels, Adventures and Observations of Captaine John Smith in Europe, Asia, Affrica and America, from Anno Domini 1593 to 1629."

He called it his "self-writing book" and it is one of the first autobiographies in English. Most people read only the last part about his experiences in Virginia, but Smith's forgotten eastern stories fascinated me. What really struck me was that Smith was telling similar stories of battles, enslavement and escapes across the Black Sea that I had heard Mr. Kytasty sing in the *dumy*.

At the same time, Smith's stories were so outrageous that they seemed comedic. I could certainly see why many people considered Smith a braggart who could not be believed. Smith's book at times feels like a jumble of bizarre events in outrageously named places. But when I kept reading books on this subject, I noticed that opinions had shifted as scholars discovered that the historical events Smith described actually happened.

The place names Smith mentions in the East were bizarrely spelled, but even I could recognize some. This June in the Rare Books Division of the New York Public Library I finally saw the original edition of the Smith book. On one page there is the list of towns he traveled through as he headed west after his escape from slavery near the Azov Sea. He mentions: "Drohobus, Ostroge, Lasco, Halico and Collonia." By then I knew that Collonia is how Kolomyia is listed on old maps. After this list, Smith comments that though these places were destroyed by the wars and were "countries rather to be pitied, than envied," "in all his life he seldome met with more respect, mirth, content and entertainment...."

Smith is an icon of American history. The colonies he established included not only Englishmen and Native people, but also Eastern Europeans and many others whose story is rarely told. Smith's own tale is tempered by his constant exposure to "others," making his reactions sometimes more nuanced than we expect. By entwining Smith's "self-writing book" with traditional material from Ukrainian *dumy* and poetry by a Crimean Tatar Khan, I stretched the boundaries of our material to tell a new story as our artists explored the creation of new world on stage.

I am interested in multilingual communication that goes beyond language. I start with poetry, which crystallizes a cultural moment, but then I expand it to create translations of the poetic images into light, movement, sound, music,



Volodymyr Klyuzko

Yara's "Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine" with Susan Hwang, Bob Holman and Julian Kytasty at Les Kurbas Theater Center in Kyiv.

projections and space. I had brought photographer Volodymyr Klyuzko to the Rare Books Division with me and the library allowed us to photograph Smith's book. We were especially interested in the nine engravings that were pasted into the book. The work of John Payne, one of the first master engravers in England, depicted scenes that most interested us: the three single-handed combats Smith wins, the ceremony in which a Transylvanian prince names him a captain, Smith's enslavement and escape. We decided to use the engravings as projections in our shows – but to enliven them by turning them into animations.

This look was perfect for the wildly funny songs Ms. Hwang had written for the show. I had asked her to play all the women Smith mentions (Pocahontas was not the only woman who rescued him). Ms. Hwang wanted to develop a character that would bring modern sensibilities into a historical context, allowing for a 21st century reaction to 17th century events and brought an accordion to our first rehearsal. The show immediately acquired a post-modern Monty-Python-esque tone that delighted the audiences at Dzyga for the 20th Lviv Book Forum, Gogolfest and our week-long run at the Les Kurbas Theater Center in Kyiv.

Presented in Ukrainian and English, "Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine" echoed Smith's travels across many boundaries and is a visually and sonically striking piece that made both insiders and outsiders reconsider their own versions of themselves – and together we laughed. The show struck a chord and attracted a lot of media attention. I was interviewed for an hour on TVI (http://tvi.ua/program/2013/09/04/homo_sapiens_vid_4092013) and our production was featured in major articles in *Ukrainsky Tyzhden* (the newsweekly in Ukraine affiliated with the Economist), *Ukraina Moloda*, *Ukrainska Cultural*, *Kultural i Zhyttia*, *Korrespondent*.

Yara also created a series of special events in Ukraine, such as "New York's Poetry Club Live in Lviv & Kyiv." Mr. Holman, who founded the Bowery Poetry Club, kicked off the evening by reading his own poems which were also read in Ukrainian translations by Kateryna Babkina. Serhiy Zhadan was the first Ukrainian poet to read at the Bowery when he came to New York in 2005 to work with Yara on a show at La MaMa. He read several poems from that appearance, while I read the English translations I had done with Wanda Phipps. Ms. Babkina was the most recent Ukrainian poet to appear at the Bowery Poetry Club. She read there in April when she came to work on our Video Poetry Event at Kinofest.

She is a wickedly funny reader of her own poetry; Ms. Hwang and I read English translations of Ms. Babkina's poems I had done with Ms. Phipps. Ms. Hwang also sang several original songs such as "Parking" with Mr. Kytasty. Then Mr. Kytasty and I read our own poems and we concluded the event with all of us singing Ms. Hwang's song "Crossroads of the World" from the Smith play.

The event took place at the Kurbas Theater in Lviv as part of the 20th Lviv Publishing Forum and was repeated at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy under the sponsorship of the U.S. Embassy. We put together a

booklet with many of the translations. We also did a presentation on "Epic Songs, Dumas, Hip Hop and the Oral Tradition" at the Honchar Museum in Kyiv.

On September 30, right after our American performers were on their way to New York, I got on a train to Donetsk with designer Volodymyr Klyuzko. On the way in Kharkiv we met Mr. Zhadan who was to work with us on our new project "Underground Dreams" for Izolyatsia, a cultural organization in Donetsk. I had had this idea that I wanted to create a tunnel as an entrance into a show. As you walked through the tunnel you would hear people whisper their dreams and hopes. Mr. Zhadan was going to help us write texts for the workshop – the first draft of this show. He had put up a notice on the web saying that we were going to be in Donetsk and people could come and talk to us about their dreams.

When we arrived at the designated meeting place there was a long line of young people. Mr. Zhadan and I interviewed them one or two at a time, recording their stories while Mr. Klyuzko photographed them. Most were in their early 20s, were overwhelmingly positive about Donetsk and their hopes, and to our great surprise most spoke to us in Ukrainian. We decided to create an installation based on these interviews. We made cubes with their photographs. As you approached each cube you could hear the stories the people in the photographs told us.

Then we started a workshop for young performers with a local actor, Mykola Huseinov. We met for 10 days and worked on the dreams they would relate in the tunnel. I also staged a series of poems about trees with this group. Mr. Klyuzko worked on projections, while Yevhen Kopyov did the lights and Mykola Shkaraban, an actor I brought from Kyiv, performed the poetry Mr. Zhadan had written for the piece.

Although it had been incredibly cold in the large factory spaces during our preparations, the day of our performance was a beautiful golden autumn day. The audience entered our performance by walking on a path of yellow leaves and into a labyrinth of the dreams of the young people of Donetsk. The tunnel opened into large space lit up by a colorful projection and the performances stripped away the layers of time in the Donetsk steppe, one by one. After we heard contemporary young people talk about their city and their hopes, there was a scene with an engineer from Wales who arrived in the area in 19th century in which he revealed his dreams of building a new world. Then shots from Dziga Vertov's film "Enthusiasm: Symphony of Donbas" were juxtaposed with traditional bagpipes.

Going back even further in time, there was a scene based on a story from the mediaeval chronicles about steppe nomads in this area and the power of a scent. This led to fragments of poems about trees intertwined with ancient songs. Leaves fell for 150 million years in this area to create the rich veins of coal. But "the growth of 50,000 years is destroyed in a few careless seasons." In the final moments a small boy claims he saw megaliths in the steppe. Then the gate opened and daylight filled the dream space...

NEWS AND VIEWS

UUARC puts LEPP grant to good use for Ukraine's hospitals

by Larissa Kyj

This spring and late summer, the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Inc. (UUARC) sent six 40-foot containers full of furnishings and medical equipment to Caritas Drohobych and four medical facilities: Tyvriv Central Raion Hospital, Pidvolochysk Central Raion Hospital, Tlumach Central Raion Hospital and Mykolayiv Communal Raion Hospital. The contents of the six containers has been valued at \$804,000.

