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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukrainian Canadian Congress opens National Office in Ottawa



At the opening of the UCC National Office in Ottawa (from left) are: Dr. Mykhailo Khomenko of the Embassy of Ukraine, Ukrainian World Congress President Eugene Czolij, Ukrainian Canadian Congress National President Paul Grod, Olenka Reshitynk, and Members of Parliament Robert Sopuck (chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group) and Nycole Turmel (leader of the Opposition).

OTTAWA – In the presence of over 100 people, including the Ukrainian Canadian Congress board of directors, clergy, members of Parliament, the media and the Ukrainian Canadian community, UCC's National Office in Ottawa was officially opened on March 2.

"This is a very proud moment for the Ukrainian Canadian people who have been working diligently for the past 120 years and have succeeded on implementing numerous accomplishments such as multiculturalism, human rights law in this country and, more recently, anti-human trafficking initiatives," stated Ukrainian Canadian

Congress National President Paul Grod. "We have shown over time that we can work with government to represent the issues of concern to our community to government, and today's office opening is another step in that journey."

The UCC National Office is led by Executive Director Taras Zalusky, a long-time policy advisor and chief of staff to many ministers of the crown. "The opening of a national UCC office in Ottawa fulfills a resolution adopted by the November 2010 triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians,"

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New bill calls for transfer of religious sites to UOC-MP

by Zenon Zawada

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – The Party of Regions of Ukraine and its allies have launched their latest campaign to aid the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) – through its proxy, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) – in gaining ownership of Ukraine's holiest sites with legislation introduced in Parliament in mid-January.

The proposed law "On Transferring Cultural Heritage Sites to Religious Organizations," or Bill No. 9690, calls for transferring ownership from the state to the UOC-MP of several of Ukraine's holiest sites, including the Pecherska Lavra complex in Kyiv and the Pochayiv Lavra complex in the Ternopil Oblast – both historic monasteries.

The bill's sponsors are Andrii Derkach (Party of Regions), Vasyl Horbal (Party of Regions), Dmytro Shentsev (Party of Regions), Serhii Hrynevetskyi (Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc), Oleksander Holub (Communist Party) and Ihor Rybakov (Reforms for the Future's Sake).

Religious authorities, including Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, and politicians have voiced their opposition to the legislation. Culture Minister Mykhailo Kulyniak, a native of Drohobych, Lviv Oblast, said the bill should be discussed by the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches.

"No one is talking about the transfer of the Monastery of the Caves National Historic and Cultural Reserve now," Mr. Kulyniak said at a January 31 briefing. "I am acquainted with the draft law, even though it has not been passed to the Ministry of Culture for elaboration and expert assessment so far."

As soon as President Viktor Yanukovich was elected two years ago, his government began issuing decrees setting the conditions for the UOC-MP to take control of those holiest sites that are currently owned and administered by the state, including St. Sophia Cathedral and the territory of the Church of Tithes (Desiatynna Church).

As for the Monastery of the Caves (which dates to the 11th century), the Pochayiv Monastery (16th century), 13th century, according to some accounts) and the Epiphany Monastery (17th century) in nearby Kremenets, the UOC-MP controls these complexes but doesn't own the property. Bill No. 9690 would transfer the property to the UOC-MP's ownership.

Although the Council of Europe has long recommended returning religious sites to their respective Churches, critics said the legislation favors the UOC-MP without any attention given to other Churches.

The UOC-MP's crusade to gain ownership of Ukraine's holiest monasteries is a threat to Ukraine's spiritual autonomy, but not only that, said Ternopil Oblast Council

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U.S. dedicates new Embassy compound in Kyiv

WASHINGTON – U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John F. Tefft dedicated the new Embassy facility in Kyiv on February 29.

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, U.S. Undersecretary for Management Patrick F. Kennedy, Deputy Chief of Mission Eric Schultz and Deputy Director of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) Heather Townsend participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Occupying a 10-acre site in Kyiv, the multi-building complex is a platform for increased U.S. interaction with the Ukrainian people. The Embassy's permanent art collection celebrates the exchange of artistic expression between the United States and Ukraine through work by contemporary Ukrainian, American and regional artists, curated by OBO's Office of Art in Embassies, the release noted.

The new Embassy incorporates numer-

ous sustainable features, most notably advances in engineering design to maximize efficiency and minimize energy use, a green roof system, and rain gardens which pre-treat stormwater before it is infiltrated on-site. The compound is registered with the Green Building Certification Institute and is entering the formal review process; it is the first LEED® registered project in Ukraine.

B.L. Harbert International of Birmingham, Ala., constructed the project, which was designed by Page Southerland Page of Arlington, Va. The \$247 million project generated hundreds of jobs in both the United States and Ukraine.

Since 1999, as part of the State Department's Capital Security Construction Program, OBO has completed 88 new diplomatic facilities and has moved more than 27,000 people into safe, secure and functional facilities. OBO has an additional 41 projects in design or construction.

OBO's mission is to provide safe, secure and functional facilities for the conduct of U.S. diplomacy and the promotion of U.S. interests worldwide. These facilities should

represent American values and the best in American architecture, engineering, technology, sustainability, art, culture and construction execution.



U.S. Embassy Kyiv
U.S. Ambassador John F. Tefft (right) and dignitaries from the United States and Ukraine cut the ceremonial ribbon officially opening the new U.S. Embassy compound in Kyiv.

ANALYSIS

Putin prepares to fight internal, external enemies after re-election

by Pavel Felgenhauer
Eurasia Daily Monitor

In the last days before his seemingly inevitable re-election for a third six-year term as president on March 4, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Mr. Putin aggressively attacked internal and external enemies. In the last of a series of seven lengthy articles Mr. Putin described his future presidential foreign policy agenda that seems to be almost exclusively about lambasting the United States as the main source of evil in the world.

The program article was published in the Moskovskiye Novosti daily and on Mr. Putin's campaign website. The other six articles were published in different Moscow daily newspapers. The resulting more than 40,000-word election manifesto is a hard read – an obscure and wordy text that hardly any potential voter bothered to study. Journalists and political scientists did, of course, read them but were not impressed, finding little substance or true novelty.

As an election campaign measure the discrete marathon publishing of Mr. Putin's election platform, beginning on January 16 and ending on February 27 – one lengthy dull peace after another – most likely did not win many votes. As typical in authoritarian regimes, the text was conjured for essentially one reader – the official author himself, who seems to have been pleased by the result. The seven articles have been already bungled together and published in Moscow as a separate book that is being distributed to the faithful.

In the foreign policy article "Russia and the Changing World," Mr. Putin accused the West in general and the United States in particular of meddling in the internal affairs of states to induce regime change under the guise of "promoting democracy," of destabilizing the Middle East by supporting "the so-called Arab Spring" and inducing the anti-Mr. Putin opposition in Russia itself. Mr. Putin opposes any additional sanction on Iran or any sanctions against Syria. U.S. interventionism is declared the main reason nations like Iran or North Korea may be seeking nuclear capabilities to essentially defend their sovereignty. The only true path to effective nonproliferation according to Mr. Putin, is the containment of the US global threat (Moskovskiye Novosti, February 27).

Addenda

Due to computer entry errors (our typist was working from a hand-printed text), the "Notes on People" item titled "Educator-engineer marks 100th birthday" (February 19), several lines of information were inadvertently omitted from the text in our printed edition. It should have been noted that among the 100th birthday tributes sent to Prof. Ivan Lobay was a certificate with blessings from Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church. Also, his answer to what he would like for his birthday, was incomplete in the published text. It should have read: "First, go to Church to thank God for my 100 years; second, go to the cemetery to pray by my dear wife's tomb; third, you can do whatever you want, but keep it simple and do not tire yourself." Finally, there was a typographical error in the date Prof. Lobay was named a "leading educator of the world" by the International Biographical Center in Cambridge, England; the correct year is 2006.

In the Moskovskiye Novosti article and during a meeting with defense experts in the nuclear closed city of Sarov, Mr. Putin continued to single out U.S. and NATO plans to deploy ballistic missile defenses (BMD) in Europe as the main military challenge Russia is facing. Mr. Putin announced: "It is our national task, we are bound by duty to all mankind to keep the balance of strategic forces and capabilities [against the U.S.] and their BMD plans imply we must make all needed efforts to maintain that balance as an element of international world stability" (<http://premier.gov.ru>, February 24, 2012).

