Shevchenko Society grant supports digital archives of two newspapers

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Shevchenko Scientific Society U.S.A. has awarded a $15,000 grant to Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly for their project to digitize the full complement of their issues released since their founding through the present.

The news was announced in a letter dated December 17, 2007, from the Shevchenko Society signed by Dr. Olexa Bilamik, chair of the society’s Scholarship and Grants Committee, and Dr. Orest Popowycz, Shevchenko Society President; and the funds were received at Svoboda and The Weekly on January 9.

The grant came from the George Kusiw Fund, which supports publishing activity and grants. It will enable the two newspapers to begin work on their digital archives project.

Currently, issues of Svoboda, published in the Ukrainian language since 1893, and The Ukrainian Weekly, published in English since 1933, are available at the newspapers’ home office in Parsippany, N.J., in the form of bound copies of the newspapers, as well as on microfilm. Not all years are available, however. Research by perusing bound copies of the newspapers—some volumes of which are in a quite fragile state—by looking through rolls of microfilm is a tedious task. In addition, full texts of The Weekly’s issues from 1996 through 2006 are also available on the newspaper’s website www.ukr-weekly.com (2007 issues will soon be available online).

Digitization of both newspapers’ issues will not only guarantee broader access to Svoboda’s and The Ukrainian Weekly’s back issues, but will render these archives searchable. Furthermore, these digitized archives can then be made available to universities, libraries, scholarly institutions and other interested parties around the globe. This mammoth project—which is expected to cost $70,000—will be invaluable to researchers and scholars, as well as the Ukrainian community at large. However, the realization of the project requires a substantial financial commitment that is well beyond the financial means of the two newspapers, which are published as non-profit ventures.

The editor-in-chief of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, Roma Hadzhevycz, said she is extremely grateful for the Shevchenko Society’s (Continued on page 15)

Sen. Lugar travels to Ukraine, meets with President Yushchenko

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko met on Tuesday, January 15, with a U.S. delegation headed by Sen. Richard G. Lugar, co-chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

During their meeting the two sides discussed key questions of bilateral relations, strengthening Ukraine’s energy independence and Ukraine’s membership in European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

Sen. Lugar expressed hope that U.S.-Ukraine relations would be strengthened now that the government of Yulia Tymoshenko has assumed power after months of political deadlock in Ukraine. “Relations are excellent and my guess is that they will grow even stronger,” Sen. Lugar said, according to the Associated Press.

Speaking about political dialogue between the two countries, Mr. Yushchenko said that Ukraine expects that U.S. President George W. Bush will visit Ukraine in April. He also expressed Ukraine’s readiness to welcome U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Referring to bilateral relations, the Ukrainian president reassured the U.S. delegation that Ukraine is interested in the earliest possible adoption of a draft roadmap for Ukrainian-American cooperation.

Discriminating Ukraine’s European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations, Mr. Yushchenko said: “We aspire to a new ambitious agreement that would open perspectives of association and later on full-fledged membership for Ukraine in the EU,” adding that such an agreement should exceed the limits of the European Union’s Neighborhood Policy. One of the main aspects of such an agreement, according to the president, is the establishment of a free trade zone with the EU.

On January 15 President Yushchenko formally requested NATO’s Membership Action Plan for Ukraine—a significant step toward eventual membership in the alliance. Sen. Lugar (R-Ind.) said he urged Ukraine to hold a broad public discussion on joining NATO.

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko talks to depositors in front of an Oschadbank branch in Dnipropetrovsk on January 14.

by Illya M. Labunka
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko’s drive to return $4 billion in bank deposits lost during the 1991 break-up of the Soviet Union and the accompanying hyperinflation caused hundreds of thousands of Ukraine’s mostly elderly citizens to flock to the branches of the state-owned Oschadbank over the weekend of January 11-13. The crowds continued to gather earlier this week, with many waiting in long lines for more than four days to receive their share of the payout.

On January 8 Oschadbank, the

Tymoshenko government begins returning lost Soviet-era savings

Russian statement criticizes Ukraine on language policy

KYIV – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on January 9 issued a statement critical of Ukraine’s decision to screen all films distributed on its territory in the Ukrainian language.

The Constitutional Court of Ukraine had ruled on December 24, 2007, that all of the country’s movie theaters must show both foreign and domestic films with subtitles, voiceovers or dubbing only in Ukrainian.

In a clearly provocative tone, the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry’s statement, released by its Information and Press Department, accused the Ukrainian government of “refusing yet again to fulfill its international responsibilities.” The statement charged that Ukraine’s cinematic policies “do not adhere to the European Charter on Regional Languages or Languages of Minorities, which, under the aegis of the government, foresees the development of cinematic production in the languages of minorities.”

(Continued on page 14)
For the record

Although he was quoted in a story and headlined written by Bohdan Shandor (January 8) as saying that he has his sights set “on becoming the first Ukrainian American in the United States Congress”, and if elected, Tabley Harris would not be the first Ukrainian American to serve in Congress. Members of Congress who have cited their Ukrainian ancestry include: Rep. David Bonior (D-Mich.), who served in the House of Representatives in 1977- 2003 (notably, he is a member of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 101); Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), a mem- ber of Congress since 1993; and Rep. Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.), who served in 1995-2007.

Correction

In the article “HURI symposium on Holodomor assesses past and future research” by Marika Whaley (December 28) it was mistakenly reported that on January 15, 2007 a symposium entitled “Holodomor and the Famine Project on the recommendation of Dr. Maria Yudko” was held at the Ukrainian Research Institute. The correct name of the speaker was Dr. Maria Yudko, not Dr. Mace. The Ukrainian Research Institute has confirmed Dr. Mace for the position, and Dr. Mace was brought to Harvard by HURI Director Omeret Pritsak.

Georgia between the rule of law and ‘geopolitics of Rustaveli Avenue’

by Vladimir Socor

On January 13 Georgia’s Central Electoral Commission (CEC) approved and published the final official results of the January 5 pre-term presidential elec- tion. The process took longer than expected, largely because of contentious counting procedures. High percentages of precincts have not submitted results from a number of precincts, amounting to decimal points and thus not affecting the outcome. Menilheli 9 of Congress who have cited their Ukrainian ancestry include: Rep. David Bonior (D-Mich.), who served in the House of Representatives in 1977- 2003 (notably, he is a member of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 101); Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), a mem- ber of Congress since 1993; and Rep. Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.), who served in 1995-2007.

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NEWS ANALYSIS: New prime minister launches state audits and savings payouts

by Pavel Korduban

Having barely formed her Cabinet of Ministers, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko got down to business. She resumed several campaigns that she had launched when she was prime minister in 2005, to compensate Ukrainians for their losses saved at the end of the 1991 dissolution of the Soviet Union.

“I want us to start getting used to people fulfilling obligations taken during elections,” Ms. Tymoshenko told ICTV. She promised a lot in the run-up to the September 2007 election that swept her back to the prime minister’s chair. If she fails to deliver on her promises – such as fighting corruption, removing intermediaries from the gas trade with Russia, increasing wages and pensions, and reimbursing Soviet-era savings – the presidential campaign of 2009 will be lost for her before it starts.

Meeting the new head of the Naftohaz Ukrainian Oil Company, Oleh Dubyna, on January 2, Prime Minister Tymoshenko pledged to save Naftohaz. The government had just purchased a 10% stake in Naftohaz’s activities in 2006-2007.

Naftohaz operated at a loss during the period. It accumulated a multi-billion-dollar debt and failed to come up with a timely financial report for 2006, so it is teetering on the brink of default.

Ms. Tymoshenko said that the Ukrainian state would guarantee Naftohaz’s debts, after the government’s supervisory body gave it an unsecured rating from “B+” to “BIL.”

By checking Naftohaz, Ms. Tymoshenko will not only improve the company’s performance, but will show that Naftohaz’s interests, as well as national interests, were damaged by her predecessors’ reliance on one intermedi- ary in gas trade with Russia. Ms. Tymoshenko insists that Ros/UkrEnergo, a gas-registered joint venture of Gazprom and Ukrainian businessman Dmitry Firtash, should cease to be the monopoly supplier of natural gas to Ukraine. However, her opponents warn that changing the existing scheme may result in higher gas prices for Ukraine.

On January 8 Ms. Tymoshenko ordered a comprehensive audit of the coal industry. “I want miners, their fami- lies and the whole society to learn about every instance of abuse in the coal sector,” she said. Ukraine’s coal mines have been making headlines recently, but they are not for Ms. Tymoshenko’s arch-rivals from the Party of the Regions (PRU), whose candidate was elected the Donbas, Ukraine’s main mining region.

On January 9 Ms. Tymoshenko announced that the anti-corruption campaign would be re-launched. In 2005 Ms. Tymoshenko had lowered import duties on goods like fruit and mobile phones, simultaneously purging the ranks of the customs service. Among other things, the campaign targeted smuggling across the border with Moldova’s break- away Transdniester region. “Contraband, Stop!” was shelved under Ms. Tymoshenko’s successors.

The re-nationalization campaign may also be a pre-launch for Ms. Tymoshenko’s strategy to bring down many potential investors and was arguably one of the main reasons behind the dismissal of President Viktor Yushchenko in September 2005. On January 10 the Supreme Court threw out an appeal against an earlier court ruling that invalid- ated the privatization of the Luhansk heat power plants in 2007. Both Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yushchenko believe that the plant’s sale to a Russian company was not transparent.

On January 12 Ms. Tymoshenko said that Nikopol Ferroalloy’s Plant (NFZ) should be re-nationalized. NFZ was sold in 2003 to Victor Pinchuk, the son-in-law of then-President Leonid Kuchma. Ms. Tymoshenko pledged to return NFZ to the state in 2007. The Supreme Court invalidated the deal in 2005-2006, court rulings have been ignored.

On January 9 Ms. Tymoshenko also launched an ambitious campaign to repay lost Soviet-era savings. None of the for- mer Soviet republics has managed to get back the billions of the new prime minister’s ability to muster popular support. Ms. Tymoshenko’s successes will depend to a great extent on the success of this particular campaign, as a large fraction of unfortunate depositors are involved.

Ukrainian model is latest addition to list of illustrious Bond girls

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Her name is Kurylenko, Olga Kurylenko, and she is the latest addition to the illustrious list of Bond girls. The 28-year-old native of Berdiansk, Ukraine, was named as Camille, James Bond’s sidekick in the yet untitled film by Columbia Pictures. This is the 22nd installment of the James Bond series based on Ian Fleming’s novels. Daniel Craig returns as the British spy and Olga Kurylenko was seen recently alongside Timothy Olyphant in the November 2007 release of “Hitman.”