In 2012 the UUARC received a Limited Excess Property Program (LEPP) grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Under this grant, U.S. government-owned excess property may be selected by the grantee for a sum of up to \$1 million per year for two years. The UUARC grant was submitted to help equip the five facilities in Ukraine mentioned above.

Unfortunately, Ukraine has a very serious alcohol abuse problem and the services provided by the government have been ineffective. In 2004 Caritas Drohobych established the Nazareth Rehabilitation Center (RC), a center open to socially unprotected individuals, those suffering from alcohol and drug addiction, and HIV-infected individuals. In 2009 Our House was established as a half-way house for graduates of Nazareth RC, to re-socialize them for re-entrance into the community. In January 2010 the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church recognized Nazareth RC as the model for creating a network of rehabilitation centers for alcohol and drug addiction victims in Ukraine.

The Nazareth program provides psychological counseling, and individual and

Larissa Kyj is president of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee.

group therapy for men of all ages addicted to alcohol and drugs. The therapy includes the 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Since 2004, over 650 men have completed the program. The facilities of the center have a capacity for 50 (30 in Nazareth and 20 in Our House).

The center is free of charge to participants, therefore they are required to help maintain the facilities. The individuals renovate and maintain the donated and acquired farming facilities, farm the land, and raise chickens and pigs. This work, along with private and government donations, allow the facility to sustain itself. The work of the individuals provides not only economic support (especially food for the participants), but also builds self-esteem in the individuals and re-enforces skills to help integrate them back into the community.

This highly successful program has the potential to increase in size, but is in dire need of equipment and supplies. The program has proven its sustainability and value, and should be supported as a model for other such rehabilitation and outreach centers in Ukraine. USAID agreed and, based on this information, accepted the UUARC's proposal.

In 2011 the U.S. Army's flagship medical center, the Walter Reed Army Medical Center was closed. The UUARC along with other selected NGOs was able to obtain some of the contents of this huge facility. Among the items obtained by UUARC for shipment to Ukraine were stainless steel commercial kitchen furnishings, a gym set, mattresses and box springs, night stands, lockers, couches, tables and chairs, two full six body refrigeration morgue units, medical cabinets, operating lights, rehabilitation equipment and a host of other useful items.

The collection of items from the 9,500-room facility required sorting and organiza-



Volunteers of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee at work in preparing a shipment of supplies to hospitals in Ukraine.

tion which involved endless hours of volunteer work. Certain items required paid experts to dismantle and appropriately pack them for shipment. This was truly a major undertaking by the UUARC. The effort was spearheaded by UUARC's office director, Motrja Watters, and Yury Nakonechny.

The board of directors thanks Ms. Watters and Mr. Nakonechny for their hours upon hours of volunteer work and the following volunteers for their input into this project: Michael Datsenko, Ken Deans, Col. Bernard DeKoning, Sonia Okruch-DeKoning, Tatiana DeKoning, Yuriy Didula, Stefan Dubenko, Anne Marie Gogoniak, Brian Holuj, Lew Iwaskiw (board member), Mychajlo Kowalysko, Larissa Kyj (board president), Myroslaw Kyj, Justin Mailer, Maksym Olah, Tamara Patrylak, Oksana Romanyk, Danylo Schwabiuk, Alanna Watters, David Watters, Jurij Woloshyn (board member), Mark Zaharchuk, Dr. Nestor Zarichny (board member), Stefan Yaremchuk and Ivan Yaworsky.

Most of these volunteers traveled many hours from Northeast Philadelphia because local volunteers were not available and the work had to be done during normal business hours. The facilities personnel at Walter Reed also were very helpful.

The UUARC also thanks Ambassador Olexander Motsyk and First Secretary Oresta Starak for their help with the necessary customs papers, since there were several months this year when nothing could be sent to Ukraine.

Many additional expenses were associated with this project. Pallets, packaging materials, dismantling and the expert crating had to be paid for. Three of the containers were paid for by a grant from Counterpart International, and three were covered from the general funds of the UUARC.

If you would like to help cover some of these expenses, please send your tax-deductible contributions (noting "LEPP Grant") to: UUARC, 1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111.

Senate hearing...

(Continued from page 1)

President Yanukovich had her sentenced to seven years in prison "without any serious legal grounds," he said, suggesting that if the EU decides not to sign the AA in Vilnius, the agreement could possibly be signed in 2015, after the next Ukrainian presidential elections.

Dr. Aslund said he has been in close touch with Ukraine ever since he first visited the country in 1985. He was an economic advisor to the Kyiv government from 1994 to 1997, continues to follow its economic and political development, and has written extensively on Ukraine, authoring one book and editing two other volumes.

Dr. Cohen pointed out that, unlike the EU, Moscow does not demand any reforms from Ukraine, including the rule of law and anti-corruption measures. "These demands may annoy some Ukrainian elites and high-ranking officials, making domination by Moscow more palatable than European integration in the eyes of a myopic few," he said.

In the long term, however, Ukraine remains hesitant to enter the Customs Union with Russia because this would mean subjugation to and not just cooperation with Moscow, he said, adding: "The implacability of the Russian position and the potential loss of economic and eventually state sovereignty defeated the Ukrainian elite's desire, if any existed, to join the Customs Union and the Eurasian Union."

As for President Yanukovich's most probable decision on the question of going

for the EU Association Agreement or not, Dr. Cohen said he thinks that Mr. Yanukovich "will shoot himself and Ukraine in the foot."

Having visited Ms. Tymoshenko in prison recently, he said that he is not optimistic about the possibility of her release. Mr. Yanukovich is more interested in being re-elected in 2015 than in the future well-being of his country, and he does not want a freed Ms. Tymoshenko to possibly interfere with this in any way, he said.

Dr. Cohen stressed that it is in the U.S. national interest that Ukraine "anchors its

future in Europe, develops the rule of law and property rights, and becomes a fully democratic country."

"Unfortunately," he added, the current U.S. administration "did not view the future of Ukraine with due seriousness," avoiding high-level state visits, economic deal-making and adequate public diplomacy, he said, pointing out that while Presidents Vladimir Putin and Yanukovich had met many times, "American officials made their trips to Ukraine scarce, and the level of U.S. visitors in the country lower than necessary."

Mr. Wilson of the Atlantic Council also

underscored the "enormous strategic consequences for U.S. interests" in what happens between Ukraine and the EU, urging "a clear U.S. strategy" in supporting the EU's Eastern Partnership, which must also include taking "a leading role in addressing the security concerns" of these East European countries.

"In Ukraine, this means intensifying military-to-military cooperation, deepening intelligence ties and laying the groundwork for long-term influence with security structures which could either advance or undermine Ukraine's European future," he said. "It also means supporting Ukraine's efforts to ensure its energy security, and buttress its sovereignty and territorial integrity, including in Crimea."

Ukraine is "by far the most important" of the eastern countries involved the EU negotiations, and President Yanukovich knows this, which is leading him to do the "bare minimum" to meet EU conditions, which results in his not acting decisively to end selective justice and to release Ms. Tymoshenko from prison, Mr. Wilson said. Mr. Yanukovich's primary concern is re-election in 2015, he added.

"Therefore, the challenge in Vilnius is to lock in Ukraine's European choice while gaining leverage to more effectively check anti-democratic behavior and ensure that Ukrainians have a genuinely free choice in their 2015 presidential elections," Mr. Wilson said.

Among the many people attending Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing were the ambassadors of some of the countries involved, including Ukrainian Ambassador Olexander Motsyk.