Sarov (Arzamas-16) is a city northeast of Moscow with some 100,000 inhabitants. It is surrounded by barbed wire security fences and closed to common Russian citizens. Since the 1940s, nuclear weapons have been designed and produced in Sarov. Mr. Putin chose the venue to announce that maintaining a viable nuclear deterrent against the U.S. is a national priority and Moscow will not consider any further nuclear disarmament. Mr. Putin stated that the Defense Ministry and General Staff budgetary requests earmarked for building a new generation of intercontinental nuclear weapons aimed at the U.S. has been financed "100 percent."

Mr. Putin accused the U.S. of "just a few years ago" secretly spreading the word to their allies: "Russian [weapons] are all rust, they may finger around in the dirt, we do not care what they do. But now that is not so! Since 2008 we have deployed 39 new intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), commissioned two new [strategic] submarines, 12 medium range Iskander rocket launchers and a wide range of other weapon systems" (<http://premier.gov.ru>, February 24, 2012).

Mr. Putin celebrated the deployment of "10 new regiments" of Topol-M and Yars ICBMs that "can beat" the planned U.S. BMD. "That's not a joke!" he gloated. The chief designer of the Topol-M and Yars ICBMs, Yuri Solomonov, who was present in Sarov, told Mr. Putin that most of the declarations about the threat to Russian strategic nuclear forces posed by U.S. plans to deploy BMD in Europe "are hearsay" and self-defeating.

"I have designed ICBMs for more than 45 years and announce this absolutely officially," proclaimed Mr. Solomonov. He recalled the 1980s when the Russian military and political leaders with dire consequences took seriously President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). While the Soviet Union was spending billions inventing countermeasures, SDI plans turned out to be unfeasible. Mr. Solomonov demanded that in the future the assessment of BMD threats, as well as proposals to possible BMD cooperation with NATO, must be made by true specialists.

Mr. Putin told Mr. Solomonov "thank you" without any further comment and continued his anti-American daydreaming, gloating that the new T-50 "fifth-generation jet fighter," produced together with India, "is almost complete and is emerging as more capable than the new U.S. fifth-generation jet fighters" (<http://premier.gov.ru>, February 24, 2012).

Gripped by paranoia and megalomania, Mr. Putin is increasingly losing contact with reality. In Sarov, Mr. Putin stated that public opinion in Europe is changing, NATO is disintegrating, and major European nations may soon turn against the U.S. and ally with Russia. "The world is changing and Russia

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NEWSBRIEFS

PRU, Strong Ukraine to merge

KYIV – The Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) has proposed Strong Ukraine sign a political agreement on a merger during the March 17 congress. This was announced by Olena Bondarenko, a member of Parliament and first vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on Freedom of Expression and Information, according to the PRU press service on March 7. Strong Ukraine is led by Sergey Tigipko, a presidential candidate in 2010 and currently the vice prime minister. Ms. Bondarenko said the Party of Regions proposed that Strong Ukraine sign the political agreement during the congress, after which Strong Ukraine would make a decision at its congress to disband and merge with the PRU on the basis of individual membership. "This is our tradition: all our political partners that have ever joined us did it this way. This procedure is known to us," she added, stressing that the talks with Strong Ukraine had been completed. At the same time, she said the Party of Regions would like to see other political parties take part in the process of unification. "We are currently negotiating with another political party, which is fairly well known in Ukraine, but there is still no answer – it must be not ready yet," Ms. Bondarenko said. (Ukrinform)

EU expects no progress with Ukraine

KYIV – Representatives of the European Union have said the EU would not be able to proceed on an Association Agreement with Ukraine unless Kyiv changes its stance on the criminal case against Ukraine's former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, according to Radio Liberty. At the EU-Eastern Partnership meeting at the level of foreign ministers in Prague on March 5, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton recalled that the EU had already made it clear to the Ukrainian authorities that "by the standards that we hold dear, by international standards, Yulia Tymoshenko was not dealt with properly." She added, "And we call upon Ukraine to

not only understand that, but if you like, to remedy that using the standards of international justice. And that we would continue to call on them to do. We want this Association Agreement, but we recognize that the political structures which we operate in within Europe will wish to see movement on the issue." Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said that his country would like to see the Association Agreement signed, ratified and implemented, adding that this was what Ms. Tymoshenko wanted herself, irrespective of what was happening to her. However, he said that Ms. Ashton's words reflected the strongly held opinion of some member-states that "it will not happen unless the Tymoshenko case is resolved, and the government of Ukraine knows that." (Interfax-Ukraine)

Gas purchases to be further reduced

KYIV – Ukraine intends to continue reducing imports of Russian natural gas because its price is prohibitively expensive for the national economy, President Viktor Yanukovich said on March 6 during a meeting with prominent Ukrainian women on the eve of International Women's Day, according to the president's website. "We hope that we will overcome this problem in different ways, and these ways are known," the president said. He pointed out that Ukraine has already reduced the volume of Russian gas purchases from 41 to 27 billion cubic meters. "We are planning to reduce the level of procurements in future years as well. The reason is that we do not have the money," Mr. Yanukovich said. The president reiterated that Ukraine, despite the demands of the International Monetary Fund, will not raise the price of gas for households. (Ukrinform)

Nalyvaichenko on Putin's presidency

KYIV – Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, the chairman of political council of the Our Ukraine party, has called the re-election of Vladimir Putin as president of Russia a

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U.S. Mission to OSCE issues statement on Lutsenko verdict

Following is the text of the statement by the U.S. Mission to the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe as delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly to the Permanent Council in Vienna. The text was released by the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Like the European Union, the United States is disappointed by the February 27 conviction of former Interior Minister Yurii Lutsenko. We have voiced our concerns about selective, politically-motivated persecutions in Ukraine on multiple occasions, including the prosecution and conviction of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. In addition to Mrs. Tymoshenko, 13 former senior officials from her government – including four Cabinet ministers, five deputy

ministers, two agency heads, one governor and the head of the state gas monopoly – have been charged with alleged crimes relating to actions performed in their official capacities, such as abuse of office, excess of authority and misappropriation of funds.

The politically motivated prosecution of opposition leaders, including Mr. Lutsenko and Mrs. Tymoshenko, raises serious concerns about the government of Ukraine's commitment to democracy and rule of law, especially as we look to Ukraine's tenure as chairman-in-office of the OSCE in 2013.

We urge the government of Ukraine to free Mr. Lutsenko, Mrs. Tymoshenko and the other senior former government officials currently in detention, and believe they should have an unrestricted ability to participate fully in political life.

Vice-president of OSCE PA denied access to Tymoshenko

OSCE PA

KYIV – Walburga Habsburg Douglas, vice-president of the Parliamentary Assembly Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA) and member of Swedish Parliament, on March 5 was denied access to visit former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who remains in prison.

Ms. Habsburg Douglas is the third OSCE PA parliamentarian in as many weeks to have her request to visit Ms. Tymoshenko denied.

Ms. Habsburg Douglas and Asa Lindestam of the Swedish delegation to the OSCE PA visited Ukraine to meet with the OSCE field presence, government officials and civil society to take the pulse of the situation surrounding democracy and rule of law in the country. Ukraine is set to chair the OSCE in 2013.

"A functioning legal system and the guarantee of legal security are among the most important democratic principles a country needs to uphold," said Ms. Habsburg Douglas.

"It is unfortunate that we were prevented from meeting with Yulia Tymoshenko,

and the denial of our request I hope will draw greater attention to deficiencies in the rule of law and democracy in Ukraine," she added.

Ms. Tymoshenko was imprisoned in October 2011 after a trial seen as politically motivated by several outside observers. She was not allowed to submit a closing argument or evidence that would have supported her acquittal. Ms. Tymoshenko's daughter recently testified before the OSCE PA's human rights committee that her mother is not being afforded the medical care she requires in prison in Kharkiv.

In lieu of their meeting with the incarcerated former prime minister, the delegation and four Ukrainian parliamentarians from various political parties met with the prison director and requested that the prison end its 24-hour video surveillance of Ms. Tymoshenko and allow her to be visited by national and international colleagues.

Two weeks ago two other members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly leadership, Dutch MPs Coskun Coruz and Kathleen Ferrier, visited Kyiv for discussions about rule of law and judicial training. Ukrainian authorities denied their requests to visit Ms. Tymoshenko in Kharkiv.