A talent scout discovered Ms. Kurylenko when she was 13 while she was vacationing in Moscow with her mother. The scout told Olga’s mother that Olga was too young at the time, but that maybe in a year or so... A talent scout grew up in a cramped Soviet “communal flat” with four small rooms shared by six adults from her extended family and several children. Located

Quotable notes

“I would like to emphasize that the president and government see eye to eye on foreign policy. This is a very important element of the new political situation in the country. The head of state and government have a similar vision of Ukraine’s international prospects. These are: rapprochement with Europe; NATO membership; stable friendly relations with our partners and neighbors, such as the Russian Federation, the U.S.A., Poland and others; Ukraine’s evolution into a regional leader capable of playing an important role in securing uninterrupted power supplies; effective use of the country’s transit potential etc.,”

“Today I informed Viktor Yushchenko about specific practical steps we are going to make in 2008 so that the above priorities set by the head of state could be realized with the utmost efficiency and benefit for Ukrainian people. The government is going to make in 2008 so that the above priorities set by the head of state could be realized with the utmost efficiency and benefit for Ukrainian people,”

“Put differently, we have a clear action plan for each of these key areas. I want to streamline ministerial procedures and processes for each of them to include the following stages: identification and definition of a priority; design of a plan that shows what needs to be done; the president approved the plan, so the ministry will use it as a roadmap for 2008. We have a clear idea of what should be done in the context of ensuring our national security, in the energy transit sector, in endorsing the European identity in gas trade with Russia, Ms. Tymoshenko equated the Ukrainian hryvnia with the Russian ruble, which was consider- ably stronger, so depositors will receive much less than actually was lost. Third, only 1,000 hryv ($200) will be compensat- ed in cash per depositor, irrespective of the actual size of the deposit Fourth, the campaign has been poorly organized. The elderly have to spend hours in lines, and they are poorly informed about the proce- dures. One old man died of a heart attack outside a bank in Zaporizhia, and one eld- erly lady had her leg broken in a stampede at a bank in Cherkasy.

Prime Minister Tymoshenko’s rivals scored the opportunity to expose the cam- paign’s weaknesses. The PRU press serv- ice accused Ms. Tymoshenko of “seeking publicity at any cost,” and another source, fouled, receiving just 1,000 hryv for the lost deposits,” the Party of Free Democrats said in a statement.

Sources: UNIAN, January 2, 11; ITAR- TASS, January 8, 11; ICTV, Ukrainska Novyna, January 9; AP, January 11 Interfax-Ukraine, January 11, 12.

Nemyria: European integration must become strategic interest of Ukraine's domestic policy

KYIV – European integration of Ukraine must become a strategic interest of domestic policy, said Vice Prime Minister Mihriy Nemyria during public hearings on January 13th. Mr. Nemyria’s action program called “Ukrainian Breakthrough: For People Rather than Politicians” was launched when the prime minister emphasized that the issue of Euro-integration is touched upon in all three sections of the government’s program, and not only in the fourth, which deals with “Ukraine and the World.”

“Intention to raise Euro-integra- tion questions in the program is not a purpose in itself, but an instrument of modernizing this country,” he stressed.

According to Mr. Nemyria, there are three main aspects in the program. The first, a new multi-landslide campaign, particularly in the context of fighting corrup- tion. Another key aspect, according to Mr. Nemyria, is that Ukraine should improve its international image, and the third is openness of authority.

“Pursuing these aims must be a projection of Ukraine onto Europe and the rest of the world, and a projection of Europe and the world onto Ukraine. Meanwhile, this aspect must be openness of authority. This represents a step toward the goal set by the ‘Ukrainian Breakthrough’ pro- gram,” Mr. Nemyria said.

Mr. Nemyria commented that the problem of each of Ukraine’s new gov- ernments was that short-term goals were developed, while long-term develop- ment strategies were completely neg- lected.

Ukraine endorses Chornobyl closure plan

KYIV – A plan has been endorsed for the ultimate withdrawal from operation of reactors at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant, and for making the plant an environmentally friendly system. Ukraine’s Environment Minister Oleksandr Turchynov, to chair a commission to check Naftohaz’s activities in 2006-2007.

The vice prime minister emphasized three main aspects in the program. The first, a new multi-landslide campaign, particularly in the context of fighting corruption. Another key aspect, according to Mr. Nemyria, is that Ukraine should improve its international image, and the third is openness of authority.

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Mr. Nemyria commented that the problem of each of Ukraine’s new gov- ernments was that short-term goals were developed, while long-term develop- ment strategies were completely neg- lected.

In 2009, the United States and the former Soviet republics signed a new agreement to end the Soviet-era nuclear arms race. The new agreement, known as the START-3 Treaty, was signed by the United States and Russia in 2009, and entered into force in 2010.

The START-3 Treaty is the third treaty signed by the United States and Russia since the end of the Cold War. The first treaty, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (SALT-II), was signed in 1979 and entered into force in 1982. The second treaty, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty), was signed in 1987 and entered into force in 1988.

Under START-3, the United States and Russia agreed to reduce their Strategic Nuclear Forces (SNF) by 30%, with each side achieving reductions of approximately 500 strategic warheads. The treaty also includes provisions for the verification of compliance with the terms of the agreement, and for the establishment of a joint commission to oversee the implementation of the treaty.

The START-3 Treaty was signed by the United States and Russia in 2009, and entered into force in 2010. The treaty is a significant milestone in the ongoing process of arms control and disarmament, and is expected to contribute to global security and stability.

(Continued on page 20)

...
OBITUARY: Lev Futala, 85, decorated veteran of the UPA

YONKERS, N.Y. – Lev Futala, a decorated veteran of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and leading member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), as well as an officer and member of various Ukrainian community organizations in the United States, died on December 21, 2007. He was 85.

Mr. Futala, who earned the rank of lieutenant in the UPA and was known in UPA circles under his nom de guerre “Lahidnyi,” was president of the Society of UPA Soldiers, head of the OUN-UPA in Ukraine, and a founding member of the Brotherhood of the OUN-UPA in Ukraine.

Within the Ukrainian American community, Mr. Futala was known as a member of the executive board and the National Council of the Ukrainian American Community (UCCA), a member of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine and a founding member of the Headquarter of the UPA and the gold cross for military service, first class, by the Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council.

Mr. Futala resumed his studies of veterinary medicine in Munich. Then, in 1949, he immigrated to the United States, where he became active in OUN activities, as well as a variety of Ukrainian community organizations.

Most recently, in June 2007, Mr. Futala attended the commemorations of the centennial of the birth of Roman Shukhevych, commander-in-chief of the UPA, that were held in Lviv.

Surviving are Mr. Futala’s wife, Halyna, two sons, Myroslav and Bohdan, with their wives, granddaughter, Adrina, and brother, Ibor, as well as other relatives in Ukraine, Canada and the United States.

Funeral services were held on December 26, 2007, in Yonkers at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church; burial was in the UPA section of Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Hamptonburgh, N.Y.

At the memorial repast that followed the funeral services, Mr. Futala was eulogized by a host of community leaders, among them the president of the Ukrainian World Congress, Askold Lozynsky, as well as representatives of the UCCA, the Ukrainian American Youth Association, UPA veterans, the Organization for the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine, the worldwide credit union movement and others.

The family has requested that memorial donations be made to the Litopys UPA Fund and the Society of UPA Soldiers (earmarked for the care of invalids and ailing veterans).

Manor College greets the New Year

by Nick Rudnytsky

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – On the eighth day of the new year, the St. Basil Academy’s “Madrigal” choir, under the leadership of Sister Germaine Senita, OSBM, ventured across Fox Chase Road to accompany the blessings of the Rev. Myron Grabowsky with their angelic voices. The 15 young ladies, entered the Basilid Library Building on Manor College’s campus and were greeted by the college’s president, Sister Cecilia Jurasiński, OSBM, with the traditional proclamation celebrating the birth of Christ, “Kyriyostos Radylaytsiyo!”

After the exchange of felicitations, Father Grabowsky began the blessing of the college, beginning with the main desk of the reception area, then the president’s office, followed by the various administrative offices located throughout the building. All the while, the Madrigal singers accompanied father’s blessings.

The procession then moved on to St. Joseph Hall, where Father Grabowsky blessed the dorm rooms and common areas, as well as the Ukrainian Heritage Museum. With a brisk pace the entire group crossed the parking lot and proceeded to Mother of Perpetual Help Hall, which houses classrooms, laboratories, the cafeteria, the chapel and the office of the dean of students, Sister Francis, OSBM.

“Thanks be to God for giving us the opportunity to begin this new year with such a beautiful and inspiring ceremony,” said Sister Cecilia, while expressing appreciation to Manor College’s Alumni Director and Past President Paul Horbal, University of Manitoba; and Director of Publications (Student) and Communications Adriana Luhovy, on the board of directors of the Ukrainian Student Union (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SUSK) was reviled at the XXII National Ukrainian Canadian Congress held in Winnipeg in October 2007. Elected as SUSK national president was Artem Luhovy, president of the McGill Ukrainian Students’ Association in Montreal. Close to 50 youth delegates from various youth organizations attended, many of whom are members of university clubs across Canada. Also present was architect Victor Deneka, one of the first organizers of SUSK in 1953.

SUSK is presently organizing its 50th national congress to be held from Friday, February 22, to Sunday, February 24, at McGill University in Montreal. In November 2007 SUSK national organized a mock hunger strike at various universities across Canada marking the 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide in Soviet Ukraine. SUSK national also has revived Student, its national tribunal publication, a forum reflecting the broad interests of Ukrainian Canadian students. This year the publication will be marking the 40th anniversary of its founding; it was first published in Montreal in 1968.

Membership in SUSK consists of Ukrainian clubs, associations and federations whose members are students of Canadian universities or other post-secondary institutions. SUSK national has an official representative, its president, Mr. Luhovy, on the board of directors of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. It is also a member of the Ukrainian World Congress.

SUSK’s history dates back to its founding in Winnipeg in December 1953; Ukrainian student activity in Canada dates back even further, to 1927. Among SUSK’s aims has been to unite and coordinate Ukrainian student clubs at all Canadian universities and to promote cooperation among them.

The SUSK national executive for 2007-2008 is: President Luhovy, McGill University; Executive Vice-President (internal) Marco Jucuta, University of Alberta; Director of Publications (Student) and Communications Adriana Luhovy, Concordia University; Regional VP (West) Roman Soltysyevych, University of Alberta; Regional VP (East) Olyana Grod, York University; Projects Director Tamara Mischena, University of Guelph; Director of External Relations Oksana Hrycyna, York University; Secretary Olaria Markyevich, University of Alberta; Treasurer Andrij Pospol, University of Manitoba; and Alumni Director and Past President Paul Horbal, University of Toronto.