Damon Wilson (right), executive vice president of the Atlantic Council, joins with two of his Washington think tank colleagues – Anders Aslund (left), senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, and Ariel Cohen (center), senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation – in testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about the European Union's upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit.

Chicago Ukrainian school students participate in Holodomor workshop



Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation President Mykola Mischenko addresses the students.



Students are served a small piece of bread with honey and water to commemorate those who had perished in the Holodomor.



Survivor Olena Skyba shares her memoirs and describes her life during the Holodomor

by Motria Melnyk

CHICAGO – The Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation-U.S.A. (UGFF) directed by President Mykola Mischenko has worked tenaciously for 14 years toward promoting public awareness of the atrocities that occurred during the Holodomor Famine Genocide of 1932-1933. The Education Committee is an important component of the UGFF with the mission to foster, support and encourage the study of the Ukrainian Genocide in both American and Ukrainian schools.

With the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor, the Education Committee designed and implemented an interactive workshop, "Holodomor 1932-1933," for Chicago area Ukrainian studies schools of St. Nicholas Cathedral, St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, St. Joseph the Betrothed Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Ukrainian American Youth Association, Dmytro Vitovsky Branch.

This workshop was held at the Ukrainian National Museum and the Ukrainian

Institute of Modern Art on two consecutive Saturdays, October 19, and October 26, with the participation of over 200 students. Its purpose was to build an understanding of the Holodomor as a genocide against the Ukrainian people that was artificially created by famine during the Stalin regime.

Entering the Ukrainian National Museum, the students were immersed into an exhibition of expressive works of art, photography and historical artifacts documenting the years 1932-1933.

Motria Melnyk, chair of the Education

Committee of UGFF, welcomed the students and posed the question "Have you ever felt pangs of hunger? Imagine not eating for days, weeks... Go back with me to Eastern Ukraine in 1932-1933... a little girl is sitting on her mother's lap whimpering for food. She hasn't eaten for days. Her mother, unable to find food to feed her, holds her and rocks her until the little girl is silent forever. This is just one story of the Holodomor, during which 17 people perished every minute, 25,000 died every day."

A documentary film produced by Ms. Melnyk followed. The short, intense film was created as a resource in the curriculum of genocide studies in Illinois public schools; it informs students about the Holodomor in a concise, factual way. As the screen turned black, the students remained affected, quiet, melancholy and reflective.

Art teacher and UGFF member Marta Kozbur created a hands-on art project. Using wheat as the subject, she explained and demonstrated the process of printmaking: creating an image, inking the plate and transferring the image to the paper.

As the students were engaged in their own creative way of depicting wheat, Ms. Kozbur addressed them, "The sheaf of wheat represents life; even the smallest kernel could offer the hope of new life to those victims of the Holodomor. And through your art, the life of those who died will be commemorated."

Stepping into the galleries of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art and the exhibit "Artists Respond to Genocides," the students were impacted by the artists' creative portrayals of the devastation and anguish of innocent people murdered

(Continued on page 18)



An example of student printmaking project.

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<u>Mini Ukraine I</u> 13 days	\$2450	May 14 -28	Kyiv, Iv. Frankivsk, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky, Lviv <i>plus: Bukovel, Chernivtsi, Zarvanytsia</i> <i>Optional: Istanbul pre-tour May 11th USA Dept</i>
<u>Hapsburg Heritage</u> 14 days	\$3290	June 15 -28	Ukraine - Poland - Hungary - Austria Lviv, Krakow, Budapest, Vienna <i>plus: Bukovel, Chernivtsi, Zarvanytsia</i> <i>Optional: Kyiv pre-tour June 13-15</i>
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<u>Dnipro Cruise No. 2</u> 13 days	\$1950 Main deck	Aug 31 - Sep 12	<i>Dnipro Princess Cruise: Odessa, Sevastopol. Kherson, Zaporizhzhia. Kremenchuk, Cherkassy/Kaniv, Kyiv</i>
<u>Dnipro Cruise No. 2 + Lviv</u> 17 days	\$2800 Main deck	Aug 31 - Sep 16	<i>Dnipro Princess Cruise: Odessa, Sevastopol. Kherson, Zaporizhzhia. Kremenchuk, Cherkassy/Kaniv, Kyiv</i> <i>Land Tour: Lviv</i>
<u>Hutsul Tour</u> 12 days	\$2100	Sep 2 - 13	Kyiv, Ivano Frankivsk, Rakhiv, Lviv <i>plus: Yaremche, Bukovel and Kolomyja</i> Featuring: Hutsul Bryndzia Cheese Festival in Rakhiv
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Authors present books at various Washington venues

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – Members of the Ukrainian community in the Washington area and others interested in Ukrainian history and literature were treated to four book presentations in the first 10 days of November.

Nadia Diuk, vice-president for Europe, Eurasia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), presented and discussed her book, "The Next Generation in Russia, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan: Youth, Politics, Identity and Change," on November 1 at the Embassy of Ukraine and discussed how they can be expected to effect the future development of their countries.

Two days later at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, Alexander Motyl presented his latest novel, "Sweet Snow," set during the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine. He was joined by a fellow New Yorker, Ukrainian poet Vasyl Makhno, who shared some of his latest poetic fantasies with the audience.

On November 7 at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, one of Ukraine's most popular contemporary writers, Yuri Vynnychuk, discussed the difficulties he and other writers had to overcome during the Soviet period and since then, and read excerpts from his latest novel, "Tango of Death."

And on November 10 at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, historian Lyudmyla Hrynevych, who heads the newly created Holodomor Research

Center in Kyiv, and her husband, historian Vladyslav Hrynevych, discussed her multi-volume undertaking, "Chronicle of Collectivization and Holodomor in Ukraine, 1927-1933."

Nadia Diuk

In her presentation, Dr. Diuk said that in her study of how the next young generation will determine the future course of development in Russia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan is based on many years of research and interviews with 18- to 35-year-olds in those three countries. She noted that since they separated from the Soviet Union, these three nations have developed in their own separate ways. Before, the Soviet education system was the same all over the union; since independence, they developed in their own ways.

Thanks to Boris Yeltsin, she said, Russia brought in a younger generation to government faster than in the other two countries. Unfortunately, they can't truly operate and reform that system now run by big money. Young Russians are much better off financially than young Ukrainians and Azerbaijanis; they are learning more foreign languages and are more knowledgeable in such areas as business, accounting and banking.

The new young Ukrainian generation, unlike the Russians and Azerbaijanis, have stronger anti-establishment sentiments and do not rate their current and former presidents highly. The use of Ukraine's native language among the younger generation is down, she said, as is their level of pride of their country, down to 10 percent – much lower than in the other two countries.



Yaro Bihun

Nadia Diuk discusses her newly published book "The Next Generation in Russia, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan: Youth, Politics, Identity and Change."

In conclusion, Dr. Diuk said that one can expect young people to change, "but you shouldn't expect them automatically to be democratic." Their demands should be taken into consideration, however, so that they feel there is a place for them in the political system. In bringing them into the system, she added, they should be judged on their merit and not just their loyalty.

The book presentation was sponsored by The Washington Group (TWG) Cultural Fund.

Alexander Motyl

The author of five earlier novels – "Whiskey Priest," "Who Killed Andrei Warhol?," "Flippancy," "The Jew Who Was Ukrainian" and "My Orchidea" – Dr. Motyl discussed and read some moving excerpts from his latest novel "Sweet Snow" during his presentation here.