International observers: Russian election marked by unequal campaign conditions

OSCE/ODIHR

MOSCOW – Although candidates in the March 4 presidential election in the Russian Federation were able to campaign unhindered, conditions were clearly skewed in favor of one of the contestants, current Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, the international observers concluded in a statement issued on March 5.

The observers noted that all candidates had access to the media, but the Prime Minister was given a clear advantage over his competitors in terms of media presence. In addition, state resources were mobilized at the regional level in his support. Also, overly restrictive candidate registration requirements limited genuine competition.

The election campaign was characterized by continuing and generally unobstructed large-scale protests over allegations of fraud during the December 2011

Duma elections. Demands for honest elections by citizens and candidates led to greater civic involvement in observation efforts to enhance the integrity of the process.

Voting on election day was assessed positively overall, but the process deteriorated during the vote count which was assessed negatively in almost one-third of polling stations observed due to procedural irregularities.

"This election showed a clear winner with an absolute majority, avoiding a second round. However, voter's choice was limited, electoral competition lacked fairness and an impartial referee was missing. Due to increased citizen's awareness and involvement elections were more lively, better managed and more seriously observed, whereas structural improvements in electoral regulation were pro-

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NEWS ANALYSIS: Lutsenko jailed on trumped-up charges

by Taras Kuzio

Jamestown Foundation Blog

Yurii Lutsenko, former internal affairs minister in two governments led by Yulia Tymoshenko in 2005 and 2007-2010, was sentenced on February 27 to four years' imprisonment and a three-year ban from public office (<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/politics/detail/123206/>).

The European Union, European governments, the United States, Canada and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) immediately condemned the sentence.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the Lutsenko and Tymoshenko cases raise,

"serious concerns about the government of Ukraine's commitment to democracy and the rule of law" (<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/politics/detail/123246/>).

The sentence prevents Mr. Lutsenko from participating in the 2015 presidential election in which Viktor Yanukovich will seek a second term.

In October 2011, Ms. Tymoshenko received a seven-year sentence and a three-year ban from public office that removed her from the next two presidential and three parliamentary elections.

Thus, with these two imprisonments the Ukrainian authorities have removed two of the main opposition threats to Mr.

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Former Svoboda editor, columnist Olha Kuzmowycz dies at age 94

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Olha Kuzmowycz, an editorial staff member and columnist of Svoboda for over 25 years who had retired in January 2007, died in New York City on March 7. She was 94.

The veteran journalist – known to many by her pen name O-KA – was born in Lviv, Ukraine, on November 24, 1917. She began writing while still a secondary school student at the Ukrainian Institute for Girls in Peremyshl, where she joined Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, which at the time functioned clandestinely.

She studied journalism at Warsaw University in 1935-1939, completing a master's degree. She worked at the daily newspaper Dilo and the magazine Doro, both in Lviv.

She married Dr. Mykola Kuzmowycz and, after World War II and a time in the displaced persons camps, the Kuzmowyczs and their daughter Christine emigrated to the United States, settling in Babylon, N.Y.

Mrs. Kuzmowycz was a member of the editorial board of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's magazine Plastovi Shliakh, editor-in-chief of Plast's youth magazine Yunak and editor of the Shevchenko Scientific Society's Visti NTSh.

She was elected in 1960 and again in 1989 to lead the U.S. National Plast Command and headed the World Plast Council in 1970-1974. She was the chief organizer of two international Plast jamborees, both held at the Vovcha Tropea campground in East Chatham, N.Y. For her work in Plast she twice received the organization's highest honor, the Medal of St. George in Gold.

She was known as a community activist whose involvement encompassed such organizations as the Ukrainian Journalists' Association of America, which she at one time headed; the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, on whose presidium she served; and the Shevchenko Scientific Society, where she was a member of the board and corresponding secretary.

Since 1981 she was on the editorial staff of Svoboda, published by the Ukrainian National Association, first at the UNA headquarters in Jersey City, N.J., and from 1997 to 2007 in Parsippany, N.J., making the long trip from New York City's East Village twice a week.

Speaking at her farewell luncheon on February 16, 2007, UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj said: "We thank Mrs. Kuzmowycz for 25 years of faithful service, lovingly rendered, at Svoboda, and especially for her columns, which have been enjoyed by countless readers through the years. We wish her good luck as she continues to work in her beloved field of journalism and look forward to seeing her byline on the pages of Svoboda."

In turn, Mrs. Kuzmowycz addressed the group, expressing her pride at having worked at Svoboda with its illustrious editors and her determination to continue writing her signature column from her home in New York City.

Mrs. Kuzmowycz published two collections of her widely read articles, feuilletons and columns: "Pro Tse i Te" (About This and That, 2000) and "Pro Vchora i Siohodni" (About Yesterday and Today, 2003). She also was the editor of a number of books and commemorative publications.

A "panakhyda" for Mrs. Kuzmowycz was scheduled for Friday, March 9, at the Peter Jarema Funeral Home in New York. The funeral liturgy was to be offered the next day at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York, followed by interment at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

Mrs. Kuzmowycz's husband, Dr. Kuzmowycz, died in 1981. Surviving are their children, Christine Sawicki and George Kuzmowycz, with their families.



Olha Kuzmowycz in a 1993 photo taken at the Ukrainian National Association headquarters in Jersey City, N.J.

Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation assists Ukraine's disadvantaged children

by Illya M. Labunka

CONCLUSION

LVIV – As an excellent example of results-oriented social activism that fosters positive church-community relations, the internat, or boarding school, in Vynnyky that is supported by the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation's Ginger Fund enjoys the assistance of seminarians and seminary graduates who provide spiritual guidance to the pupils and staff members at the institution.

According to the recently ordained Father Roman Prokopets, who serves as director of the Center for Orphan Care of the Lviv Metropolitanate and is himself a graduate of Holy Spirit Seminary, the seminarians' volunteer work at the internat began even before the establishment of the orphan care center in Lviv.

"Since 2007, we as seminarians began visiting the pupils on a weekly basis and engaged them in conversation on religion and ethics, organized day trips, etc. One of our main volunteer projects included help in the construction of the St. Nicholas Chapel. We also encourage volunteers from other organizations to offer their expertise and practical cooperation for the benefit of the children," said the Rev. Prokopets.

The graduates of the Holy Spirit Seminary say they were inspired to volunteer their time at boarding schools such as the one in Vynnyky and "family-type" homes, when they enrolled in an internship course titled "Social and Pastoral Assistance" during their final (sixth) year of study. According to the Rev. Prokopets, the internship required the seminarians to visit the internat once a week, but the seminarians found their volunteer work so rewarding and inspiring, they began visiting the Internat four days per week.

"We were trying to figure out where best to apply our skills once we were to graduate from seminary, and some friends recommended we try the internat system," said the Rev. Deacon Yuri Ostapyuk, who is also a Holy Spirit Seminary graduate and volunteer at the Internat in Vynnyky.

Deacon Ostapyuk admitted that initially the seminary graduates focused their volunteer work on the children at the boarding schools, but they soon realized they needed to work with the teachers and counselors as well, because the children were making progress while the teachers were actually lagging behind and were not in sync with the children's needs.

"We also organize retreats for the counselors during Lent and Advent and we discuss such topics as the reasons for possible conflicts between counselors and pupils. Spiritual upbringing is a significant aspect of the overall program at this internat, but a number of other internats still have not adopted this approach," added Deacon Ostapyuk.

For the Rev. Prokopets, it is always a pleasure and a joy to see, on average, 15 to 20 kids standing in queue for confession every Sunday before liturgy at the internat. In the priest's opinion, the Lviv Metropolitanate deserves great credit for supporting those volunteer initiatives at such institutions as the internat in Vynnyky. For its part, the Lviv Metropolitanate is unique in that on its territorial jurisdiction there are three separate chaplaincy centers, namely a military chaplaincy, a student chaplaincy and a children's-orphan's chaplaincy, each with distinct yet interrelated responsibilities.

"At first, a child is a pupil in elementary school, then the child becomes a student, and later some of these students may be future cadets in a military academy," stated the Rev. Prokopets. "When we work with the kids we don't make a point of telling them which Church we represent. The nice thing is that the children themselves enjoy attending liturgy and the reward for us is that they have a chance to grow up to be law-abiding and good-natured citizens who realize that they, as children, are loved," concluded the Rev. Prokopets. "This is the best example of ecumenism," added Deacon Ostapyuk.