Montreal slated to host SUSK’s 50th congress

MONTREAL – The Ukrainian Canadian Students’ Union (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SUSK) was reviled at the XXII National Ukrainian Canadian Congress held in Winnipeg in October 2007. Elected as SUSK national president was Artem Luhovy, president of the McGill Ukrainian Students’ Association in Montreal. Close to 50 youth delegates from various youth organizations attended, many of whom are members of university clubs across Canada. Also present was architect Victor Deneka, one of the first organizers of SUSK in 1953.

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The Rev. Myron Grabowsky blesses the buildings at Manor College.

The Madrigals choir of St. Basil Academy sings in the library.

Lev Futala

Ukrainian World Congress, Askold Lozynsky, as well as representatives of the UCCA, the Ukrainian American Youth Association, UPA veterans, the Organization for the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine, the worldwide credit union movement and others. The family has requested that memorial donations be made to the Litopys UPA Fund and the Society of UPA Soldiers (earmarked for the care of invalids and ailing veterans).
Parsippany, N.J. – Zenon Zawada, The Ukrainian Weekly’s Kyiv Press Bureau correspondent since February 2005, has left the staff as of January 11. He has been tapped as the new chief editor of the Kyiv Post, an English-language weekly newspaper published in the Ukrainian capital. The Kyiv Post is Ukraine’s largest English-language publication.

Mr. Zawada, an experienced journalist who hails from New York, officially joined the editorial staff of The Weekly in May 2005. He began working at the Kyiv Press Bureau a little more than three weeks after the inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko following the dramatic events of the Orange Revolution.

Since then he has covered a variety of stories, ranging from developments in the Gongadze case and Russian-Ukraine relations under the Yushchenko administration, to the struggle of veterans of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) for recognition by the Ukrainian government and the political crisis of 2007, which resulted in pro-term parliamentary elections and a new pro-Western coalition government in Ukraine.

While still a student at American University, Mr. Zawada spent a semester in 1997 studying at Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv. During this time he interned with The Ukrainian Weekly’s Kyiv Press Bureau and wrote several articles for the newspaper. He graduated from American University in May 1998 with a B.A. in international studies, minoring in communication.

In June 2001 Mr. Zawada traveled to Kyiv and Lviv to write about Pope John Paul II’s historic visit to Ukraine. His articles were published in the National Catholic Register, Catholic News Service and The Weekly.

Prior to his stint at The Weekly Mr. Zawada worked as a business reporter at The Ledger in Lakeland, Fla., and at the Winston-Salem Journal in North Carolina. He was also assistant business editor at The Gaston Gazette (Gastonia, N.C.), an economics intern at Bloomberg News (Washington) and an economics reporter at Futures World News (Washington).

“Serving The Ukrainian Weekly and the Ukrainian American community was a great honor, and I thank the Ukrainian National Association’s management for the opportunity,” Mr. Zawada said. “My three years reporting in Ukraine provided me with memories that will last a lifetime.”

Among his most memorable experiences Mr. Zawada cited getting slammed to the ground by icon-waving Russian Orthodox “babushkas,” hanging out in the Verkhovna Rada cafeteria with Ukrainian literary icon and National Deputy Pavlo Movchan and venturing out onto the ski slopes of the Carpathian Mountains with Liv’s Carpathian Ski Club.

Do you have a young UNA’er, or potential young UNA’er in your family?

**Call the UNA Home Office, 973-292-9800, to find out how to enroll.**
Nineteen years ago

This January 22 we mark the 90th anniversary of a historic act that proclaimed the Ukrainian National Republic as “an independent, free and sovereign state of the Ukrainian people, subject to no one.” It was on January 22, 1918, that the Ukrainian Central Rada issued an act, as the Fourth Universal, that was the realization of the age-old aspirations of the Ukrainian nation.

January 22 also marks the 89th anniversary of the Act of Union, which consolidated all Ukrainian lands, of the west and east, and thus the Western and Eastern Ukrainian Republics with the Ukrainian National Republic headquartered in Kyiv. The Act of Union, which was joyously proclaimed in Kyiv’s St. Sophia Square, marked the realization of a dream held by generations of Ukrainians’ antiallism.

Today these dates are not only historical footsteps to the new generation that has grown up since Ukraine’s most recent incarnation as an independent state in 1991. But the youngest generation’s elders in the diaspora recall the days when January 22 was the most important date on the calendar.

It was a day of celebrations and commemorations, when communities would hold special programs, when elected officials would issue proclamations recognizing Ukraine’s independence proclamation of 1918 and paying tribute to the Ukrainian people’s yearning and drive for freedom, when the blue-and-yellow flag of free Ukraine would fly at city halls around the world – though not in Ukraine. These were more than purveyor annual events (although youngsters at that time might not have realized it…). In fact, these celebrations of January 22 as Ukrainian Independence Day kept alive what we used to refer to as “the Ukrainian national idea.”

Today, as in the past, January 22, the vigil of the Day of Unity (Den Sobornosti) since there is a new Independence Day, celebrating another historic act, the Act of Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine adopted on August 24, 1991, by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the importance of the January 22 as the original Ukrainian Independence Day has not faded. For, even though Ukraine’s independence in the early part of the 20th century was short-lived, the milestone events of January 22, 1918, and of January 22, 1919, laid the groundwork for what was yet to come – including the independence struggle.

Indeed, as Dr. Orest Subtelny notes in his history of Ukraine, the events of 1917 (when the Central Rada was established in Kyiv) to 1920 (when the Bolsheviks triumphed in Ukraine) succeeded in spreading national consciousness to all segments of Ukrainian society. He writes: “...the rise of Ukrainian governments taught peasants to identify themselves as ‘Ukrainians’...” [Thus] the upheaval of 1917-1920 was not only a social-economic but also a national revolution.

The seeds of that national revolution were disseminated to all corners of the globe, wherever Ukrainians settled. At the same time they were safeguarded and preserved among the people of Ukraine, subjugated though they were by foreign powers. To be sure, it took more than seven decades for Ukraine to regain its independence, but the age-old struggle finally bore fruit. And, in 1991, when Ukraine’s independence was re-established, it was due in large measure to the sacrifices of many generations who had shown the way and nurtured the dream of an independent Ukraine. It is those sacrifices that we recall on January 22 as we note the 90th anniversary of Ukraine’s Independence Day of 1918.

Turning the pages back...

Four years ago the European Parliament voted 467 to 19 in favor of a resolution calling for Ukraine to be given “a clear European perspective” and the possibility of entering the European Union, as reported by The Ukrainian Weekly.

The European Commission stated that there would be no change in a timetable for Ukraine’s accession to the EU. EC spokeswoman Françoise Le Jeune explained that the new terms for Ukraine’s accession include the opening of accession negotiations. These negotiations would include an exchange of views about the European and Ukraine’s political and economic situation.

In response, the European Commission gave no firm commitments, proposing only a “package” of cooperation on trade, immigration, security and foreign relations. Benita Ferrero- Waldner, the EU’s external relations commissioner, rejected proposals that Ukraine be offered a special agreement to proceed to eventual accession, but added that minor agreements would be put forward in the coming week.

In his public and political life in Ukraine now Vitali Klitschko speaks mostly Ukrainian.

I can tell it ain’t easy for him. Listening to it, I would say it’s about as pleasant as listening to fingernails being corroded on a chalkboard. He pauses for several seconds at a time, mumbles words, restructures phrases in mid-sentence and often mixes in Russian words as a crutch for the Ukrainian ones he doesn’t know.

Frankly, if he weren’t Vitali Klitschko, he’d be a laughing stock.

But he is Vitali Klitschko – not just a world-famous boxer, but an ethnic Ukrainian who like many of his countrymen in Ukraine and throughout the world, never learned the language of his ancestors for one reason or another. And, he may be a candidate for mayor of Kyiv, that is, if pret electioneering for this post is any indication.

Watching Mr. Klitschko stutter and stumb while discussing politics on national television on January 3, I am reminded of an incident in Poltava.

I joined a Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) election observation team visiting the city for the September 30, 2007, vote. My partner that day was Jean-Pierre Pasternak, a French citizen of Ukrainian blood and spirit. Having not lived in Ukraine for an extended period of time, Mr. Pasternak’s knowledge of Ukrainian was practically nil, as is the case with millions of other Ukrainians in the diaspora.

We were accompanied by the diaspora view Russian and Ukrainian as two entirely separate languagess that require separate learning.

If most of the diaspora know, many Ukrainians in Ukraine don’t see things that way. They assume if you know Ukrainian, then you must know Russian (undoubtedly the result of 300-plus years of tyranny, oppression and chauvinism).

Our chauffeur, likely in his 30s, spoke to us that day exclusively in Russian. When Mr. Pasternak asked him whether he could speak Ukrainian, the driver insisted “Yes!” and continued speaking in Russian.

When I explained to him we would better understand him if he spoke Ukrainian, he smiled again, explained that he didn’t know the language and was probably embarrassed.

At the polling station we visited that evening we asked its director, a man likely in his early 60s, to speak Ukrainian with us. He declined because he said he didn’t want to take the risk of Ukrainian stage because his knowledge of it was so poor.

Many Ukrainians insist they can be just as literate in Russian as they are in Ukrainian but do not have the time by speaking the Russian language. But is that really the case?

Both these fellows in Poltava had opportuniy to speak, listen and speak the language, and both chose not to do so.

On the other hand, Vitali Klitschko spent most of his life living outside of Ukraine’s borders, and here he is struggling with the language on national television. Surely, anything a Ukrainian politician does before a television camera is calculated, with Mr. Klitschko being no exception.

Regardless of whether he earns political points off his public linguistic travails or not, Mr. Klitschko is sending a crucial message: he really wants to and tries hard enough, that person could learn Ukrainian.

In preparing to appear inarticulate speak Ukrainian, Mr. Klitschko is demonstratin a special devotion to Ukraine and its values far more impressive than would be the case with any politician in the United States.

In doing so, Mr. Klitschko is an excep- tional role model for Ukrainians, demon- strating that it’s okay to struggle with a language that is so new to many – even on national television as long as you try.

After all, here we are 16 years after inde- pendence, and the only people in Kyiv speaking Ukrainian are intellectuals, artists, politicians, Catholics, villagers and diaspora Ukrainians.