The story describes how four foreigners traveling through Ukraine during the Holodomor are arrested by the Soviet secu-

(Continued on page 14)



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

hope that on November 21, the Verkhovna Rada would adopt three European integration laws required for Ukraine to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union in Vilnius. In a statement in Brussels on November 20, following his visit to Ukraine on November 18-20, he said: "I am encouraged to see the determination of the president [Viktor Yanukovich] and of speaker of the Parliament [Volodymyr Rybak] in cooperation with all parliamentary factions to adopt key legislation on November 21, 2013, on parliamentary elections, a new law on the Procurator General's Office and a new law on the medical treatment of prisoners abroad," reads the statement. He said that the EU's commitment to bring EU-Ukraine relations to a new quality, opening up new opportunities for the Ukrainian people, is firm. "I appreciate the considerable progress which has been made during the last months in this regard," Mr. Fule said, speaking about the efforts made by the Ukrainian side in fulfilling the criteria for signing the Association Agreement. The purpose of Mr. Fule's visit was to discuss the implementation of agreements reached during a phone conversation on November 15 between European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and President Yanukovich about ensuring the signing of the Association Agreement in Vilnius. (Ukrinform)

Kwasniewski warns Kyiv of risk

KYIV – A senior envoy of the European Union has warned Ukraine not to miss its chance to sign a key deal with the bloc at a Vilnius summit on November 28-29, it was reported on November 14. Aleksander Kwasniewski was speaking one day after Ukraine's Parliament failed to agree on a bill that would have allowed imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to seek medical treatment abroad. "Failure to sign in Vilnius would mean postponing the agreement for an indefinite number of years," Mr. Kwasniewski told the Ukrainian news agency UNIAN. The EU considers Ms. Tymoshenko's conviction for abuse of office to have been politically motivated and has made her release a prerequisite for Kyiv to clinch an Association Agreement. Mr. Kwasniewski also warned that Russia, which wants Ukraine to join its Customs Union with Belarus and Kazakhstan, was "making a mistake" by trying to prevent Ukraine from signing the agreement. President Viktor Yanukovich said on November 14 he would only sign a law that could not be abused to evade criminal responsibility – suggesting Ms. Tymoshenko would be expected to return to Ukraine after treatment and continue serving her sentence. Opposition supporters have already rejected this option. Meanwhile, Vitali Klitschko, the leader of the opposition Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms who has announced his candidacy for president, urged supporters to attend a pro-EU rally in Kyiv on November 24. He said that "all people of Ukraine regardless of their

political views" should come to the opposition-organized event, and he urged supporters planning to attend the rally to bring Ukrainian national flags and EU flags instead of political banners. Ukraine's opposition said on November 13 it was planning the rally to urge Parliament to adopt a package of laws, including one allowing Ms. Tymoshenko to receive medical treatment in Germany. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Agence France-Presse, UNIAN and RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

Holodomor commemorated in Paris

KYIV – On November 17, Paris hosted commemorative events to mark the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor, the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. According to the Ukrainian Embassy in France, the memory of the Holodomor's victims was honored during a ceremony of laying flowers at the Arc de Triomphe. The event was attended by Ukraine's ambassador to France, Oleksander Kupchynshyn; the Paris-based eparch for Ukrainian Greek-Catholics of France, Benelux and Switzerland, Bishop Borys Gudziak; the chairman of the Representative Committee of Ukrainians in France, Natalia Pasternak; heads of Ukrainian organizations in France and other European countries, diplomats, representatives of Ukrainians abroad, French and Ukrainian social, political and cultural activists, and journalists. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko: Yulia's fate can wait

KYIV – The main thing right now is the successful completion of the Ukrainian-European dialogue in Vilnius, while European integration laws and the fate of Yulia Tymoshenko should be considered after the Eastern Partnership summit, former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko told Channel 5 in an interview over the weekend of November 16-17. At the same time, he said, the government and the opposition will not be able to solve the issue of the ex-premier individually. As reported, the European Union has stated that Ukraine has not yet fulfilled all the criteria set for its association, in particular, a solution to the case of Yulia Tymoshenko. Meanwhile, the European Parliament extended the Cox/Kwasniewski mission to Ukraine until the end of November, when the Eastern Partnership Summit is to be held in Vilnius. (Ukrinform)

Symonenko sees a betrayal

KYIV – The signing by Ukraine of an Association Agreement with the European Union on the current terms will lead the country to the loss of its economic sovereignty, according to Petro Symonenko, leader of the Communist Party faction in Parliament. Speaking from the Verkhovna Rada's rostrum on November 19, he said that despite the Central Election

Commission's decision to ban the holding of a referendum and the intimidation of people, "we have collected 3 million signatures needed to hold a referendum on determining Ukraine's foreign economic integration." He added: "The Communist Party of Ukraine has repeatedly warned that the signing of the Association Agreement with the EU on the terms proposed by Brussels and the IMF [International Monetary Fund] is a betrayal of the Ukrainian people and a betrayal of national interests, a road to the loss of economic and political sovereignty of our country." He noted that the signing of the Association Agreement could lead to the disappearance of industrial branches, the bankruptcy of thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises and the unemployment of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens. Mr. Symonenko said that the EU's requirements include the further introduction of harmful pension reforms, the implementation of deadly healthcare reforms and the deprivation of veterans, retirees, Chernobyl clean-up workers and others of their benefits. "The last constitutional rights of citizens to social protection from the state will be eliminated. Europe cynically demands an increase in such impossibly high tariffs for gas, water and electricity for most people, which implies a sharp rise in prices for high-quality goods and products, and a sharp deterioration in the lives of our citizens," Mr. Symonenko said, adding that the EU demands that Ukraine open its borders for "their trash and genetically modified products," while postponing the facilitation of the visa regime for Ukraine until a later date. (Ukrinform)

Yatsenyuk denied a meeting with Yulia

KYIV – The leader of the Ukrainian opposition in Parliament has not been allowed to meet with jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, it was reported on November 15. Arseniy Yatsenyuk, head of the opposition Batkivshchyna faction, and National Deputy Iryna Lutsenko and her husband, former Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, were denied a meeting with Ms. Tymoshenko in a Kharkiv hospital. Mr. Yatsenyuk said the action was a warning of "a breakdown" of the European Union's Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius later this month in which the EU hopes to sign an Association Agreement with Ukraine. Meanwhile, in Kyiv, President Viktor Yanukovich spoke on the phone with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso to discuss the upcoming summit. Mr. Yanukovich also met with Jean-Claude Mignon, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. No details of either meeting were available. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Interfax, ITAR-TASS, and the Associated Press)

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Authors present...

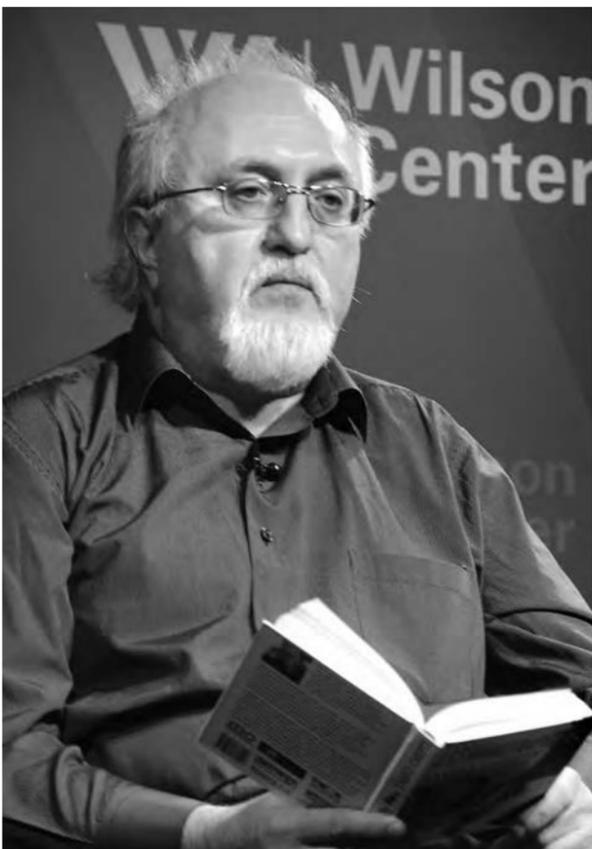
(Continued from page 11)

rity police but flee when the police truck crashes, killing the driver and their guard. They try to hide in what turns out to be a field of decaying, starved, naked human bodies.