Today, the Holy Spirit Seminary graduates volunteer their time twice a week over the course of a typical school day at the internat in Vynnyky. In addition, the seminary graduates also find the time to perform volunteer work at six other internats and three family-type homes in the Lviv region.

A typical internat is visited by three seminary graduates who, along with lay student volunteers, coordinate by phone among themselves which volunteer group will visit a designated internat or family-type home at any given time and what the topic of the day will be.

Liliya Svystovych, director of the Vynnyky internat, praised the seminarians for spending a wonderfully educational, recreational and overall productive time with the children. "Children are children – they are naturally open and sincere, but to work with them successfully, we realized



Sister Barbara Hrynshyn, the supervisor of the family-type home for children in Bibrka, receives a gift of appreciation from the children on the Feast Day of St. Barbara.

we needed to improve the psychological approach of the pedagogical staff, and in 2008, with the practical help of our international partners, we embarked on such a goal," stated Ms. Svystovych.

As an example of the pedagogical improvements, the internat's administration regularly invites qualified lecturers from Poland who share their expertise by providing practical training. "This is a great investment in people – the teachers are acquiring new skills and are very enthusiastic about their training," added Ms. Svystovych. As a result of such training, Ms. Svystovych noticed that the teachers have become more proactive by proposing innovative ideas.

To maintain the dynamic momentum of change, Ms. Svystovych and a group of Vynnyky-based teachers recently established an official civic association titled School of Dreams ("Shkola Mriy"), whose mission is to unite those pedagogues who strive for change in the educational system. The plan calls for organizing seminars and encouraging improvement and change from within the system, on the grassroots level, as opposed to waiting for changes to happen at the top, which, in the words of Ms. Svystovych, is "just unrealistic," at least for the time being.

"This is why we need to start from the bottom and work our way up and hope that future generations will continue the process which we set into motion. Ideally, we hope to hear from our colleagues in eastern Ukraine, in order to share with each other our experiences in education and to exchange ideas and advice among

one another. Without all of these changes, we would probably not have the success and achievements that everyone has witnessed at our school," said Ms. Svystovych.

Orphanages in Bibrka

Major beneficiaries of the UCEF's Ginger Fund also include two family-type orphanages in Bibrka, a town with a population of approximately 4,000, located 32 kilometers from Lviv. One of the family-type orphanages is administered by the Polish branch of the Roman Catholic Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary and is home to five children who are provided with much-needed guardianship, a Christian upbringing and education, affection and love.

According to Sister Barbara Hrynshyn, who supervises the building with three other nuns, the premises were opened in 2001 and have been functioning as a family-type home for 11 years. A significant contribution from the Ginger Fund enabled the sisters to have the entire building repaired and renovated. As a result, new electrical wiring, a new boiler and radiators have been installed. An additional grant in 2010 allowed the sisters to renovate the attic into a playroom for the children.

"Our premises are not officially designated as an orphanage, and therefore we do not qualify for any government subsidies. These children, who are literally off the street, have been neglected by their parents. We do not seek out the kids. They find us. In fact, the parents of these children are actually not relinquished of their custody rights," stated Sister Barbara.

A significant portion of the family-type home's budget goes toward medical care for the children. However, if the home were to have acquired official government status, then today such expenses would be alleviated by allocated state funding. Yet, securing an official government registration for certain family-type orphanages is still an arduous bureaucratic challenge in Ukraine. As a result, in addition to charitable aid provided by the UCEF, the Franciscan Sisters in Bibrka also rely on practical assistance from their fellow sisters in Poland.

Interestingly, the founder of the Polish Order of the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary, Zygmunt Szczesny Felinski, was born in the Volyn region in 1822. Felinski, who studied theology in St. Petersburg and was ordained to the priesthood there, eventually became archbishop of Warsaw in 1862, but was immediately exiled for the next 20 years to Yaroslavl, Russia. Archbishop Felinski was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11, 2009.

Sister Barbara Hrynshyn, whose life also is synonymous with Russian exile, was



The Rev. Roman Prokopets, director of the Lviv Center for Orphans, volunteers his time along with lay student volunteers as they take part in a craft-making workshop at the boarding school for disadvantaged children in Vynnyky, Lviv Oblast.

(Continued on page 9)

New bill calls...

(Continued from page 1)

Deputy Eduard Leonov, who is responsible for representing the Kremets District, which includes Pochayiv, on behalf of the Svoboda Party.

It creates a new avenue for corruption within a Church that's widely believed to provide a convenient cover for financial machinations, including those committed by politicians, he said.

In his first-hand experience, "the Pochayiv Monastery has been turned into a commercial site under a religious cover, where kiosks sell holy water and on-site hotels host pilgrims, who merely serve as commercial clients," Mr. Leonov said.

"This is what the privatization of sites of spiritual inheritance leads to. No one will have any say about what happens there once it's the private property of Moscow priests," he added.

The Pochayiv Monastery is particularly sensitive because it's situated in the Halychyna region of Ukraine, which is predominantly Ukrainian Catholic.

Indeed, the complex itself was under Ukrainian Catholic control for much of the 18th century, before Orthodox monks reclaimed it in 1832 with the support of Russian authorities.

Monks of the Ukrainian Catholic Order of St. Basil the Great issued a statement on March 3 claiming they should gain ownership of the Pochayiv Monastery if it's privatized because it was built "under the authority of the Basilian Fathers," said the Rev. Ivan Maikovych, former superior of the Holy Cross Basilian Monastery in the Ternopil Oblast.

"The monastery was not returned to us, as it was not so much about the restoration of justice as about politics," Father Maikovych said in the statement. "We seek justice legally. ...We wish to declare before people and the world that this shrine belonged to us."

Yet, the privatization campaign has drawn mixed reactions from highest authorities in the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

The church's former patriarch, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, said he opposes the privatization of the two holiest monasteries, while current Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk said he supports the privatization of state religious property.

"The restitution of church property obviously should take place but in an open dialogue among Churches in order not to provoke interdenominational tension," said Patriarch Sviatoslav.

The latest campaign about control of religious sites has also involved dismissals of key figures.

In the days following the bill's registration on January 18, Minister of Culture Kulyniak sacked the directors of the Monastery of the Caves National Historical and Culture Reserve and St. Sophia Cathedral National Reserve, among other directors of state-owned religious complexes.

Mistakes in financial administration and violations of the monuments' architectural appearance were the basis for the dismissals, Mr. Kulyniak said. Yet that didn't satisfy his critics.

"The culture minister couldn't offer a single adequate argument to justify this pogrom," commented Viktor Yelenskyi, a



UNIAN/Oleg Gordienko

National Deputy Andrii Derkach of the Party of Regions of Ukraine served as the lead sponsor of legislation to transfer ownership of the Monastery of the Caves and the Pochayiv Monastery to the Moscow Patriarchate.

religion expert in Lviv, in an article published in the magazine Ukrainian Week in late February.

"'Figure it out yourselves,' as the guarantor of the Constitution advised everyone several months ago with unparalleled charm. By the time the 'yet to be defeated intellectuals' figured it out and came to their senses, the next hit came – the new managers of the national treasures are personalities who are so far from the tremulous and delicate museum matters that the most sensitive historians and cultural experts became physically ill," Mr. Yelenskyi observed.

For example, the new director of the Caves Monastery complex, appointed in late January, is Viktoriya Lisnycha, a 33-year-old who has a medical decree in cardiology and spent most of her career working in Ukraine's state medical bureaucracy.

"Firstly, Lisnycha doesn't have only a medical degree, but also a legal degree," Mr. Kulyniak told the newspaper Weekly Mirror (Dzerkalo Tyzhnia) in a February interview. "Secondly, critics ought to take into account her work as deputy culture minister, in which the country's museum branch was her responsibility."

Before her promotion, Ms. Lisnycha served as a deputy minister in the Ministry of Culture for about a year and became known for her gaffe identifying Oles Honchar as a poet rather than a writer and literary critic when giving an award in his honor.

She was also the Kyiv city organization chair for the Single Center party, which was founded by the Emergency Situations Minister Viktor Baloha, offering some hint as to how she came to be appointed to the current post.

At a March 6 press conference, she said the deputy who is the legislation's lead sponsor, National Deputy Derkach of the Party of Regions, sits on the Monastery of the Caves complex's supervisory council. She declined to state whether she supports the legislation.

That same day, the Ternopil Oblast Council approved an appeal addressed to the nation's leaders urging them to reject the legislation privatizing the monasteries.