Business is still done exclusively in Russian. Kyiv real estate is still bought and sold on the black market. A cab driver is a Ukrainian and picking up girls better work in Russian (it’s open to debate, but that’s my experience).

Some Ukrainians say they are not as comfortable with Ukrainian and can’t express themselves as well. But that com- fort and fluency can be achieved only by taking the first initial steps, making mis- takes, and stumbling and bumbling over words. With enough patience, practice, correction, repetition and dedication, most any Ukrainian can learn the state language.

The question is: Will Vitali Klitschko know quite well that today’s stumbles and falls will lead to tomorrow’s mastery and perfection. He will be doing Ukraine a great service if he keeps making his vocabulary blunders and grammatical mistakes in public. Well, just for a few years anyway. He’s gotta make some progress eventually.

On the campaign trail

“[I looked into] Mr. Putin’s eyes and I saw three things – a K and a G and a B.”

Candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination Sen. John McCain, addressing the Republican Jewish Coalition on October 16, 2007. The quotation was cited by The Wall Street Journal, which noted that the line was recycled from a July 2007 speech to the Churchill Club in Santa Clara, Calif., and that similar words were uttered in June 2007 by former Secretary of State Colin Powell. Mr. Powell said that he reacted to President George W. Bush in 2001 when Mr. Powell was not yet president in 2001, said: “I looked into Putin’s eyes and I saw his soul.” Mr. Powell’s response: “Mr. President, I looked into President Putin’s eyes and I saw the KGB.”

“This is the president [George W. Bush] that looked in the soul of Putin, and I couldn’t even tell him that he was a KGB agent. By definition he doesn’t have a soul.”
Professionals and Businesspersons
Famine Oral History Project was actually pre-1991 Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, as “one of the greatest successes of the late 1980s.” James Mace were involved in the 1980s in personal memories of the Famine Oral Project, formed. We put up the funds for it. We did, the hopes and aspirations of the Orange Revolution will be realized and will contribute to the emergence of a mature and prosperous democracy.

Dear Editor:
Fact – Ukraine is not surrounded by safe and friendly states. Russia, with its constant imperial ambitions, has been eying the division of Ukraine for some time. Romania has childish national chauvinism – a constant threat to the Ukrainian administration. Reproduction of Danube navigation canal. Turkey is having problems with its own Muslim fundamentalists, Kurdish rebels and Al-Qaeda. Moldova and its unstable Transdniester breakaway province border Ukraine. Therefore, a strong, modern security and defense system is very much needed by the Ukrainian state.

However, the current president seems to be set on destroying what is left of the crumbling Ukrainian security powers. If history does have a tendency to repeat itself, then Viktor Yuschenko is following the footsteps of the Central Rada of 1917-1918 when it was decided that the newly independent Ukraine was under no threat from bordering states and, therefore, does not need a strong army. The result of that shortsighted policy was a quick loss of independence to Bolshevik bolsheviks by 1919.

President Yuschenko’s recent “strategic” appointment of Raisa Bohatyriova – a former gynecologist (http://www.bluebottle.org.ua) as the secretary of the National Security and Defense Council hardly needs a commentary. As recently as 2003, Bohatyriova was still busily defending her physician’s qualifications as a highly skilled obstetrician. Ukrainian patriots may be dead certain that her vast experience in handling whatever she handled before coming to the Verkhovna Rada is going to turn out as a great asset to the young nation’s defense and security. However, for some strange reason, I have the feeling that the reasons of safety and reliable protection for the Ukrainian nation just might have somewhat different connotations for Ms. Bohatyriova, especially considering her past medical credentials.

Alex Kozhushenko
Greenville, Del.

Faulty memory and “bezlychnist”

Dear Editor:
It’s odd when a historian, of all people, has a faulty historical memory. Oddity turns into offensiveness when such faulty memory also involves misappropiation of facts. In her article about the recent Harvard Ukrainian Institute Holodomor symposium (December 30, 2007), Marika Wilner Myron Kuropas’ e-mail address is by Myron B. Kuropas

It’s an unlikely story. To make it all happen required Israeli, Pakistani and Saudi cooperation; Democrats and Republicans quietly working together to make money; the growing fear of the West in the media in the dark, and making sure the Soviets were unable to pin it all on the United States because the U.S. was not incorporated to sustaining the United States. The film is an amazing true story. 

Meeting Charlie Wilson
If you haven’t seen “Charlie Wilson’s War,” starring Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts, you’re missing one of the best films of 2007. The film is an amazing true story recounting how Democratic Rep. Charlie Wilson (Tom Hanks) – as helped by staunch anti-Communist and born-again Christian constituent Joanna Herrington (Julia Roberts) and rogue CIA agent Gust Avrakotos (Philip Seymour Hoffman) – manages to gain bi-partisan Congressional support for clandestinely providing arms, primarily Stinger missiles, to the Afghan mujahideen following the Soviet invasion. It’s an unlikely story. To make it all happen required Israeli, Pakistani and Saudi cooperation; Democrats and Republicans quietly working together to make money; the growing fear of the West in the media in the dark, and making sure the Soviets were unable to pin it all on the United States because the U.S. was not incorporated to sustaining the United States. The film is an amazing true story. 

After assisting “Nazi” hunters in Canada, Mr. Sher resigned as the chief of-staff of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims. He lost this position and his D.C. law license in 2003 after he confessed to receiving “unauthorized reimbursements” of travel expenses. The twowheeled bicycle is only burredly by the mainstream press.

In addition to meeting Rep. Wilson at the WACL conference, I met two Ukrainian women. One was Slava Stetsko, chair of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN), a charter member of WACL, who gave a brilliant keynote address to some 200 delegates in English. The other woman was the drop-dead gorgeous Amelie Bischenko, Rep. Wilson’s current m. She has size at the square. As I recall, the former Miss U.S.A. World spoke fluent Ukrainian but gave no speeches.

Rep. Wilson’s visits in Afghanistan were quietly supported by the Ronald Reagan Administration. Some pundits believe that the correct way to approach this was the model for other clandestine Reagan efforts against the Soviets during the Cold War. It’s an unlikely story. To make it all happen required Israeli, Pakistani and Saudi cooperation; Democrats and Republicans quietly working together to make money; the growing fear of the West in the media in the dark, and making sure the Soviets were unable to pin it all on the United States because the U.S. was not incorporated to sustaining the United States. The film is an amazing true story.

As the movie winds down, the special blaring of the media, from the left wing to the right, embarks today in view of MSNBC, the Drudge Report and media bias. Mr. Wilson didn’t believe it could. Mr. Hanks agreed. “I’m one of those Americans who are trying to figure out if the constant blaring of the media, from the left and the right, has taken us to the point where there’s no legitimate discussion,” said Mr. Hanks. “And, as a result, there’s no chance of balance and respectful compromise.”

Good point. While what happened in Afghanistan was the beginning of the end for the Soviet Union, the sheer magnificence and audacity of the Wilson project was something that the weapons we left behind in Afghanistan were quietly supported by the Ronald Reagan Administration. Some pundits believe that the correct way to approach this was the model for other clandestine Reagan efforts against the Soviets during the Cold War. It’s an unlikely story. To make it all happen required Israeli, Pakistani and Saudi cooperation; Democrats and Republicans quietly working together to make money; the growing fear of the West in the media in the dark, and making sure the Soviets were unable to pin it all on the United States because the U.S. was not incorporated to sustaining the United States. The film is an amazing true story. 

Thus, prosecutions cannot only happen required Israeli, Pakistani and Saudi cooperation; Democrats and Republicans quietly working together to make money; the growing fear of the West in the media in the dark, and making sure the Soviets were unable to pin it all on the United States because the U.S. was not incorporated to sustaining the United States. The film is an amazing true story. 

STRENGTHEN WEAK AND CONTRADICTORY ELEMENTS

Strengthen weak and contradictory elements of the Ukrainian state. We are not weak because the U.S. was not incorporated to sustaining the United States. The film is an amazing true story. 

We should have stayed and built the cold war. The cost of that shortsighted policy was a quick loss of independence to Bolshevik bolsheviks by 1919. Following the Soviet invasion.

I met Rep. Wilson in the summer of 1987, during the annual conference of the World Anti-Communist League (WACL). I was a delegate of the United States Council for World Freedom, a WACL chapter headed by retired Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub, former commander of U.S. and U.N. forces in Korea. Two other U.S. delegates were the late Walter Chopiwolky, a politically active Ukrainian American from Pennsylvania and Tom Mazzuca of Michigan, a Lithuanian American who preseed over the Coalition for Constitutional Justice in the United States (CCJUS). At the time, I was co-chair of the Ukrainian American Justice Committee (UAC).

I met Mr. Mazzuca when both of us visited the Justice Department’s Office of Special Investigation to request its then-chief, Heat Heir, to hire some Ukrainian legal staff to enhance the department’s credibility. With a majority Jewish staff, OSI was notorious for its anti-Semitism. I was there to see Mr. Mazzuca, you’re missing one of the best films of 2007. The film is an amazing true story recounting how Democratic Rep. Charlie Wilson (Tom Hanks) – as helped by staunch anti-Communist and born-again Christian constituent Joanna Herrington (Julia Roberts) and rogue CIA agent Gust Avrakotos (Philip Seymour Hoffman) – manages to gain bi-partisan Congressional support for clandestinely providing arms, primarily Stinger missiles, to the Afghan mujahideen following the Soviet invasion. It’s an unlikely story. To make it all happen required Israeli, Pakistani and Saudi cooperation; Democrats and Republicans quietly working together to make money; the growing fear of the West in the media in the dark, and making sure the Soviets were unable to pin it all on the United States because the U.S. was not incorporated to sustaining the United States. The film is an amazing true story.

Meeting Charlie Wilson

In her article about the recent Harvard Ukrainian Institute Holodomor symposium (December 30, 2007), Marika Wilner called “war criminals.” The arrogant Mr. Sher accused us of harboring Nazis. The bloodbath in the Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan – Rep. Wilson had an epiphany. Enraged to think that the United States had become obsessed with actually defeating the Soviets.

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“We don’t want to irritate the Soviet and couldn’t imagine doing them any other way... they would say things like ‘We don’t want to irritate the Soviet and wouldn’t have done it... not be able to breathe for a couple of minutes.’ The don’t piss-off-the-USSR line was a fundamental component of Kissinger’s foreign policy during the Nixon and Ford administrations. I often heard such sentiments when I served in the White House.