In the excerpt from the novel that Dr. Motyl read, the four – a German nobleman from Berlin, a Polish diplomat from Lviv, a Jewish communist journalist from New York and a Ukrainian nationalist from Vienna – are astonished when the skeletal remains of the young woman around which they were trying to hide begins to speak to them, and they try to quiet her, fearing that the noise may attract the security police searching for them.

Dr. Makhno, who joined in after Dr. Motyl's presentation, was born in Ukraine and emigrated to the United States and now lives in New York. He is the author of nine collections of poetry, including his most recent, "I Want to Be Jazz" and "Rock 'n Roll." His poems and essays have been translated into 20 languages, and he is the recipient of the 2013 International Morava Poetry Prize.

This session was organized by the Washington branch of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family Library and TWG.



Yuri Vynnychuk reads excerpts from his novel "Tango of Death."

Yuri Vynnychuk

Mr. Vynnychuk's appearance at the Woodrow Wilson Center was a part of the 11th installment of the Contemporary Ukrainian Literature series sponsored by the Kennan Institute and Columbia University's Harriman Institute.

His novel featured in the presentation – "Tango of Death" – and the excerpts he read describe life in western Ukraine during the German invasion of World War II, including the long, 10-day defense of Lviv. It was the BBC Ukrainian Book of the Year in 2012.

In his presentation, Mr. Vynnychuk also described the difficult time he had under the Soviet Union in trying to be a independent writer and still get his work published. One original method he discovered and used successfully was pretending that the works he was turning in were not his but his translation of a made-up foreign-language novels or poems. And it worked, he said.

Liudmyla and Vladyslav Hrynevych

Historian Liudmyla Hrynevych's "Chronicle of Collectivization and Holodomor in Ukraine, 1927-1933" is the result of many years of research – much of it in the now available secret official Soviet archives. The first book of Volume 1 was published in 2008, followed by the



Historian Liudmyla Hrynevych discusses her multi-volume undertaking, "Chronicle of Collectivization and Holodomor in Ukraine, 1927-1933."



Alexander Motyl responds to questions during the presentation of his new novel, "Sweet Snow." Sitting next to him is co-presenter poet Vasyly Makhno.

second and third book of that first volume in 2012 – some 1,500 pages in all. The complete work is expected to consist of about a dozen volumes.

In the meantime, this year she published a separate book specifically about the famine in 1928-1929.

Her husband, Vladyslav Hrynevych, last year published his own work focusing on the beginning of World War II in Ukraine, specifically about the social and political atmosphere in Ukraine at the beginning of the war in 1939 to June 1941.

This book presentation was organized by the NTSh.

The Holodomor will once again be in the focus of press coverage in Washington December 4, when the groundbreaking ceremony at the Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial site is scheduled to take place. The start of the construction was made possible a month ago when Ukrainian entrepreneur Dmytro Firtash announced that he will donate \$2.5 million for its construction.

Asked by a member of the audience at the book presentation whether it is a good idea to accept money for the Holodomor Memorial from a controversial oligarch, Liudmyla Hrynevych replied, "yes." It would be a "way toward developing mutual understanding" and "progress towards a dialogue," she said.

Yanukovych...

(Continued from page 6)

Unfortunately for the president and the prime minister, Mezhirhiria is viewed by Ukrainians an example of rampant corruption; understandably, therefore, the authorities are highly sensitive to publicity surrounding the president's lavish lifestyle in a country with widespread poverty and wage arrears.

Two years ago Ukraine adopted a widely praised law on access to public information that covered everybody, although it would seem the president remains above the law. Photographs of Mezhirhiria are widely available on the Internet in a country where nearly half the population is wired. (Perhaps not surprisingly one never sees the president clutching an i-Pad, laptop or smartphone.)

Nevertheless, this has not stopped business owners seeking to keep on good terms with the president from removing editors such as Ihor Huzhva for publishing photographs of the palace in the high-circulation Segodnya newspaper.

In a scene straight out of Orwell's "1984," the authorities have been paranoid enough about the public hearing about their lavish lifestyles that they have attempted to censor a movie about Mezhirhiria with the illegal use of law enforcement officers in 20 cities around Ukraine. In the Soviet Union, members of the "New Class," as Milovan Djilas described them, could hide from public view in gated communities, but this is impossible in today's wired and globalized world. Mezhirhiria can be found on Google Earth, among many places on the net.

Journalistic investigations published photographs of an officer in the Kyiv Police Department to Combat Organized Crime who organized 30 highly inebriated homeless people to stage a raucous protest that forced the cancellation of the movie. On other occasions it proved impossible to screen the movie when there was either an electricity blackout, or tear gas canisters or stink bombs were thrown inside the hall, or police searches were made for "explosives." In Ukraine, ruled by an Orwellian political force, those tasked with combating crime are protecting those who are abusing their high offices by censoring publicity about President Yanukovych's palatial appetites (besides Mezhirhiria, there are equally sumptuous Carpathian and Crimean palaces).

In August, journalists travelling to Berlin to show the movie were detained at Kyiv's airport by border guards, who have not been reformed since the Soviet era when they were part of the KGB. They searched the journalists' laptops for "state secrets" and confiscated DVD copies of the movie. Presumably, Ukraine's security services have never heard of the Cloud, Google Drive or Dropbox.

Is Mr. Yanukovych, therefore, somebody who will eventually come around in the next two weeks to understanding the errors of his ways in imprisoning Ms. Tymoshenko? Indeed, after Vilnius, can we honestly expect the Ukrainian president to replace the Ukrainian Orwellian system he rules over and where he plays a star role with a European opera?

I doubt it. After all, as the Ukrainian cleaning lady on SNL said, Ukraine's "stability" and politics are far more surreal than in America. I would add that they are also far more lucrative for those who are in power and therefore the powers will opt for "stability" over change.

Running with Chrystia

(Continued from page 7)

Tymoshenko. Is the Liberal party pressuring Canada's government to keep convincing Ukraine's president to grant her freedom? Or, will Mr. Yanukovych dig in and miss the chance to integrate with Europe and revert to Soviet-like rule? Mr. Trudeau is well briefed on this delicate foreign policy issue, even hopeful. He says there are discussions taking place behind the scenes.

He is less positive on the issue of the Holodomor; the Soviet Famine-Genocide designed by Ukraine-haters to eradicate the Ukrainian nation. It is being undermined by the Canadian Human Rights Museum. Many Canadians consider this to be a betrayal of such values as equal treatment and fairness. Mr. Trudeau indicates that the matter is out of the opposition's hands.

Liberals under Mr. Trudeau's leadership aim to convince the public that they are on the comeback. They have far to go. At the top of their game in the early 2000s, they held a 170-seat majority but plunged to the current 35-seat low. When asked how this comeback will happen, Mr. Trudeau assures, "I win things; just wait 'til the next election." He sounds almost like his father. When confronted by doubters, one of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's legendary expressions was, "just watch me". And he delivered.

The next federal elections are still far away. However, with a strong candidate like Ms. Freeland, the Liberal leader is building a strong team. She's keen to begin the job and calls for your vote on November 25.

OUR COMMUNITIES



A view of Siesta Key Beach.



St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in North Port, Fla.