Ukrainian Canadian...

(Continued from page 1)

stated Mr. Zalusky. "Our national office in Ottawa will allow the Ukrainian community to be better informed, as well as play a major role in educating government, policy-makers and other national organizations based in our nation's capital," he added.

The master of ceremonies for the office opening was UCC stakeholder relations coordinator, Olenka Reshitnyk. She welcomed dignitaries, guests and assembled clergy present and acknowledged distinguished guests.

This was followed immediately by a traditional Ukrainian "Pryvit," or welcome, performed by Ottawa's Svitlanok Ukrainian Dancers, who presented Mr. Grod with salt and the traditional Ukrainian bread called korovai. The bread symbolizes the warmth of Ukrainian hospitality, and the salt represents eternal friendship.

"The inauguration of UCC's National Office near Parliament Hill is a seminal moment for the Ukrainian Canadian community. As one of Canada's largest and most influential ethnocultural communities, we have an obligation to our community and decision-makers to ensure that our voice is heard in a prominent and professional manner," stated Mr. Grod.

"It is thanks to the vision of the UCC board and the generosity of our donors – many of whom are among us today – that this vision has become a reality. I look forward to working with all of you here today to ensure the vitality and success of our National Office," he added.

This was followed by a blessing by Ukrainian Orthodox Bishop Andriy Peshko, the Rev. Stephen Wojcichowski, the Rev. Cyril Mykytiuk, and the Rev. Ihor Okhrymchouk. After completing the blessing, Bishop Andriy presented Mr. Grod with an icon of St. Nicholas.

Mr. Grod highlighted the accomplishments of the UCC over the years and thanked all present for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the community.

The assembled guests were also addressed by: Ukrainian World Congress President Eugene Czolij; Robert Sopuck, MP, chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, who brought greetings on behalf of the minister of citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism and government of Canada; Nycole Turmel, MP, leader of the Opposition, who brought greetings from Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition; Mauril Belanger, MP for Ottawa Vanier, who brought greetings from the Leader of the Liberal Party Bob Rae; and the chargé d'affaires from the Embassy of Ukraine to Canada, Dr. Mykhailo Khomenko.

After the speeches were concluded, there was a ceremonial ribbon-cutting with Canadian government dignitaries and representatives of the clergy, the Ukrainian World Congress, including President Eugene Czolij, and the government of Ukraine flanking Mr. Grod.

The ceremony was followed by a reception featuring traditional Ukrainian music and food.

The UCC National Office is located at 130 Albert Street, Suite 806, Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4; telephone, 613-232-8822; fax, 613-238-3822. The head office of the UCC is located in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



The UCC's new National Office is blessed by (from left) the Rev. Ihor Okhrymchouk, Bishop Andriy Peshko, the Rev. Stephen Wojcichowski and the Rev. Cyril Mykytiuk.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

International Women's Day

International Women's Day, formerly a socialist holiday, is marked on March 8 as a day "to celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women," notes the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. And, in a news release on that occasion, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Eamon Gilmore, Ireland's deputy prime minister, said that promoting gender equality and ensuring women's participation in political, public and economic spheres must be central to the work of the OSCE and all 56 participating states. "Achieving a more secure, peaceful and democratic OSCE area in the long term is impossible without full and equal participation of women," he stressed. "The Irish chairmanship of the OSCE calls on the participating states to implement all of the gender-related commitments in politico-military, economic and environmental, as well as human dimension areas..."

Ukraine, of course, is one of those 56 participating states. Recently, proposed laws that would establish quotas for women in government were being discussed in Ukraine. The chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Volodymyr Lytvyn, angered Ukrainian women when, in arguing against such quotas – he said quotas would violate the Constitution's provisions on the equality of all regardless of gender, religion, etc. – he referred to the "tradition" in Ukrainian society "whereby the man is the higher being." Mind you, he did not say he supported this "tradition" that is clearly observed in Ukraine, but merely noted its continuing prevalence and the need to counter it – though not by legal requirements. Sixteen women's organizations sent a letter to Mr. Lytvyn to express their outrage; they called for his resignation as Rada chair.

Unfortunately, Mr. Lytvyn's remarks reflect the reality in Ukraine where sexism and male chauvinism continue to be reflected in the statements of its highest-level political leaders. Myroslav Marynovych of the Ukrainian Catholic University pointed to the statement of President Leonid Kuchma who once said, speaking of migrant workers, that "respectable women stay home, while prostitutes travel abroad"; Viktor Yanukovich's comment during the presidential campaign that women should stay in the kitchen; and Prime Minister Mykola Azarov's observation that "conducting reforms in Ukraine is not a woman's matter."

Societal attitudes toward women are a major problem in Ukraine. Mr. Lytvyn cited a sobering statistic: only 8 percent of the seats in the Verkhovna Rada are held by women. What's more, "the lower the level of authority, the higher the number of women involved," he said. Thus, on city councils women occupy 37 percent of the seats; on rural town councils the figure is 40 percent; on village councils it is 53 percent. Meanwhile, women constitute 53 percent of the population of Ukraine.

As Ukraine marked International Women's Day with the usual lip service from men, a dose of reality was provided by RFE/RL's Irene Chalupa in her post on the Transmission blog (see http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine_womens_day/24509276.html):

"Ukraine has no women mayors, no women governors, only one newly minted minister, just two parliamentary committees are chaired by women. The country's best-known female politician, Yulia Tymoshenko, is behind bars. But Ukrainian men loooooooovooove women, the hearth keepers, the mothers, the long-legged arm-candy blondes.

"Yes, hooray for International Women's Day, that much-loved Soviet Ukrainian holiday, during which fat, jowly, perpetually hung-over men present their women folk with flowers and ply them with champagne, only to treat them like second-class citizens for the other 364 days of the year."

FOR THE RECORD

Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine seeks public's action

The open letter below from the Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine reflects the concerns of global democrats regarding the systematic elimination from political life of some 100 members of the official opposition parties of Ukraine, in particular former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and former Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Lutsenko, and shares initiatives designed to assist them. Above all, the letter seeks action from each person of good will to assist in a just cause. The letter was originally released on February 24.

Dear Friends:

Like most of you, the Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine, founded last year to counter Ukraine's regression from democracy, is gravely concerned about the plight of its leading opposition figures. Politicians, like former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and former Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Lutsenko are incarcerated in contravention of the rule of law and universally acceptable human rights norms as President Viktor Yanukovich cripples Ukraine's Parliament and undermines democracy.

Since the arrest of Ms. Tymoshenko, the group has organized protests, letters to the prime minister of Canada, and urged others to keep a public focus on the imprisoned freedom fighters.

Important institutions have stepped up. Canada's government, with others, has repeatedly criticized the situation and, lately, sent a team of medical doctors to examine the health of Ms. Tymoshenko; apparently her situation is "grave." The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations is sending a letter to its members to publicly support the opposition democrats. Academic organizations are looking

into honorary degree awards. Organizations in the United States are putting the matter on their national executive agendas. In Ukraine, esteemed leading women like Lina Kostenko, Nina Matvienko and Oleksandra Kuzhel have appealed to women government leaders of the world to intervene.

This is a fine start, but more is needed. As its specific project, the Canadian group for Democracy in Ukraine is seeking national and international women and human rights awards for Ms. Tymoshenko, specifically the John Diefenbaker Defender of Human Rights and Freedom Award offered by the Canadian government and the John Humphrey Freedom Award created in honor of the great Canadian who penned the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Last year it was awarded to Ales Michalevic, the opposition leader in Belarus.

Concerted world attention is a powerful tool. It brought about the release of Myanmar's leading democrat, Aung San Suu Kyi. Nelson Mandela's release was, in no small way, the result of protests, media focus, publications and some 270 awards. Now is the time to mount a similar effort for Ukraine's democrats.

We urge you to act. You might seek public commitments from your politicians, keys to your city, honorary university degrees, articles and opinion pieces in broadsheet and social media, lectures – church, sports, genealogy – and other ways that reach out beyond our community to ensure Ukraine's imprisoned patriots are set free. A most worthy achievement would be to secure their nominations for "person of the year" for prestigious publications like Time Magazine or for the Nobel Peace Prize. Such

(Continued on page 9)

March
14
2004

Turning the pages back...