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Myron Kuropas’ s e-mail address is kuropas@comcast.net.
The Boyko family’s gift to the village of Zapytiv

by Chrystia Sonevytska

WASHINGTON – Some gifts are more special than others. In October 2007 this writer was privileged to be present – along with 200 other people – at the blessing of a newly completed library in the picturesque village of Zapytiv, located 18 miles northeast of Lviv in the Kamianka Buzka raion (county).

The land for the library was donated by the Zapytiv Village Council under the leadership of Mayor Yuriy Fedeyko. A local builder, Taras Nenchuk, was selected to lead the construction. Iryna Lasowska, a woman of many talents from the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation’s Lviv office, applied her considerable organizational skills to keep the construction on track.

The raion administration officially opened the library in December 2007 on the Feast of St. Nicholas, promising to provide an additional resource person and other personnel as needed. The library will also become a center where people of all ages, but especially the community’s youth, can meet for meetings and activities.

A project of this scope presents many challenges, but the fact that a new library now stands and that the village librarian of almost 20 years now has a modern building with plumbing and heat (for 20 years she did without both), gives the residents of this community great pride and those who saw the project through great satisfaction.

Hopes abound for the acquisition of essential resources for the second-floor interior, such as six computers for the computer center, numerous periodicals and books on tape or disk, as well as the librarian’s dream: a photocopy.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, is accepting tax-deductible contributions earmarked for the Zapytiv library.

Upon learning of the need for a copier, the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council and its president, E. Morgan Williams, pledged a donation toward this procurement.

In addition, Washington, D.C.-area resident Patsy Ben, whose father-in-law was the director of the school in Zapytiv until his death at the hands of the Soviets in the 1940s, has donated the personal collection in Zapytiv.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation President Nadia K. McConnell and Zapytiv Mayor Yuriy Fedeyko with 10th graders helping to plant shrubs and trees near the library in Zapytiv several weeks before its completion.

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation President Nadia K. McConnell and Zapytiv Mayor Yuriy Fedeyko with 10th graders helping to plant shrubs and trees near the library in Zapytiv several weeks before its completion.

Biofuels summit in Ukraine hailed as a success

by Jeff Mulhollem

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. – The first International Summit on Biofuels Research and Business Opportunities in Ukraine, organized by Penn State and sponsored by the Woskob New Century Fund, was deemed a success by the dean of the university’s College of Agricultural Sciences.

“The summit is an early step in Ukraine bringing its vast agricultural resources to bear on solving the country’s energy problems,” said Robert Steele, who was a panelist in several of the sessions. Extensive research programs in biofuels development are ongoing in the college he oversees at Penn State.

The event, which attracted 125 participants from 12 countries, was held in Kyiv on December 9-11, 2007. It included two days of presentations and a field trip to a biofuel plant in Poltava. The summit agenda covered government policy issues, regional perspectives and an overview of the biofuel industry in the European Union, legal issues and market development.

Participants learned about cropping systems, traditional biofuel processing and new production methods involving cellulosic ethanol and alternative feedstocks, such as perennial grasses and lotus. The summit also focused on equipment and technologies, feedstock challenges, price competitiveness of biofuels, fuel crop insurance practices and impacts on the farming sector and the environment.

“Summit participants concluded that use of traditional fuels along with biofuels would improve energy supplies and reduce dependence on oil resources,” Mr. Steele noted. “They also concluded that biofuel should not be viewed as an alternative to tradition- al fuel in the Ukraine. Instead, it should be viewed as complementary, and producers of both types of fuels should not be competitors.”

Further development of the Ukrainian biofuel market is possible (Continued on page 20)
After first semester at HURI, Serhii Plokhii outlines plans for the future

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Institute for Water Resources (IWR) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced on December 21 that Dr. Eugene Z. Stakhiv, for his role as a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) — which made him a joint winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

The IPCC shared the Nobel Peace Prize with much more famous recipients, including former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore. The prize was awarded for "their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to limit the vital and dangerous increase in the earth's temperature," which was presented in Oslo, Norway, on December 10, 2007.

Dr. Stakhiv is co-director at the IWR of the International Upper Great Lakes Study Board on behalf of the International Joint Commission. He has also been serving as one of the co-chairs and was participating as a reviewer of the first IPCC report. The prize was awarded on the basis of the IPCC’s assessment of the scale and severity of the problem, the technological solutions and political response required to meet the challenge of global climate change.

Dr. Stakhiv said, "It is an honor and a thrill to be part of the IPCC membership sharing in the award." Since its founding in 1988 in Geneva, Switzerland, the IPCC has published a series of scientific reports — the consensus of approximately 2,000 scientists from 120 countries — that have "created an ever-broader informed consensus about the connection between human activities and global warming," the Nobel citation noted.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website notes that Dr. Stakhiv received his Ph.D. in water resources systems from Johns Hopkins University. He has enjoyed a 38-year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to contribute to the nation’s water resources planning and management as well as a wide variety of international water-related assignments. His international work includes an extended overseas posting in Iraq as the inaugural senior U.S. advisor to the Iraq Ministry of Water Resources.

In 2004 Dr. Stakhiv served as the acting senior science advisor at the U.S. Mission to UNESCO in Paris. In 2006 he was appointed by the United States Director General to the Advisory Board of UNESCO’s International Center for Great Lakes Hazards and Ecosystems Protection (ICHEM), located in Tsukuba, Japan, and he was subsequently elected ICHARM board chairman.

He recently assumed the co-directorship of the International Joint Commission’s Upper Great Lakes Study, after successfully co-directing the completion of the five-year Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence study.

Dr. Eugene Z. Stakhiv is a member of the Ukrainian community, including Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and its "Chornomoret" Fraternity, as well as the Carpathian Ski Club. He is also a member of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. and the Ukrainian Engineers’ Society of America.
Cora discovered Kobylianska while on a trip to Chernivtsi with her late husband, Rudy, a Holocaust survivor and Chernivtsi native. Cora was at the home of Rudy’s extended family when she happened upon an interesting cottage with a sign on the road with a shiny placard. It was the Olha Kobylianska Literary Memorial Museum, the newest home where Olha lived and wrote.

“Ever since I wandered into the museum in 1985 I have been fascinated, I saw her writer and her life,” Cora said. “As Rudy translated the information the guide was giving us, I realized I had to find out more about this woman. I didn’t understand why I had such a strong desire until I came back to the United States. My research revealed that I was born in New York on that day that Olha died in Chernivtsi, March 21, 1942.

The internal bond was with birth and death dates,” Cora said, “but then I discovered other similarities in our lives that turned the bond into a spiritual one, an undeniable one. For example, in Olha’s day, when a woman’s marriage her husband had the right to beat her and throw her out into the street. Olha took in these women and housed them back to health. Well, way before I learned about Olha, I opened a shelter for battered women in Westchester County that made me realize how important it was that I had found Olha.”

Since her first visit to Ukraine, Cora has corresponded with scholars and writers around the world, cleaning information and insights into Kobylianska’s life and works, and has returned to Ukraine on several occasions. She also monitored Olha’s life and works and other Ukrainian women writers that was facilitated by Prof. Tamara Homerov and other Ukrainian women writers that was facilitated by Prof. Tamara Homerov. In 2004 Cora participated in a major conference at the Municipal Library of Chernivtsi with the provocation theme: “What Would Olha Kobylianska’s Message Be for Today’s Ukrainian Woman?”

“Her friends put an advertisement in the local paper before I arrived,” she recalled. “When I arrived at the library at 2:45 that day it was quiet and I was reminded by friends that probably no one would show up. Needless to say, I watched the clock and became more disappinted with every passing minute. “But then suddenly it was 3 o’clock, and the room started filling up with people! In just a few minutes there was standing room only. Students, professors, newspaper journalists, photographers! It was just glorious! Everyone had so much to say, and with such passion. Suffice to say, that after all these years Olha Kobylianska is still fresh and significant in the hearts and minds of so many of her people.”

Besides introducing Western readers to Kobylianska in “Gypsy Tears” and on her website, Cora helped translate and publish Kobylianska in “Gypsy Tears” and on her website, Cora helped translate and publish Ukrainian [Olha’s first language was German], and published many books. She had a deep appreciation for nature and Ukrainian [Olha’s first language was German], and published many books. She had a deep appreciation for nature that sustained her in not just her writing but in her life. She turned to nature in her solitude.

“I admire her passion for her country and her people – a passion so deep it almost led her to serious condemnation or death by the Nazis,” Cora said. In “Gypsy Tears” she fictionalizes how an older and crippled Kobylianska had defiantly gone to the Chernivtsi train station with baskets of food for people detained by the Nazis risking arrest and deportation herself. In real life, Kobylianska was targeted by the Nazis for her outspoken criticism of them, but died before she was arrested.

“But most of all, Cora continued, “I am in awe of her understanding of everything that a woman could be, an understanding that is yet to come to many today. I also visited the village of Dymka, which was Olha’s summer home. It’s located about 20 kilometers out of Chernivtsi. There, I saw her study, which was a small room with nothing more than her desk, a wood-burning stove, her father’s old clock. I could see her there, working away, writing, lonely, looking out the window at her wonderful fruit trees, never really knowing where her work would end up or if it would ever continue after this. This is a woman after my own heart.”

For more information about “My Retreat” and to read an excerpt from Olha Kobylianska’s “All About”, visit www.myretreat.net. “Gypsy Tears: Loving a Holocaust Survivor” is available from the publisher, Hobnob Books (www.hobnobbooks.com), and can be accessed through the author’s website, www.coraschwartz.com.

For more information about Olha Kobylianska’s life and works, readers are encouraged to “Google” her name and explore the various websites featuring this fascinating woman and writer.
Ukrainian American playwright’s work at national theater in Ukraine

by Marta Kolomayets
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

The president added that Ukraine expects an interdepartmental coordinating group, individually evaluated the agreement between Lugar added.

In an interview with the Associated Press he said, “The United States certain- ly supports that vital discussion in this country.” The senator also said that dis- cussion about Ukraine’s NATO member-

in the role of Tolstoy and Polina Lazova in the role of his Sofia, making it almost impossible to obtain tickets for the sold- out performances last fall. The production, which begins with Tolstoy approaching death, travels backwards in time, tracing the harmony and the conflict in a marriage of two strong-willed individuals, commit-
ted to each other, yet emotionally exhaust-
ing.

The play, originally written in English, by Ukrainian American playwright Irena Kowal, was inspired by her fascination with Tolstoy’s “Anna Karenina” and his observations recorded in his diaries. By chance, a few years later, Sofia Kowal discovered the newly published diaries of Mrs. Tolstoy. “Here was such an immense-
ly rich canvas for dramatic dialogue, with-
out parallel in the history of literary cou-

and worked with a translator to have her play, then titled “Pagan Saints,” interpret-
ed for Ukrainian audiences. She then hand-picked both the director, Stanislav Mosyeyev, and cast the two actors – Mr. Stupka and Ms. Lazova – to portray one of the most interesting couples of the modern era.