Sarasota: A tropical and cultural paradise with a vibrant Ukrainian community

by Jurij Baranowskyj

SARASOTA, Fla. – On the southwest coast of Florida, in the area of Sarasota, there is a land of beautiful white sandy beaches, lush tropical vegetation and palms, azure Gulf waters and breathtaking sunsets. This coast has been blessed with the nicest beaches in the nation, such as Siesta Key, Lido, Longboat Key, Manasota Key, Gasparilla Island, Boca Grande and others.

What distinguishes our Sarasota community is everything else that has developed around this tropical paradise, a cultural jewel on the Gulf Coast: the Sarasota Symphony, Opera and Ballet, the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center, the famous Ringling Art Museum with its renowned gallery of Renaissance and Baroque art. There are multiple theatrical playhouses, the Venice Community Theater, art and movie festivals. These are cultural offerings you would find in a city five times as large, but here they are enjoyed without the traffic, pollution, crime and high prices.

Located just south of Sarasota, the fast-growing city of North Port is home to a vibrant and active Ukrainian community. It has become a gathering point for newer and earlier immigrants, young and older Ukrainian patriots who want to pursue their interests and associations with their heritage through church activities, concerts, lectures, zabavy and, yes, varenyky.

We have social and cultural clubs, and established churches of the Catholic, Orthodox, Pentecostal and other Christian denominations. The initial focal center of activity since the 1970s was the St. Andrew Ukrainian Religious and Cultural Center, popularly called “Oseredok,” in

Dr. Jurij Baranowskyj is in charge of public relations for the Men's Social Club based in Sarasota, Fla.

North Port. In the 1980s the community expanded to include the St. Andrew Condominium Complex, and eventually it became so large that a new church had to be built in 1992 for the Catholics.

St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church is now the shining jewel of our community, with traditional architecture, paintings and icons, a wonderful young pastor and a great choir. Maintaining our Ukrainian heritage, while enjoying all the wonderful features that this part of the southwest coast of Florida has to offer, it seems that life just doesn't get any better.

This area is one of America's most desirable places to vacation, live and retire. The clean air and sunny climate have made it world-famous as a center for the good life. In fact, Forbes has named Sarasota as one of the best places for business; Money magazine recognized it as the nation's best “small city,” one of the best places to retire and one of the cities with the best health-care systems.

It is a diverse area with big-city amenities, but has a much lower cost of living – there's no Florida state income tax, there are reasonable real estate values at this time. Plus there is excellent year-round golfing, tennis, biking, boating and fishing for the avid sportsmen. With the active and friendly Ukrainian community, those of us who are lucky to live here are busy having too much fun to think about getting old.

Our corner of paradise extends from St. Petersburg to greater Sarasota, including Bradenton, Osprey, Venice, North Port and Englewood, to Fort Myers and Naples. This region is easily accessed by air via Tampa, Sarasota or Fort Myers international airports. There is even the opportunity to bring automobiles from the north via the very convenient overnight Amtrak Auto Train from the Washington, D.C., area to the Orlando area.



At the 50th anniversary celebrations of North Port, Fla., in 2009, the “Ukrainians on Parade” float won best of show.

This year the state of Florida is celebrating the 500th anniversary of its discovery by the Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon. Upon landing on its beautiful shores during the Easter spring season, his impression was one of a “land of flowers,” thus, he named the coastal area “La Florida.”

The state population is growing, and it is estimated that in coming years the state will add 1 million people every four to five years. The tourism industry also estimates that Florida will be visited by over 90 million people, the majority of whom are repeat visitors and 20 percent are foreigners. This undoubtedly will improve the overall real estate and business climate, as tourism is the major source of income for the state.

The aim of this article is to entice and inform our northern Ukrainian communi-

ties of all the benefits of living in the state of Florida, and thus to promote increased migrations of families of Ukrainian descent to our neighborhoods on the Southwest Gulf Coast.

So, baby-boomers, empty-nesters, retirees, come to Sarasota – to vacation, to work, to build, to live part-year, full year or retire. Life is better in flip-flops on glorious sunny, sunny days.

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For additional information, readers may visit our website: www.ukrainiansofsw-florida.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Want to tell others about your community? Send us a story and photos (or direct questions) to staff@ukrweekly.com.

Kyiv tests...

(Continued from page 2)

issue of “selective justice” (see EDM, November 12). On November 13, the Ukrainian Parliament failed to pass a bill to allow Ms. Tymoshenko to leave prison for medical treatment in Germany (RFE/RL, November 13).

The Ukrainian authorities likely reason

that while the benefits stemming from signing the AA will appear only in the long term, a shrewd politician like Ms. Tymoshenko might use Ukraine's current economic downturn and Russian pressure on Kyiv as campaign issues with which to attack Mr. Yanukovich in the upcoming spring 2015 presidential elections. This line of argument, however, rests on the assumptions that Mr. Putin's promises and threats are credible, and that the West's

policy on Ukraine is immutable.

In fact, the EU might still consider lifting its “red line” on Ms. Tymoshenko and instead pledge to support Ukraine and sign the Association Agreement at the Vilnius summit – while at the same time applying conditionality to Ukraine's further development and democratization efforts. But the continuing lack of consensus among EU member states, coupled with the Ukrainian authorities' record of insufficient coopera-

tion in the Tymoshenko case, somewhat tamer the likelihood of such an outcome.

Nonetheless, for now, the prospects that the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement will be signed at the end of the month still remain relatively high.

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

Outspoken...

(Continued from page 3)

ness, was a high-ranking local party executive in Dnipropetrovsk.

Ms. Tymoshenko's most trusted confidante, Oleksander Turchynov, rose through the Komsomol ranks to become a local executive committee leader.

Even Oleh Tiahnybok, the founder and chair of the nationalist Svoboda party who often rails against the Komsomol "nomenklatura" that makes up the Ukrainian oligarchy today, admitted to being a Komsomol member for about five years, until 1989.

"It was impossible to gain admission to the institute without being in the Komsomol," he told the zaxid.net news site in a 2009 interview, referring to the Lviv State Medical Institute to which he gained admission in 1985 at the age of 17. "I returned from the army in 1989 and re-entered the institute just as events of the national-liberation revolution began. We all amicably burned our Komsomol cards and left."

So, while the Svoboda party's language on lustration has been harsh against what it refers to as "the three K's of 'komunisty';

KGB agents and Kuchmists," it has also occasionally included "komsomoltsi" (Komsomol members) in that mix, but carefully phrased as "Komsomol leaders" in light of the history of Mr. Tiahnybok, and now Ms. Farion.

The day after the documents were published on zaxid.net, Mr. Tiahnybok published a defense of Ms. Farion on the Ukrayinska Pravda website in which he stressed that his party's lustration policy – both in legislation and in the party program – is limited to the leaders of the Communist Party, not rank-and-file former members who number in the millions in Ukraine.

"I'll give my arm to be sawed off that she doesn't fall under any of these categories," he wrote. "That would have been well-known without any papers from the archives. People here remember well who in Lviv belonged to the high-ranking, Communist-Komsomol nomenklatura or, God forbid, persecuted Ukrainians with ideological motives."

Instead, Ms. Farion has earned the highest respect and trust of her people, earning almost 70 percent of the vote to represent her single-mandate district in the city of Lviv, he wrote.

"And no matter how much all her persecutors rage, for them to reach such moral

authority is like getting to the sky on all fours," Mr. Tiahnybok said, adding, "Truly, this is all a pitiful deceit, not lustration, because even in the former German Democratic Republic, where the harshest lustration occurred, such categories of citizens weren't affected. Otherwise, Angela Merkel would not have become German chancellor."

Mr. Tiahnybok offered his defense of Ms. Farion without directly acknowledging her party involvement.

But whether Ms. Farion was a Komsomol or Communist, member or leader, is not important, critics said. What's disturbing, they say, is that she lied about it, insulting journalists in the process, and then refused to take responsibility for her lies when the evidence came out, continuing to degrade the press as "hyenas."