Eight years ago, on March 14, 2004, Russians went to the polls and Vladimir Putin, the incumbent, was re-elected president of the Russian Federation. With an approval rating of 70-80 percent, many Russians believed that through his strong hand Russia would see stability following the chaos after the collapse of the Soviet Union during the presidency of Boris Yeltsin.

First elected president in March 2000 at the height of Russia's second war to crush Chechen independence, Mr. Putin, as prime minister under Mr. Yeltsin, used a series of apartment bombings in 1999 – blamed on the Chechens – as a pretext for what he called an anti-terrorist operation.

As soon as Mr. Putin took office from his predecessor, he re-established centralized control of his power, appointing former KGB and military offices to key government posts and the Russian Parliament, the Duma, which has become the government's rubber-stamp body.

Mr. Putin began exercising selective justice by targeting tycoons and oligarchs who supported opposition political parties or owned media outlets critical of his regime. He advised other oligarchs that they could keep their money and avoid jail as long as they stayed out of politics.

"However, the selective use of state power against businessmen who are also political opponents of the regime is what one researcher has aptly called the tactics of a blackmail state, not actions based on the rule of law," noted Dr. Bohdan Klid, assistant director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and author of the commentary.

"By promising to restore Russia's greatness, President Putin has applied balm to the Russian people's bruised hubris over lost empire. In a highly symbolic act, he has partially rehabilitated Joseph Stalin, whose criminal and genocidal policies resulted in the deaths of many millions. For Mr. Putin and most Russians, however, Stalin is fondly remembered for his leadership during World War II and expansion of Soviet territory to its greatest size ever. Under Stalin, as well, there was order."

"... Although he projects the image of a modern, Western-oriented leader, he governs more in the Soviet tradition, without, however, the utopian ideology and its baggage. In today's Russia, Vladimir Putin is its master," Dr. Klid noted.

Source: "Russians go to the polls, but Putin cannot lose," by Bohdan Klid, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 14, 2004.

Must reads

- In "Fascistoid Russia: Whither Putin's Brittle Realm?" in the March/April edition of the journal *World Affairs*, Alexander J. Motyl analyzes the regime of Vladimir Putin – Is it a "managed democracy," or "competitive authoritarianism," or something else? – and provides a scenario of how it could break down. "Putin's Russia is a terminal case," Prof. Motyl writes. "Putin's Russia is in decay. Putin's hybrid authoritarian-fascist system is intrinsically brittle, susceptible to elite fragmentation, and incapable of sustaining modernization, coexisting with the middle class, and preventing rising discontent. ... the global effects of Russian turmoil would be substantial. These could include disruptions in energy production and supplies, the revival of the 'loose nukes' problem, the emergence of full-fledged guerrilla and terrorist movements in Russia's provinces, and the inability of Russia to play any kind of role in global affairs." See <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/article/fascistoid-russia-whither-putin-s-brittle-realm>.

- In "Ukraine, Like Russia, Is Becoming a 'Virtual Mafia State,'" on the New Atlanticist policy and analysis blog (March 1), Taras Kuzio writes about the sentence handed down to Ukraine's former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko. "Lutsenko, the scourge of the nexus of Yanukovich, the

Party of Regions, and organized crime, was jailed by the 'virtual mafia state' he sought to dismantle as Interior Minister," Dr. Kuzio notes. He goes on to cite 10 criteria that make Ukraine a virtual mafia state. See http://www.acus.org/new_atlanticist/ukraine-russia-becoming-virtual-mafia-state.

- In "Yanukovich Squints at a Second Term" (February 29), on his blog "Ukraine's Orange Blues" on the *World Affairs* website, Alexander J. Motyl writes: "In case you missed it, President Viktor Yanukovich gave a two-hour interview on Ukraine's popular ICTV channel in February. You'll be pleased to learn that Ukraine is in tip-top shape and that things will only get better." He notes that the president is "damned proud of his record" and quotes him as saying, "You know, I'm not ashamed to look people in the eye. And before these elections I will look people in the eye. I always did that and I will continue doing that." In fact, Prof. Motyl notes, the president is far away "from the people he claims to have looked in the eye." After all, he "spends all his life in glossy palaces and presidential suites, in whirring helicopters and whizzing limos, surrounded by even bigger guys with broad shoulders and calloused hands." See <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/blog/alexander-j-motyl/yanukovich-squints-second-term>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kudos to Kostash for her new book

Dear Editor:

I look forward to the book notices and reviews featured in The Ukrainian Weekly. The February 12 issue was especially appreciated – Oksana Zakydalsky's comments on five finalists for the Kobzar Literary Award.

Her summary of Myrna Kostash's "The Prodigal Daughter" sparked particular interest. I was motivated to order it, and I read it before the month was out. The range of emotions detectable behind Ms. Kostash's excellently crafted and thoughtful prose kept me riveted. The details she chose to include were just so very right.

Any tradition will feed its adherents, but it can also exercise its power to suffocate. I've certainly seen that a number of times. And how much it tends to do one rather than the other depends, I suppose, on the sensibilities of individual members. It's so very good to read a writer who has, over time, pushed out from the safe shore of our home-traditions (religious, cultural, national), questioning boldly but not without a tinge of a blush, and navigating it all in a wholly fresh manner. I mean, who'd have thought you could make some sense of our religious-cultural community by going into the Balkans and searching for a fourth-century martyr's identity?

For those who ever wondered about the things they've surrendered their hearts to since childhood, this book will be a real treat. Congrats to Ms. Kostash.

Matthew-Daniel Stremba
Baltimore

A reader reflects: dealing with Gazprom

Dear Editor:

Having personally been involved with Gazprom of Moscow as well as Naftohaz of Ukraine (formerly Ukgasprom) it is especially disheartening to see the pain that will be inflicted on the Ukrainian population due to the negotiating incompetence of the Yanukovich administration.

Without a doubt, Moscow ran circles around the Yanukovich team's negotiators on extending the term of the Russian Black Sea Fleet for "lower" gas prices. And now, the Yanukovich administration is on a path to "negotiate" for "lower gas prices" one of Ukraine's biggest technological treasures: kilometers of gas pipeline, hundreds of gas compressor stations and the largest under-

ground natural gas storage facility in Europe.

My personal experience in negotiating with Gazprom goes back to 1994-1997. I was negotiating numerous multi-million-dollar contracts with Gazprom to supply gas-flow-measuring computer systems. During a four-year period my technical and commercial negotiations required numerous yearly trips to Moscow and subsequently to Kyiv, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk.

At the start of our discussions I informed the Russian Gazprom representatives that all negotiations will be either in Ukrainian or English and that they are free to choose. Regardless of the fact that the chief engineer, his assistant and commercial representatives were all Ukrainians and all spoke Ukrainian, all technical and commercial discussions were always in English via an interpreter.

Our technical/commercial negotiations were rather straightforward – our company designs and builds the systems and Gazprom technical representatives inspect and certify compliance with the technical specifications. It was always stipulated in the contractual agreement that prior to shipment of the equipment to Moscow payment of 95 percent of the contract price had to be paid by letter of credit to a U.S. bank. After receipt of the equipment, Gazprom would make the final payment of 5 percent.

That final 5 percent payment of a multi-million dollar contract was never transmitted to our bank by Gazprom. After numerous efforts, faxes and my personal inquiries during subsequent visits to Moscow, our company never received the final 5 percent payment.

But the final 5 percent payment was not lost. Based on my personal insistence to our company management that the final payment of 5 percent would never be made by Gazprom our contract pricing was structured so that 95 percent was actually the final 100 percent payment. That is the only way to negotiate with Moscow. You have to be one step ahead of Moscow and leave nothing to chance.

My experience with technical and commercial contract negotiations with Ukrainian representatives in Kyiv, Lviv and Ivan-Frankivsk was extremely cordial, very pleasant and entirely different from those in Moscow. From 1997 through 2003 my engineering and commercial involvement was exclusively with gas companies in Kyiv, Lviv and Ivan-Frankivsk.

During all those years and multiple negotiated contracts with Ukrainian gas companies, there was never an instance when the Ukrainian representatives demanded a contractual 5 percent holdback. On every contract that was signed, payment was always at 100 percent prior to shipment.

Victor Babanskyj
Watchung, N.J.

Putin prepares...

(Continued from page 2)

is actively building separate special relations with Europe," announced Mr. Putin.