“Who else but the undisputed heavy-
weight of Ukrainian theater could come to grips with one of the greatest writers in world literature,” she noted.

Premiering at the Molodiy Teater on December 1, 2001, the play with its origi-

al cast later traveled to Krakow, Poland, as well as the Ukrainian cities of Lviv, Ternopil, Vinnytsya and Chernivtsi, where it was received with standing ovations.

Although there seems to be no good explanation why the play “went missing” after its debut in 2001, theatre-goers should welcome its triumphant return to life. Almost all the original components remain the same; yet there is something different about the play – there is a new major character, where the spectators say comes from Ms. Lazova, who portrays the multifarious Sonia (as Sofia Tolstoy was called).

She is a woman who has gone through the giddiness of falling in love with a genius 16 years her senior, becoming his lover, his secretary, his proofreader, his editor, the mother of his 13 children, the bookkeeper, the household manager, the confidante – all while maintaining her own identity and pursuing her own inter-
ests, which included photography and music.

According to the play’s director, Mr. Mosyeyev, he was looking for a role for Mrs. Tolstoy, who recently celebrated her jubilee and was named a “people’s artist of Ukraine,” which would highlight her unmistakable talent. And, resurrecting the role of Sofia Andriyivna came to mind.

“I am so happy that I received such a creative gift, the renewal of this play on my native stage, the Franko Theater,” Mr. Stupka said. Mrs. Lazova told Teatralno-Konsertny Kyiv (Theater and Concert Life in Kyiv), a pub-

ication that highlights the cultural life of the capital city.

“Our play is a story of a successful career, of a remarkable man and a woman, who have lived together for more than 48 years. They fall in and out of love, they fight, they make up, they can’t live with each other and they can’t live without each other.

“Stereotypes are for feeble brains, and Leo Tolstoy defies any attempt to caramelize him in heavy syrup and exploit his ‘icon’ for propaganda purposes. I avoided depicting this giant figure and aimed to dramatize his complexity,” the playwright, Mrs. Kowal, said.

And it is precisely for this reason that her play is criticized by some and praised by others. “When the play was first pro-
duced,” she recalled, “influential writers and critics, among them the National Theater in the capital city.

Sen. Lugar... (Continued from page 1)

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cussion about Ukraine’s NATO member-

Source: Press Office of Ukraine’s President, Ukrinform, Associated Press.
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TRAVELS: Journey to the Far East - Volcanology field camp in Kamchatka

by Ulyana Horodyskyj

KAMCHATKA, Russia – In life, we take many journeys: some to faraway places, some to places closer to home. We meet new people, see new places and experience the world for all it has to offer. A good traveler is not so much concerned with a journey’s beginning or end. Rather, she enjoys travel for what it is: a journey to the unknown and, thus, an opportunity for learning and growth. In the midst of confusion of new languages or cultures, she finds peace. During the trials of the physical journey, she finds strength and tranquility, surpassing even her own assumed mental and physical limits.

From 6,500 feet (2,000 meters) atop Mutnovsky Volcano in the Kamchatka Peninsula, the world below looks small. You can almost reach up and touch the clouds from here. The climb that was difficult a few hours ago looks easy now. As the cold wind tosses my hair about my face, I stop for a moment to contemplate what I am seeing. Where blue skies can quickly turn to rain, where rocks can slip below one’s feet upon ascent, where ice can open up into deep crevasses, where an eruption can occur without warning, this defines the land of Kamchatka – beautiful but deadly.

And here I am, standing atop one of its volcanoes, looking down at the chaotic terrain. I feel small, insignificant. As well it should be. Nature’s fury knows no match. What better place to learn this than on an active volcano?

On most days, we – a team of students and scientists from the United States, Russia, England, Denmark and Iceland – woke up in cold, cloudy and rainy weather. One morning we were forced to stay in camp due to 45-mile-per-hour winds that nearly lifted our tents off the ground. It was, needless to say, a rude awakening. For these were the very conditions that nearly lifted our tents off the ground. For these were the very conditions that I had to face, in my legs from the hikes, all the while remembering the hardships in the field were necessary for my personal learning and growth. When the comforts of civilization were stripped away, when I was forced to confront the world without the comforts of civilization, I learned that it was not only narrow but that one wrong step could send us down the slope and into the poisonous gases pouring out of the crater floor.

At times, it was difficult to breathe because the gases, interacting with the water vapor in our lungs, created acid. Other times, it was difficult to hike when the wind intensified and fine ash particles assaulted our senses. Equipment malfunctioned in the extreme environment (a temperature probe melted in the high temperature of the volcanic fumes) and sometimes, weather conditions worsened as we ascended, making the hikes back more daunting. In those moments, you begin to understand why it is so difficult to get good scientific data in remote and hazardous locations.

In addition to the volcanic hazards, there were other dangers one needed to be aware of at all times: bears (we saw fresh tracks), changing weather and crevasses that were opening up due to the melting of overlying snow. Hiking across snowy terrain was not always the easiest, especially if it was at an angle (one time we hiked, very slowly, up a snowy 50-degree slope). Occasionally we resorted to sliding down the snow and ice, especially near the end of long hikes when our knees and ankles could no longer take the punishment of the uneven terrain anymore.

Wet boots and socks were inevitable. Slips and falls on snowy terrain, while alarming at times, became common occurrences and, sometimes, quite funny (especially when it took four people to help me across one snowy field). Exploring on my own was particularly exciting, especially my solo hike involving a crawl through a narrow tunnel below the ice.

Through enduring such hazards, I found myself becoming stronger – my spirit did not break in the face of hardship. Nature challenged me. Nature humbled me. Yet in this remote and isolated place, I was often reminded of home: a few of the participants who now live in Russia traced their origins back to Ukraine, the land of my family. In addition, I had my fill of borsch and all the pampushky I could eat. It was a big comfort to know that there would always be a warm, filling meal at the end of a long, hard day.

We live in a wild and wonderful world. It is a world that deserves our respect and appreciation. After this trip, I realized something important: either I could resist my current situation or I could simply laugh and adapt. In one moment, I found out who I was. I chose to laugh and adapt. This attitude still carries me today, reminding me to be “in the moment” and to retain a flexible mind and indomitable spirit. In short, I have learned how to live. In that respect, I am free, freer than I have ever been in my first 21 years of life.

Ulyana Horodyskyj with the Ukrainian flag at Mutnovsky, a complex of four intergrown stratovolcanoes with one current active crater.

The beautiful terrain of Kamchatka, defined by volcanoes, snow and wildflowers.

Ulyana Nadia Horodyskyj, 21, is a first-year graduate student at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. She is interested in how extreme environmental conditions on Earth and other planetary bodies can be used as an analog for Mars. To do this, she is developing interdisciplinary skills in remote sensing, field and laboratory analyses, in an attempt to bridge the gap amongst these three disciplines.
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NEWSBRIEFS...  
(Continued from page 2)  
...modernized the head of state mentioned the budget deficit and inflation, which reached some of the worst highs last year.  
"The government, especially the Finance Ministry and the National Bank, must get down to drafting a set of anti-inflation measures immediately," Mr. Yushchenko underlined.  
The president also disclosed that his Parliament address will contain a demand to build a qualitatively new type of relations with business, in particular, for regarding the inherent problem of VAT (value-added tax) indebtedness.  
"The state must not repeat this experience," the president said, noting that this issue is essential to relations between businesses and government.  
In his address Mr. Yushchenko also intends to draw atten- tion to the necessity of realizing the con- cept of accessible housing in 2008 and to prepare a detailed action plan by February 1.  

Ukrainian naval forces fully professional this year and call the last military draft in 2009. President Viktor Yushchenko issued a decree late last year ordering the govern- ment to make the armed forces fully profes- sional by the end of 2009. Later he ordered the government and the General Staff to determine by the end of 2007 the cost of the transition and to prepare a development plan by Fall 2008.  
(RFE/RL Newsline)  

President submits bills to Rada  
KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has submitted to the Verkhovna Rada a package of 11 bills. RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service reported on January 10 that the pres- ident’s drafts include: a law on the Cabinet of Ministers, amendments to the law on the law on the Constitutional Court, a law on the Higher Council of Justice, and a law on the legal status of fighters for Ukrainian independence.  
The presidential administration said that the goal of the drafts is to improve the functioning of the authorities in the economic, law enforce- ment and judicial sectors. The adoption of a new law on the Cabinet of Ministers was among President Yushchenko’s requirements during the formation of the parliamentary coalition.  
(RFE/RL Newsline)  

PM supports president’s bills  
KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has said that her ruling coalition will support President Viktor Yushchenko’s draft of the law on the Cabinet of Ministers, along with other bills recently submitted to the Verkhovna Rada. RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service reported on January 14 that Ms. Tymoshenko said the presidential bill gives the govern- ment enough power to respond to ques- tions regarding land ownership, taxes and efforts against corruption at all levels.  
Earlier she had said that the presidential draft of the law on the Cabinet attempts to limit the government’s powers in favor of the president, and warned that if the govern- ment’s powers are limited, she would consider running for president.  
(RFE/RL Newsline)  

Russia slams ruling on film dubbing  
MOSCOW – The Foreign Ministry of Russia issued a statement on January 9 criticizing a recent decision by the Ukrainian Constitutional Court requiring all foreign-language films shown in Ukraine either to be dubbed into Ukrainian or to have Ukrainian subtitles, mid.ru reported. Russia maintains that the court’s ruling violates “Clause 4 of Article 11 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which prescribes that the authorities encourage the dissemination of films in minority languages.” The statement suggested that the ruling is directed against Russian-lan- guage films, and that this is not the only recent case of what Moscow regards as official discrimination by the Ukrainian authorities against the use of the Russian language.  
(RFE/RL Newsline)  

Kyiv: Russia fuels language issue  

KYIV – The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry has said that Russia in recent months artificially inflated the situation with languages in Ukraine, RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service reported on January 11. The ministry said in a statement that the intent of such a campaign is to confuse the international community regarding the actual condition of national minorities in Ukraine and their rights. Recently, the Ukrainian Constitutional Court ruled that
THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2008

John Sawuk

Devoted Husband, Father and Godly Man

John Sawuk, 91, passed away peacefully Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at Barbara E. Chung Hospice, Edison. Born in Ukraine, he came to the United States in 1949 settling in Virginia, then moving to Sussex before residing in South River for the past 53 years.