In that sense, the behavior of Ms. Farion, and the Svoboda party as a whole, is identical to that of the Communist Party members she enjoys demonizing, said Ostap Drozdov, a Lviv television talk show host and longtime critic of the Svoboda party.

"This is a usual dialectic of Ukrainian existence, when those ready to die for Ukraine 25 years ago didn't organize any anti-Soviet demonstrations, risked nothing for Ukraine, didn't publish any samvydav,

didn't rise up against the Communist terror. They merely studied the statutes of the Communist Party," Mr. Drozdov wrote in a column published on November 16 on the gazeta.ua website.

"She is the party. She devotedly carries the truth to others, yet fears the truth about herself. She can sophisticatedly – using the wealth of Ukrainian epithets and comparisons – smear her opponent with you-know-what, but won't accept analogous deeds against herself," Mr. Drozdov wrote.

"She can berate everyone left and right, but will call everyone who says even one crooked word against her a kham [boor]. She will fight hysterically for the indispensable necessity of lustration, but not for herself and members of her own party. Because she is chosen, motivated by the truth, consecrated by the blood of her ancestors, lit by the Leader's light and blessed by the party card."

The newly revealed documents became the latest in a series of embarrassing scandals for the Svoboda party.

In September, Lviv's most popular newspaper, Ekspres, published several articles alleging extensive financial corruption in the Svoboda party. Most notably, Ekspres alleged that the party's economic council chair, National Deputy Ihor Kryvetskyi, is among Lviv's biggest gangsters, allegedly responsible for crimes such as drug trafficking, a business possibly inherited from his role in the alleged murder of a rival gangster.

These claims were confirmed by former law enforcement officers of the organized crime division that Ekspres reportedly consulted.

In response, Svoboda spokesman Oleksander Aronets said the Ekspres articles were paid fabrications by the Party of Regions ahead of the 2015 presidential election campaign.

The Ekspres articles also allege that Svoboda national deputies do business with the Communist Party deputies, something Mr. Aronets also denied.

On November 8 an Ivano-Frankivsk court set a \$42,000 bail on the arrest of City Council Deputy Volodymyr Kolkovskiy, who was charged in October 2012 of accepting a \$10,000 bribe for enabling a land purchase, among other possible crimes. He fled to Croatia after the charges were filed and has since been arrested and returned to Ivano-Frankivsk. He claims the video evidence of the bribe is a forgery.

What Svoboda doesn't deny is the outrageous views of some of its members who cause scandals every few months.

For example, Oleksiy Kurinniy, a local party leader and lecturer of international law at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, proposed this year that those deemed by the government as Ukrainophobes should lose custody of their children.

Kwasniewski...

(Continued from page 1)

on industrial production and trade with Russia. Russia had been angered by the proposed deal, and has warned Kyiv of trade repercussions. Also on November 21, the government proposed setting up a three-party trade commission between Ukraine, the European Union and Russia."

Some news sources, however, questioned whether Kyiv was, once again, bluffing. Roman Olearchyk of The Financial Times wrote: "Stefan Fule, the EU's enlargement commissioner, is racing back to Kyiv on Thursday [November 21], making his second visit to the Ukrainian capital this week. His mission: to rescue historic association and free trade agreements that both sides say they hope to sign in Vilnius during an Eastern Partnership Summit next week. His chances: slim. Or perhaps that is just what Viktor Yanukovich, Ukraine's president, wants him to think."



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Ukraine in Washington 2013

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U.S. Capitol | National Press Club | Willard Hotel

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation in cooperation with The Embassy of Ukraine in the United States
INVITES YOU TO THE 3RD ANNUAL *UKRAINE IN WASHINGTON* EVENT

Featuring:

Ukraine In Congress Symposium | Capitol Hill | December 12

APPRECIATING THE PAST AND DEFINING THE FUTURE
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- Honoring 100 Years of U.S. Congressional Support of Ukraine
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 - Preparing Leaders For the 21st Century: The Role of National Legislatures
 - Ukraine 2020: U.S.-Ukraine Relations and European Integration
- Presentation of Congressional Hall of Fame

International Business Conference | National Press Club | December 13

UKRAINE'S ECONOMIC FUTURE POST-VILNIUS
UKRAINE'S MINISTERS PRESENT STRATEGIC STEPS FOR GROWTH & PROSPERITY

- Energy: U.S. Strategic Partners In Search of Diversification
- Agriculture: Ukraine's Role In Feeding the World
- Promoting Europe's Largest Least-known Destination
- Promoting Foreign Trade Investments, Opportunities & Obstacles
- IT Competing Globally
- Ukraine's Finance Policy Stimulates Investments
- Diverse Sectors Expand Internationally
- Role of Ukraine's Finance Policy in Promoting Investments

Awards Dinner & Gala Concert | Willard Hotel | December 13

CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS ON
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TCHAIKOVSKY NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

REGISTRATION/RECEPTION – 6PM

AWARDS DINNER & GALA CONCERT – 7PM

— HONOREES —



Virko Baley



Paul Plishka



Peter Yarrow

— PRESENTING IN CONCERT —

Ukrainian Chorus of Washington DC "SPIV-Zhyttya"



Roman Lopatynsky
2010 First-prize Winner of
The Horowitz Competition



Stefania Dovhan
"Commanding... with an
incredible emotional range"



Pavlo Tabakov
Singer, musician, composer,
known as "The Ukrainian Sting"



Bethany & Rufus
Cello and voice duo that slide elegantly
between soul, funk and folk

— REMEMBERING —

Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990)
"One of the most prodigiously talented and successful
musicians in American history." NYT

Vladimir Horowitz (1903–1989)
Ukraine honors musical legend with an annual
International Horowitz Competition since 1995

Hryhory Kytasty (1907–1984)
Premier composer and conductor of Ukraine's
national instrument the bandura

Kvitka Cisyk (1953–1998)
Voice of Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Ford, Toyota, American,
Delta, McDonald's, Burger King ...

Solomiya Krushelnytska (1872–1952)
Legendary savior of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*.
Honored at the La Scala Museum

Beverly Sills (1929–2007)
"America's Queen of Opera" *Time Magazine*,
known as Bubbles to her fans

George Gershwin (1898–1937)
His Ukrainian roots found their way
into his compositions

Aleksandr Koshetz (1875–1944)
World record for non-sports audience attendance.
Introduced *Carol of the Bells* to the world

Mykola Lysenko (1842–1912)
Prayer for Ukraine composed in 1885 remains spiritual
anthem of Ukraine throughout the world

TO PURCHASE TICKETS: visit <http://www.usukraine.org/gala/tickets> or call (202) 524-6555
For program, speakers, hotel reservations, sponsorship and more, please visit <http://www.usukraine.org/gala/>

Ukrainian Federal Credit Union pays \$500,000 anniversary bonus dividend



Vasiliy Baziuk

The Ukrainian Federal Credit Union's board of directors and senior executives in a photo taken at its 60th anniversary banquet (from left): Bogdan Zakharchishin, assistant treasurer; Tamara Denysenko, board member; Wasyl Kornylko, president and board chairman; Yaroslav Fatyak, first vice-president; Yaroslav Kirik, second vice-president; Barbara Gutierrez, treasurer; Roman G. Omecinskyj, CFO; Tanya Dashkevich, COO; and Oleg Lebedko, CEO.

by Valeriy Guy

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Ukrainian Federal Credit Union (Ukrainian FCU) paid a special anniversary bonus dividend to its members in celebration of its 60th anniversary. The dividend was paid to more than 15,000 eligible members.

"The anniversary dividend is our way of

thanking our members for their support over the years. Our members are the owners of the credit union, and we are proud to return our earning to them," said Oleg Lebedko, CEO.