An aggressive foreign policy is coupled with preparations to quell opposition at home. Last week, Mr. Putin publicly repeated that internal opposition demands for free and fair elections are "supported from abroad to destabilize Russia, using illegal soft power." Mr. Putin announced, "The opposition is preparing to falsely declare the [March 4] presidential elections illegal and rigged." Mr. Putin insisted he has information that during opposition protest rallies "provocations are being prepared" and that

the opposition "will exterminate someone" of their own, that they are seeking someone "of the known people to appoint to be a holy offering," to later blame the authorities. "These people can do anything, I am not exaggerating," Mr. Putin publicly stated.

The threat of a violent repression of the prodemocracy movement seems imminent. Mr. Putin demands the opposition must fully accept the results of a phony presidential election and shut up – "accept the will of the majority" – or else (<http://Mr.Putin2012.ru/events/337>, February 29).

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

CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

"Beneath the Open Sky"

At first glance, the photo looks like a scene from Kharkiv in 1932-1933: in the foreground, only partly visible, a passer-by; in the background, a woman lying huddled in the snow-laden street. On closer inspection one sees that the woman has set out a receptacle for alms, displaying an icon of the Virgin and Child. The passer-by is a well-dressed lady in fashionable boots. It is not, we realize, the winter of the Holodomor, but a contemporary scene in Kyiv.

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reports that in the recent cold wave, with temperatures below minus-30 degrees Celsius, more than 135 people have died in Ukraine. The frozen bodies of 64 homeless people were found in the streets of its cities. This death toll has been Europe's highest. According to Mariana Sokha, editor of the Lviv street newspaper Prosto Neba ("Beneath the Open Sky"), it may be even higher than estimated.

Government authorities set up over 3,000 heating stations across the country, where the homeless were given food and hot tea. Health officials instructed hospitals not to discharge homeless patients, in order to spare them from the cold. But because of the lack of full-time shelters, and insufficient efforts to direct people to them, many homeless perished.

A number of stereotypes are associated with homelessness. In the former USSR, being a "bomzh" – the Russian acronym for a person "without a definite place of residence" – and wandering about, begging, or leading a "parasitic way of life," was a crime. Today, the homeless are still equated with criminals, drug addicts, alcoholics and "anti-social elements." Pavlo Rozenko of the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center has stated that such negative attitudes contributed to the poor official response to the winter crisis. Yet the stereotypes are not entirely without foundation. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 43 percent of the homeless are ex-prisoners, while 40 percent report addiction to alcohol.

How many people are homeless in Ukraine? Statistics are fragmentary and vary widely. Officially, they number 15,000, but according to civic organizations there may be 600,000 to 800,000. In 2005 a survey estimated over 40,000 homeless in the country. According to a 2004 survey of 16 cities with 1,200 respondents, 60 percent of Ukraine's homeless are men, and more than half are from the working class. Many have migrated to the cities from the impoverished countryside. Others have come to Ukraine from poverty-stricken, war-ravaged regions of Asia and Africa.

In the recent winter crisis, most of the deaths were in eastern Ukraine, which has the highest unemployment. At the same time, rural homelessness goes largely unnoticed. There are reportedly more cases of homelessness in Ukraine than in any other Eastern European country.

How do people become homeless? Some cannot afford housing because they are unemployed or earn low wages. Others cannot find a place to live because developers flout laws requiring construction of low-income housing. Some have recently been released from the army or from prison, or have been thrown out of their homes by their spouses or families. Many have migrated from villages to the cities looking

for work. Some are abandoned children.

Today, there are about a hundred social agencies providing services for homeless people in Ukraine, roughly a third of which are non-governmental. A pioneering project in Odesa, "A Road Home," was begun in 1996. The Community of Mutual Aid Oselya has worked for 10 years in Lviv. Since 2003, a joint project with the Netherlands has provided aid to homeless women in Kyiv. Another collaborative project, with Austria, operates in Chernivtsi.

Unfortunately, the quantity and training of staff, as well as financial resources, remain insufficient. In recent years, the Ukrainian media have begun to publicize the problem. As Ms. Sokha remarks, this provides another opportunity to break the barrier between homeless people and society.

According to Anastasia Riabchuk, a sociologist at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and an expert on homelessness, there are two basic attitudes toward the homeless in Ukrainian society. The "conservative" view is that their plight is their own fault. The "liberal" understanding is that the homeless are just like the rest of us, but unlucky; therefore, they deserve charity. Neither attitude, she argues, is adequate. Homelessness is a by-product of the transition from socialism to a capitalist market economy. The homeless have a human right to habitation, which the state must honor.

But appeals to human rights, or even socio-economic reforms, are not likely to solve the problem. It is fundamental attitudes that must change. Until they do, the homeless are likely to stay in the street.

The photograph mentioned at the beginning of this column was published in Street Sense, a newspaper staffed by volunteers and sold by homeless people in Washington. The registered vendors keep a percentage of the proceeds of their sales. Since they tend to work every day in the same location, commuters get to know them and often stop to chat. They discover that many of the homeless are creative, intelligent and sometimes well-educated people. Many are deeply religious, perhaps because those who have been furthest from God feel his presence most keenly. And none of them wants to live in the street.

Gradually, the psychological barrier between ordinary citizens and the homeless is broken down. If they see a homeless person lying in the street, they are more likely to recognize him as their neighbor and not – like the priest and the Levite in the parable of the good Samaritan, or the well-dressed pedestrian in the photo from Kyiv – look away and walk on.

Sources: "Cold-Weather Deaths Shed Light on Plight of Ukraine's Homeless," RFE/RL Ukrainian Service, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 12, pp. 2-3; "Ukraine's Homeless Suffer through Big Freeze: Resources Stretched Thin," *Street News Service*, *Street Sense* February 15-28, p. 6; N. Kabachenko, "The Problem of Homelessness in Ukraine," Anastasia Riabchuk, "Bezdomni Kyieva," *Politika*, November 24, 2007.

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Ukrainian Catholic...

(Continued from page 4)

born to deported and exiled parents in the Baikal region of Siberia. Her father, who was forced to work in a mine shaft in Siberia, was a Ukrainian who hailed from Zarvanytsia, Ternopil Oblast, while Sister Barbara's mother, of Ukrainian and Polish lineage, was born in the Sambir district of the Lviv Oblast. In 1961 the Hrynshyn family was allowed to return to Ukraine.

"The founder of our order declared that our sisters should serve where the Church needs our help the most, and that is why I am here with these children," Sister Barbara added.

The second family-type orphanage in Bibrka is administered by the Sisters of the Holy Family of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, and is home to nine children. The majority of these children come from broken homes and in the Bibrka home they are provided with much-needed attention, care and love.

Currently supervised by two nuns, this family-style orphanage enjoys good relations with the Government Social Services Program and receives state subsidies in the form of food, clothing and education for the children. All other expenses – such as any type of transportation, educational field trips, summer recreation – are financed by private donations. As a result, the UCEF's Ginger Fund offsets the orphanage's transportation costs and needs by donating a mini-van for the benefit of the children.

Originally constructed at the beginning of the 20th century for members of the Polish nobility, during the Soviet era the facility was converted into a kindergarten followed by a state natural gas management bureau. In 1991, the Lviv Oblast authorities relinquished the building to the Sisters of the Holy Family as a novitiate. In 2007, the

sisters converted the premises into a family-type orphanage. At present, the premises consist of seven rooms, plus a kitchen, with an overall area of 230 square meters.

The parents of most of the children are either alcoholics or mentally ill and have therefore been designated unfit to care for their children. Given such circumstances, the sisters strive to instill a sense of responsibility and assertiveness in the children, many of whom, having already bounced around from one regular orphanage to another, possess no sense of stable family life.

The sisters also try to encourage the children to develop the desire to learn. However, the sisters admit that it is not always easy to find a qualified and competent teacher who is willing to devote considerable effort and patience in working with the kids.

The orphans, consisting of three boys and six girls ranging in age from 5 to 11, are often visited by their fellow classmates from the local elementary school. This positive aspect provides the children the opportunity to interact and play with their peers. In fact, some of the children have qualified for adoption, but they actually enjoy their life at the family-type orphanage so much that they refuse to be adopted.

* * *

The Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv administers the Ginger Fund in Ukraine for the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation.

For further information about UCU (in English and Ukrainian) please refer to the university's website at www.ucu.edu.ua

The UCEF in the U.S. may be contacted in writing at 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; phone, 773-235-8462; e-mail, ucef@ucef.org; website, www.ucef.org

The UCEF in Canada may be contacted in writing at 263 Bering Ave., Toronto, ON M8Z 3A5; phone, 416-239-2495; e-mail: info@ucef.ca.