He was a member of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church and its Brotherhood. He enjoyed gardening and was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who will be sadly missed by his family, friends and all who knew him.

He was predeceased by his wife of 62 years, Olga Sawuk in 2000 and a son-in-law, Edward Ferraro in 2002.

Surviving are a daughter, Luba Ferraro of Middlesex, a son, Michael Sawuk and wife, Olga of North Brunswick, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services will begin 11:15 am, Friday at the Middlesex Funeral Home, 528 Bound Brook Rd., Middlesex followed by a 12 noon funeral liturgy at St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church, South Bound Brook. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation hours will be Thursday from 7-9 pm at the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.middlesexfuneralhome.com.

Shevchenko Society...

(Continued from page 1)

substantial grant. “It is obvious that the Shevchenko Society understands the significance of our project, and its ramifications for the present as well as the future,” she commented. “The $15,000 we have received from the society is an auspicious beginning for our project.” She added that Svoboda and The Weekly will be seeking additional sponsors for their digital archives project.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society is the oldest Ukrainian academy of arts and sciences; its activities have been the mainstay of Ukrainian cultural life for over a century. Founded in 1873 in Lviv, Ukraine, the society was liquidated by the Soviet regime in 1939. It was re-established in 1947 in Western Europe and in the United States, and in 1989 in Ukraine. The headquarters of the society in the United States is located in New York City. For further information about the society, readers may log on to www.shevchenko.org.

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COMMENTARY: “Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors” on DVD

by Yuri Shevchuk

NEW YORK – The landmark film “Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors” (1964) by director Sarkis Paradzhanov, better known under the Russian version of his name as Sergey Paradzhanov, and cinematographer Yuri Illienko, starring Ivan Mykolaichuk and Larysa Kadochnikova, will become available for purchase in a special DVD edition on February 5.

Thus far this masterpiece of the Ukrainian poetic cinema could be bought in North America only on VHS of a very poor quality and with blantly Rusified English subtitles that presented the Hutsuls, Ukrainian highlanders of the Carpathian Mountains, as Russians. The VHS edition distributed by Image Entertainment is riddled with errors: the Ukrainiancinematographer Yuri Illienko; Ukraine and the Ukrainian provenance of the film is not mentioned anywhere in the description on the box – instead the viewer will read about “the remote Carpathian Mountains of medieval Russia…”

Born and reared in Tbilisi, Georgia, in an Armenian family, Paradzhanov shot “Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors” in Ukrainian and famously refused to have the film dubbed into Russian, defying the assimilationist policies of Russian authorities. This valiant act of cultural solidarity with a repressed nation by the Armenian master was nothing short of suicidal. It inspired them as it does today people who would not submit to oppression.

Ironically, however, what the Soviets failed to do in the USSR is now being done by the U.S. distributors of the VHS version of the film. One hopes that Kino International which is to release the DVD of the film in February will demonstrate a modicum of expertise as well as respect for the film’s author and will allow the protagonis to remain who they are – the Carpathian Hutsuls fiercely proud of their Ukrainian roots, language and culture. The first signals that emanating from Kino, however, point to the contrary.

As if to demonstrate the tenacity of imperial mentality or simple ignorance of some of the U.S. “film experts,” the amazon.com site offers patently wrong information about “A love story set against the historical pageantry and epic legends of medieval Russia” even though the part of Ukraine where the action takes place was never inhabited by Russians and became occupied by the Soviet Russian empire only at the end of World War II.

Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky’s novel “Tini Zabutykh Predkiv,” on which the film is based, was written 33 years earlier, in 1911. Despite years of a brutal assimilation campaign, the Soviets never managed to eradicate the Ukrainian language among the Hutsuls. The product description of this special Kino DVD edition of the film yet again includes nonsensical pronouncements like “… its unsentimental depiction of the harsh realities of Russian regional history …” By the same logic “Kama Sutra” should be presented as a monument of British regional philosopy. The amazon.com website goes on to say “In this DVD edition, Kino is proud to present one of the landmarks of 1960s world cinema in a new widescreen transfer that restores ‘Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors’ in all the extra- gant color, vivid tragedy and lucid anthropological detail that stunned audiences when it first premiered.”

Perhaps, before taking pride in anything, Kino should first stop misleading the American consumer and remove all mention of Russia, Russians, Russian regionalism, Russian history, etc. from the description of the film. Also the attribute “Soviet,” as in Jonathan Rosenbaum’s (of the Chicago Reader) comment on the film quoted on the amazon.com website, “… one of the supreme works of Soviet cinema…” should be qualified by the attribute “Ukrainian” – as in Soviet Ukrainian cinema – lest American consumers equate “Soviet” with “Russian” as they would surely do. The special edition so infelicitously advertised will include: “Documentary: Andrei Tarkovsky and Sergei Paradjanov” (2003, 40 min.), “Featurette: Songs of the [sic] Ukraine” (1985, 8 min.), “Paradjanov Photo Album,” “Stills Gallery,” “Cast & Crew Filmographies,” and “Trailers in Ukrainian” with optional English, French or Spanish subtitles.

Georgia...

(Continued from page 2)

The opposition mobilized tens of thousands of supporters for a demonstration on January 13 on Rustaveli Avenue. The action was peaceful, and the only police presence in sight was a lone patrol car. Thus, Georgia finds itself on the cusp between rule of law and the geopolitics of Rustaveli Avenue.

Sources: Civil Georgia, Rustavi-2 TV, Interpress, January 11-13.
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Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus seeks new conductor in 2008

by Victor Markiw

DETROIT – After almost 12 years at the helm, Oleh Mahlay will be stepping down as artistic director and conductor of the internationally renowned Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus at the end of the 2007-2008 concert season.

Mr. Mahlay has directed the UBC since 1996, and his tenure is highlighted by a Western European concert tour, a historic series of concerts and events in Ukraine during the 10th celebrations of Ukraine’s independence, a commitment to youth and educational programs of the UBC, as well as directing the UIA Concert Tour which commemorated the work of Hehryo Kytsya.

Prior to being selected as the artistic director, Mr. Mahlay was the chorus’ assistant conductor and concertmaster, and an active member of the concert ensemble since 1987. Mr. Mahlay has been credited for revitalizing the membership of the UBC with talented bandura players and vocalists from all over North America. Mr. Mahlay plans to some time off to spend with family and possibly explore other musical ventures. He said, “It was not an easy decision to close this chapter in my artistic life and leave a group of devoted and charismatic individuals who make up the chorus; individuals who deeply care about the kobzар tradition, understand the importance of the chorus’ work throughout the world and are open to exploring new musical concepts.”

He continued, “After almost 20 years of intense commitment to this legendary group, it is time to step away in order to re-energize, focus on my family and pass the torch to my successor. As I told the membership, at the end of my current tenure I will become the kapelia’s No. 1 fan!”

During his time as conductor, Mr. Mahlay has worked with the president of the UBC, Anatoli Murha, for over eight years. Working together, they released four recording albums, concerts, and organized tours, concerts and special events throughout North America, Europe and Ukraine.

Mr. Mahlay said, “Having strong administrative leadership has been one of the keys to the success of the UBC. It is rare to find such a good working relationship between the conductor and administrative leadership. We are a wonderful team consisting of the entire membership, which has led to a growth in our audience and an ability to spread the word about the bandura to Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike. I have no doubt that the chorus will continue to blossom as it approaches its 100-year anniversary in 2018.”

UBC President Murha stated, “It should be noted that Maestro Mahlay looks forward to returning to the UBC one day and that his stepping down is a personal decision, not a result of a search committee.”

A search committee has been formed. Murha explained, “It is our intent to have a new conductor in place and working with the membership on or before September 1, 2008. The search committee will identify candidates, interview them and make recommendations to the membership of the UBC for final decision.” According to the by-laws of the UBC, the active membership votes for the conductor.

Mr. Murha added, “The year 2008 is very important to the Ukrainian community as it commemorates the Holodomor. We have been invited to join the commemoration in addition to other projects slated for 2008 and 2009. Finding a new conductor is priority No. 1 so that we can continue our ambassadorean mission.”

For more information and latest developments concerning the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus visit www.bandura.org.
any foreign-made film should be dubbed in Ukrainian or provided with Ukrainian subtitles, even if it was made in Russia. The Russian Foreign Ministry regarded this step as a violation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which provides for the screening of films in minority languages. Ukraine’s Foreign Affairs Ministry argued that the charter applies to languages under threat of disappearance, but not to minorities whose languages are granted all possibilities for broader development. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Compensation for defaulted savings

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said on January 9 that starting on January 11 Ukrainians will begin receiving compensation for citizens’ private funds in the savings banks of the former Soviet Union, which have depreciated dramatically, RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service reported. The Ukrainian government allocated 20 billion hryvnia ($3.9 billion) for compensation payments in 2008, 6 billion hryvnia of which will be paid out in cash. The rest of the sum will be transferred to individuals in the form of property or as payments for housing and utility bills. Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk said the government has not yet adopted a procedure for the non-cash payments. Compensation for depreciated deposits was among the leading points of Ms. Tymoshenko’s election campaign. She recently said she would resign from the post of prime minister unless the government pays the compensation within two years. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Commission to check Naftohaz operations

KYIV – Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Podlan announced on January 9 that the government has created a commission to oversee the operations of Naftohaz Ukrainy, Ukraine’s largest gas production and storage company, RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service reported. Ukrainian President Viktor Yuschenko on January 8 issued a decree instructing the government “to prevent or neutralize the threat to national security” posed by instability in the energy sector. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Tymoshenko said that Naftohaz Ukrainy was on the brink of bankruptcy. Naftohaz Ukrainy conducts 97 percent of gas and oil extraction operations in Ukraine and has a monopoly on gas transit and storage. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russia issues warning to Poland

MOSCOW – The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on January 9 that Russia hoped to convince Poland in talks slated for January 10 in Warsaw not to participate in the proposed U.S. missile-defense system, which would involve placing 10 interceptors in Poland and a radar site in the Czech Republic, news agencies reported. The ministry said that it was necessary to “organize the strategic dangers with regard to U.S. plans to build the third leg of a missile-defense system in Eastern Europe.” Moscow expects a “favorable reception” and “constructive dialogue” from Warsaw, the statement added. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk told reporters in Warsaw on January 9 that he would visit Moscow on February 9. Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski recently said Poland will not make a decision on missile defense until after the 2008 U.S. presidential election lest it irk Russia by agreeing to the project now, only to find that a new U.S. administration is no longer interested in it. Britain’s The Times wrote on January 10 that the “new message from Poland is that it is going to extract a high price for agreeing to host the controversial U.S. missile shield. .. But the bracing new talk from Warsaw points to the biggest problem of Russia, quickly becoming the common factor in apparently separate problems for [Washington] abroad.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Polish president warns of Russian aims

WARSAW – President Lech Kaczyński said on Polish Radio on January 15 that Russia is trying to influence ongoing U.S.-Polish negotiations on the proposed missile-defense project, which includes locating 10 interceptors in Poland and a radar site in the Czech Republic, public, news agencies and Moscow Times reported. He stressed that “Russia is once again trying to exert pressure on Poland.” Mr. Kaczyński added that the two countries should have good relations, but that Moscow must accept that its former satellites have “permanent life of its sphere of influence.” He said that Russia is seeking to enter strategic sectors of the Polish economy, including energy. Polish official sources were quoted as saying that “Poland has the right to lay flowers at the grave of Mr. Kuchma.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian model... (Continued from page 3)

On the Azov Sea, Berdiansk is a resort city famed for its mineral water springs and mud baths. After receiving training in Moscow, 17-year-old Olga left for Paris, the fashion model capital of the world, where she learned French in just six months and was soon on the cover of magazines such as Madame Figaro and Vogue, later becoming the face of Lejaby lingerie.