The amount of the dividend was based on the total loan and savings relationship of the member with the credit union. Dividends were deposited into members' accounts on

October 24, after the credit union held its anniversary banquet on October 19.

Ukrainian FCU is a full-service financial institution founded in 1953 by Ukrainian Americans in Rochester, N.Y. Today Ukrainian FCU has seven branches nationwide and serves nearly 18,000 members with assets of \$170 million. Ukrainian FCU ranked seventh on the Rochester Business

Journal's 2013 list of credit unions by asset size. Additionally, Ukrainian FCU ranked in the top 10, in 2012 and 2013, in the New York Credit Union Performance & Trends report released by the Credit Union Association of New York and Callahan & Associates.

For more information readers may visit www.rufcu.org/anniversary.php.

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Looking for an adult or a teenager to teach a young child Ukrainian after school in Bayside, NY. Terms to be agreed upon.

Please email dr.irogutsky1@verizon.net or call (718) 224-7740.



Chicago Ukrainian...

(Continued from page 10)

around the world. An example of this was the installation of a pole of human skulls from floor to ceiling. This exhibit commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor while also exploring other genocides from around the world. On display is the model of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington, designed by Larysa Kurylas.

Luba Markewycz, a long-time educator and member of the UGFF, engaged the students by sharing her reflections of the exhibit. After viewing the exhibit, the students chose one painting or sculpture and responded to it through personal observations and by writing excerpts in a response journal created by Ms. Kozbur.

"Point of Entry" by sculptor Dominic Sansone elicited the following response from one student: "This is the piece of art that attracted me the most when I first walked into the room. Seeing the faces impaled with the look of death and embedded in soil really struck me deeply. We deliberately numb ourselves by violent games about war and death, but Sansone's choice to make a piece with horrifying images makes people really think about this tragedy of genocide. Looking at his sculpture doesn't make you treat genocide as just another war or death – it actually

gives meaning and provokes thought. You start to think: did we really do this? Can humans actually be capable of such horrific monstrosity?"

The students were then served lunch, a small piece of bread with honey and water. Lida Tkaczuk, vice-president of the Ukrainian National Museum and UGFF, remarked to the students: "As we share this bread, think how grateful those victims of the Holodomor would have been for a piece of bread... let us remember and commemorate all those that have perished."

Nicholas Skyba, a member of UGFF, introduced his mother, Olena Skyba, and Tatyana Harbuz, two survivors of the Holodomor and, respectively, natives of Poltava and Kharkiv. Ms. Skyba recalled, "It was spring, and there was nothing to eat. We lay on a field and ate grass. We didn't have the strength to pull it with our hands so we pulled it with our teeth." Thus, the students heard the terrible truth about how the Stalin regime attempted to destroy the Ukrainian nation.

In conclusion, each student was given a Holodomor button and a certificate of workshop completion as UGFF President Mischenko addressed the students. "You are the ambassadors and you have a task, tell your friends, your teachers, tell everyone about the terrible tragedy, the Holodomor, forced by Stalin on Ukraine in 1932-1933," he stated.

Groundbreaking Ceremony of the HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE

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Students listen to the stories of Holodomor survivors at the Ukrainian National Museum.

OUT & ABOUT

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|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| November 28
Ottawa | Lecture by Taras Kuzio, "Has Ukraine Finally Left the Crossroads? Viktor Yanukovich, Vladimir Putin and Europe." University of Ottawa, chairukr@gmail.com or 613-562-5800 ext. 3692 | December 5
Winnipeg | Gala event, "Andrivsky Vechir," Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center - Oseredok, www.oseredok.org |
| November 29
Chicago | Book presentation by Daniel Hryhorczuk, "Caught in the Current," Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 | December 6
Alexandria, VA | Concert, featuring pianists Aleksandra Kasman and Roman Lopatynskyi, The Washington Group Cultural fund, The Lyceum, 301-229-2615 or twgculturalfund@gmail.com |
| November 29
Whippany, NJ | Morska Zabava (dance), with music by Svitank, Chornomortsi Plast Fraternity, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, chornomortsi@gmail.com | December 6-
February 2
Chicago | Art exhibit, "Ceramics/Glass," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522 or www.uima-chicago.org |
| November 30
Coral Gables, FL | Book presentation by Alexander Motyl, "Sweet Snow," Books and Books, 305-798-0190 or oksanapjp@gmail.com | December 7
Palatine, IL | Girls Night Out fundraiser, Iskra School of Ukrainian Dance, Ukrainian American Youth Association Center, www.cym.org/us-palatine |
| December 1
Miami | Thanksgiving Celebration, Ukrainian America Club of Miami, donnamak@bellsouth.net or 305-635-6374 | December 7
Toronto | Presentation by Virlana Tkacz, "Yara and the Hutsul Koliada," St. Vladimir's Institute, 416-912-3766 |
| December 1
Toronto | Banquet fund-raiser, Toronto Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University, Ukrainian National Federation Trident Hall, 416-239-2495 or www.ucef.org | December 7
New York | Presentation by Stanislav Menzelevskyi, "The VUFKU Heritage: The Question of Restoration and Popularization of Ukrainian Film," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 or www.shevchenko.org |
| December 1
Miami | Holodomor presentation by Alexander Motyl, Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 17, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 305-798-0190 or oksanapjp@gmail.com | December 7-8
Silver Spring, MD | Christmas bazaar, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 240-669-8566 |
| December 3
New York | Lecture by Iryna Vushko, "From Promise to Terror: Ukrainian Socialists Between Imperial Austria, Poland and Soviet Ukraine," Columbia University, ma2634@columbia.edu or 212-854-4697 | December 7-8
New York | Christmas bazaar, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or www.ukrainianmuseum.org |
| December 4
Washington | Groundbreaking ceremony, Holodomor Memorial monument, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Phoenix Park Hotel, www.ucca.org or ukrainegenocide@gmail.com | December 8
Philadelphia | 75th anniversary celebration, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, NadiaO1@verizon.net |
| December 5
Stanford, CA | Panel presentation, "Contextualizing the Holodomor: Observations on the 80th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933," Stanford University, 650-725-2563 or creesinfo@stanford.edu | December 12-13
Washington | Ukraine in Washington gala event, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation with the Embassy of Ukraine, National Press Club, Willard Hotel, www.usukraine.org/gala or 202-524-6555 |

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, December 6

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Washington Group Cultural Fund, together with The International Charitable Fund of the Vladimir Horowitz Competition, will present Aleksandra Kasman, second prize winner, and Roman Lopatynskiy, first prize winner, of the eighth International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz, in a program featuring works by Beethoven, Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, Liszt and Brahms. A reception to meet the artists will take place immediately following the performance. The event begins at 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. Suggested donation: \$20; free for students; unreserved seating. For more information e-mail twgculturfund@gmail.com. Event contact phone: 301-229-2615; venue phone: 703-838-4994.

Saturday, December 14

WASHINGTON: The Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies will host a Mykolai Show and Holiday Bazaar. Students will present a Mykolai show at noon. Sviatyi Mykolai (St. Nicholas) will then meet with each grade/age group (non-students welcome). The Heavenly Office is open 9:15-11:45 a.m.; only one item per child (\$2 fee), labeled with child's name, grade/age). A bazaar/bake sale will be held at 9:30 a.m. to noon, offering a variety of home-baked treats and holiday foods, books, gift items. Location: Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road NE, Washington DC 20017. For further information visit ukrainianschoolbazaar.weebly.com or contact Lada Onyshkevych at lada2@verizon.net or 410-730-8108.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

November 28th 2013 at Soyuzivka Traditional Thanksgiving Feast

Buffet Style from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

featuring Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings,
carved Prime Rib station, Duck Breast and Salmon
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Thanksgiving Day