Ms. Kurtylenko, who is married to Damian Gabriele, a mobile phone accessory entrepreneur, is scheduled to make her debut as the next Bond girl in the new James Bond film.

Ukrainian carols... (Continued from page 19)

Ukrainian diaspora. Its repertoire ranges from classical to folk music, with a special focus on contemporary composers. Akkolada has performed at numerous festivals, churches and community events, and for the president of Ukraine, Viktor Yuschenko. In 2006 they represented the United States at the Ukrainian World Forum held in Kyiv.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, located in the suburbs of Washington, is also known as the Mormon Temple. It is open to all during the Christmas season. This year it celebrated the 300th anniversary of the Festival of Lights (November 30 to January 1). The impressive Biofuels summit... (Continued from page 8)

only if all players work together, summit participants concluded. They agreed to form a group to start negotiations with representatives of the country’s fuel and energy business to establish an energy business union that would unite biofuel producers, producers of raw materials for biofuels and traditional agricultural producers.

Among presenters at the summit were Tom Richard, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering and director of the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment; Greg Roth, agronomy professor and biofuels expert; and Glen Caulfman, manager of farm operations and facilities, who was named a biofuel pioneer by a Pennsylvania environmental group.

Helen Woskob, George Woskob and Larissa Woskob also made presentations at the opening of the conference.

In addition to the Woskob tiny fuel plant, other organizations supporting the biofuel summit in Ukraine were the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs, the Civilian Research and Development Foundation and the Ukrainian Agrarian Foundation.

Ukrainian carols... (Continued from page 19)

Ukrainian carols... (Continued from page 19)

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Ukrainian carols... (Continued from page 19)

Ukrainian carols... (Continued from page 19)
Soccer

• Oleh Blokhin, head coach of the Ukrainian National Team, resigned on December 6, 2007. Blokhin wanted to extend his contract for four years, but Grigoriy Surkus, president of the Football Federation of Ukraine, proposed a 2+2 contract with the condition that team Ukraine reach the final of the World Cup in 2010. Blokhin refused to sign the contract. Blokhin led the Ukrainian team since 2003 and under his guidance the team reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup. In a performance that Blokhin called “shameful,” the Ukrainian team failed to qualify for the UEFA Euro Cup-2008.

• After stepping down from his post as head coach for the Ukrainian National Team, Blokhin signed a three-year contract to coach Russian club Moscow FC on December 15, 2007.

• In an opinion poll conducted by Segodnia newspaper, Serhiy Nazarenko, 27, midfielder for Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk since 2003 and under his guidance the team reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup, was named Ukraine’s footballer of the year for 2007 bestowed by the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, as reported by Ukrinform on December 27, 2007. Her coach, Iryna Deriuhina, was named coach of the year for 2007. Bessonova was the first Ukrainian to win gold at the 2007 World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in Greece.

Boxing

• Two title fights of IBF and IBO heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko with Ray Austin and Lamon Brewster were among the top 10 highest rated sports broadcasts in Germany in 2007. The Klitschko-Austin bout was rated fourth and the Klitschko-Brewster bout was rated sixth.

• Welterweight Yuriy Nuzhnenko won the interim WBA title against Frederic Klose of Puerto Rico holds the current WBA title. If Cotto fails to show up for the Klitschko-Austin bout, the title goes to WBA’s Iryna Amshennikova won the bronze in the 100-meter breaststroke, while Ihor Borysyk won the 200-meter backstroke at the European Short-Course Swimming Championship held in Debrecen, Hungary, on December 12, 2007, with a first-run time of 49.88 seconds and 52.62 seconds in her second run. Matsotska won second place in the women’s giant slalom race held on December 20, 2007. Matsotska tied the leader in her first run, but was just 0.13 seconds behind on her second run, to finish with 78.46 points.

Swimming

• For the seventh time, Serhiy Lebed won gold in the 50-meter breaststroke, and Ihor Borisyuk won the gold in the 100-meter breaststroke, while Iryna Amshennikova won the bronze in the 200-meter backstroke at the European Short-Course Swimming Championship held in Debrecen, Hungary, on December 17, 2007.

• For the seventh time, Serhiy Lebed won the gold medal at the European Cross-Country Championship in Toro, Spain, on December 9, 2007, with a time of 31 minutes and 47 seconds. Dmytro Lashyn won the bronze in the Junior Men’s division with a time of 20 minutes and 16 seconds. The Ukrainian junior women’s team came in third place with 57 points.

Cycling

• The Ukrainian women’s cycle track team of Svitlana Haliuk, Lesia Kalianovska and Lubov Koshun won first place in the 3-kilometer race with a time of 4:39.314 at the UCI Track Cycling World Cup Classics in Beijing on December 7-9, 2007. Volodymyr Dyduha won second place in the 4-kilometer individual race with a time of 4:25.847.

Gymnastics

• Rhythmic gymnast Anna Bessonova won the title of Athlete of the Year for 2007 bestowed by the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, as reported by Ukrinform on December 27, 2007. Her coach, Iryna Deriuhina, was named coach of the year for 2007. Bessonova was the first Ukrainian to win gold at the 2007 World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in Greece.

Tennis

• Anna Bondarenko defeated Alla Kudryavtseva of Russia (6-7, 6-2) in the fourth round of the WTA Australian Open. On January 14 Tatiana Perebynis defeated Madison Brengle of the United States (7-5, 6-2).
In addition, those citizens who for whatever reason were unable to submit an application for their national registration will receive an invitation to appear at an Oschadbank branch to receive their share," Ms. Tymoshenko said. Others, however, began to doubt whether the compensation process does not put negative pressure on individuals, with Mr. Tymoshenko stating that she would resign if everything was filled out properly.

Rejecting the notion of bad planning, at a January 12 press conference Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko defended her case by reminding everyone that the current sum of compensation is $198.2 million. That same day, in one of Oschadbank's Kyiv branches, 12,000 depositors were waiting in line at Oschadbank, according to National Deputy Yurii Baloha, who was there to oversee the process. He said that those depositors were waiting in line since 3 a.m. Friday, January 11, and that the line had grown over time, with many depositors switching to the line. At 2 p.m. on January 11, the line reached 200 depositors. By the following day, January 12, the line reached 1,000 depositors. On January 13, the line reached 1,200 depositors. According to experts, if the government proceeds in a manner similar to the way the line is growing, it will take approximately 1,000 depositors to resolve the issue. By contrast, the line on the other side of the street is growing more slowly, with approximately 300 depositors. According to experts, the line is expected to reach its peak on January 14.

Meanwhile, in the Khortytsia district of Zaporozhskyi region, depositors were waiting in line since 2 a.m. on January 11. By 2 p.m. on January 11, the line reached 500 depositors. By the following day, January 12, the line reached 700 depositors. On January 13, the line reached 800 depositors. On January 14, the line reached 900 depositors. According to experts, if the government proceeds in a manner similar to the way the line is growing, it will take approximately 900 depositors to resolve the issue. By contrast, the line on the other side of the street is growing more slowly, with approximately 200 depositors. According to experts, the line is expected to reach its peak on January 15.

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OUT AND ABOUT

January 22
New York
“An Evening with Writer Andrew Kurov,” Columbia University, 212-854-4697

January 26
New York
Malanka, featuring music by Klooch, Ukrainian Engineers’ Society of America, Ukrainian National Home, www.uesa.org

January 26
Spring Valley, NY
Malanka, featuring music by Harmony, Ukrainian Heritage Society of Rockland County, Ukrainian Hall, 845-425-4454 or 201-529-4208

January 26
New Britain, CT
Zolotyi Promin Malanka, featuring music by Zolota Bulava and Hrim, St. George Hall, www.danceukraine.com

January 26
Baltimore
Malanka, featuring music by Holychany, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-675-7557 or 410-687-3465

January 26
Chester Hill, MA
Syzokryli and Vido Vasilevich perform, followed by zabava with music by Fata Morgana, Boston College Ukrainian Society, Boston College, 973-687-6947

January 26
Whippany, NJ
Malanka, featuring music by Na Zdorovya, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-540-9144 or 908-766-5179

January 26
Hillsborough, NJ
“Ukrayinski Vechornytsi,” Ukrainian National Women’s League of America, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church hall, 973-449-3398 or 732-560-5055

February 1
New York
Pre-Kalyna Night, Lisovi Mavky sorority of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, The Ukrainian Museum, mavkmuseumnight@gmail.com

February 1
Washington
Monthly social, The Washington Group, Leopold’s Café, 240-381-0993 or president@thewashingtongroup.org

February 2
Parsippany, NJ
Debutante Ball, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Sheraton Parsippany Hotel, 973-515-2000

February 2
New York

February 2
Cordova, CA
Malanka, Cordova Community Center, 914-482-4706 or ukranianheritageclubofnc@yahoo.com

February 2
Dedham, MA
Malanka, featuring music by Na Zdorovya, Ukrainian American Cultural and Religious Center of New England, Moseley’s on the Charles, 908-821-5423

February 2
Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130

February 2
Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New England, Moseley’s on the Charles, 508-821-5423

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; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.
The Ukrainian Chorus Dumka of New York will hold an organizational meeting to set up a New Jersey branch of the chorus.

Sunday, February 10, 2008, at 1 p.m. at the Hall of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook, N.J.

Everyone who wants to sing with the chorus is invited!

For more information please call 201-792-9805.