International observers...

(Continued from page 3)

posed to Parliament – but not yet passed," said Tiny Kox, the Head of the delegation of Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly.

"There were serious problems from the very start of this election. The point of elections is that the outcome should be uncertain. This was not the case in Russia. There was no real competition and abuse of government resources ensured that the ultimate winner of the election was never in doubt," said Tonino Picula, the Special Co-ordinator to lead the short-term OSCE observer mission and Head of the delega-

tion of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

"In this election, candidates could not compete on an equal footing. Although the authorities made some effort to improve transparency, there remained widespread mistrust in the integrity of the election process. As a first step, all allegations of electoral violations need to be thoroughly investigated. In an encouraging development, we have seen a great number of citizens taking part in overseeing the election. Their active involvement can be a powerful vehicle for increasing confidence in future elections," said Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini, the Head of the Election Observation Mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Canadian Group...

(Continued from page 6)

distinctions would underscore that sustaining democracy in Ukraine is critical to the region (a democratic Ukraine stimulates Russia toward democracy) and to global peace and security, and that Ukraine's dangerous reality vis-à-vis its democrats is a vital message to other emerging democracies like the Arab Spring.

Together, we shall overcome. Justice will triumph and Yulia Tymoshenko, Yurii Lutsenko and the other Ukrainian political prisoners will go free. To assist your efforts, further information is available at: http://blackseahall.ca/cgdu/CGDU_120224_Eng.docx, <http://www.tymoshenko.ua/en> and <http://www.nso.org.ua/ua>. Share your initiatives at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cg4du/>.

With warm regards,

On behalf of the Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine:

Oksana Bashuk Hepburn
Walter Derzko
Marco Levytsky
Myroslava Oleksiuk
Marta Onufriv
Andriy Zhalko Tytarenko

The Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine is a newly created grassroots organization comprising Canadians concerned with Ukraine's backsliding towards dictatorship under the leadership of President Viktor Yanukovich. The group is guided in its raison d'être by its democratic Canadian experience, its right as citizens of a free country concerned with a fledgling democracy, as well as its keen interest in peace and security in the world.

The Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine acts in response to the call of Ukraine's democrats who, unable to fight the slide into dictatorship on their own, need friends like Canada and other democracies to assist them in staying the course of freedom, rule of law and democracy.

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Soprano Victoria Loukianetz debuts in Washington concert

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – Soprano Victoria Loukianetz, the Ukrainian-born operatic soloist who has been performing on the world's opera and concert stages for more than 20 years, made her Washington debut on February 10. Joining her on the recital hall stage of the Austrian Embassy was her Ukrainian compatriot, pianist Marianna Humetska.

The concert, featuring the works of Austrian and Ukrainian composers, was organized by The Washington Group Cultural Fund and co-sponsored by the Washington embassies of the two countries.

With Ms. Humetska in accompaniment, Ms. Loukianetz began the program with Mozart's "Exultate Jubilate" motet, followed by four songs by Schubert, "Vilja Lied" from Franz Lehar's opera "Die Lustige Witwe" and the "Czardas" from "Die Fledermaus" by Strauss.

After intermission, they continued with six original Ukrainian songs by Taras Yashchenko, after which Ms. Humetska played a dance from Myroslav Skoryk's "Hutsul Triptych" and his "Melody." They concluded the program with three of Skoryk's Ukrainian wedding songs – "The Crows Are Flying," "The Swaying Gate" and

"The Rustling Hazel Bush."

The audience would not let the performers rest, however, calling them back onto the stage with their ovations until they were rewarded with two more Ukrainian songs and "Meine Lippen" by Lehar.

Cecelia Porter, a Washington-area classical music critic whose reviews are often published in *The Washington Post*, later shared her assessment of the performance with the concert organizers.

She noted that, known largely from her performances on the opera stage, Ms. Loukianetz, "carefully adjusted her capacious voice to the resonant acoustics and dimensions" of the Embassy's hall. She demonstrated how she is able to "fine-tune her voice to meet challenging coloratura antics while maintaining her resilient tone quality" in Mozart's motet, the "molten fluidity" in Schubert's lieder, and then balance the "wringing emotions" of his lieder with Lehar's ebullient "Vilja Lied" and Strauss's "Czardas."

After intermission, according to Ms. Porter, Ms. Loukianetz affirmed her "rock-solid intonation and sensitive phrasing" in her performance of the "often impassioned and sometimes impressionistic" Yashchenko works and Skoryk's "often jazzy selections." And Ms. Humetska gave an "exciting account" of Skoryk's "Hutsul Triptych"



Yaro Bihun

Soprano Victoria Loukianetz (right) and pianist Marianna Humetska perform an encore at the conclusion of their concert at the Embassy of Austria in Washington.

dance, which she arranged for piano.

On a negative side, the critic noted that those in the audience who did not know Ukrainian would have appreciated translated texts of the Ukrainian songs in the program.

Ms. Loukianetz was born in Kyiv, where

she began her musical training at the age of 5, initially on the piano and nine years later as a vocalist. She graduated from the Kyiv Conservatory in 1989, launching her professional career as a soloist with the Kyiv

(Continued on page 16)

Yara Arts Group holds "Re-Imagine: Ourselves" festival at UIA



Ihor Slabicky

Ensemble Hilka with Virlana Tkacz (center).

by Ihor Slabicky

NEW YORK – The last weekend of January witnessed the 18th major cultural event presented by Virlana Tkacz and the Yara Arts Group at the Ukrainian Institute of America. Titled "Re-Imagine: Ourselves," the festival was held over three days.

On Friday, January 27, an art exhibit opened with performances on the move. In this unique approach, audience members were guided through the three floors of the mansion into rooms that were filled with poetry and dance as they entered.

The performances featured Olena Jennings, Wanda Phipps, and Christine Turczyn reading from their works, poet Bob Holman performing with world-renowned bandurist Julian Kytasty, and Sophia Holman performing her work "The Box." Other performers included dancer Inka Juslin, harpist Odarka Polanskyj-Stockert, cellist Paul Brantley and performance artist Teng Chao-Ming.

As they walked through the rooms, the audience viewed art works, curated by Virlana Tkacz and Andrea Wenglowksyj, by a number of artists long associated with the Yara Arts Group. These included works by: Roman Hrab, Petro Hrytsyk, Peter Ihnat, Olga

Maryschuk, Margaret Morton, Anna Sydorenko/Serhiy Yakunin and Marybeth Ward. There were new names as well, including Roberto Ekholm, June Kim, Sky Kim, Emeraldal Kosmatopoulos, Karissa Lang, Soo Im Lee, Macacas Productions, David Maione, Serge Matsko, Christina Shmigel, Kateryna Svirgunenko and Hiba Schahbaz.

Included in the exhibit were several brief video art works from Laura Arena, Lani Asuncion, Katya Grokhovsky, Maria Niro, Laurence Payot, Hidemi Takagi, Tahir Un and Ezra Wube, as well as Yara video artists Volodymyr Klyuzko, Andrea Odezynska and Mikhail Shraga.

In the fourth-floor gallery, one could enjoy the Augustin and Maria Shumyk collection of works by Alexander Archipenko. After the performances, guests had a chance to meet with the artists at a tasteful wine and cheese reception.

Saturday, January 28, was a day full of events. In the afternoon, Alla Zahaykevych from Kyiv conducted a workshop featuring village songs from the Polissia region. With her massive repertoire garnered from her ethnographic expeditions to the Polissia region of Ukraine as a member of Drevo, she had first-hand experience singing with the women and men in these villages. Her

workshop was a golden opportunity to learn some of the techniques and voices that come naturally to those village singers.

Ensemble Hilka opened the Saturday evening concert with selections from the Chernobyl Songs Project that they had performed on tour in December 2011.

The Yara Arts Group performed "Song 2" by Oleh Lysheha and "Paprika" by Serhiy

Zhadan. With Andrew Colteaux speaking in English, and Stefka Nazarkewycz and Romana Soutus in Ukrainian, the effect was amazing to a bilingual listener. Upon hearing the lines in one language, one created mental images that go along with that language. Then hearing the same lines in the other language, the listener surprisingly discovered that they created different mental images.

Ms. Zahaykevych describes her works as "electronic music." That is not quite right – she is a sound artist, a transformer and creator of sounds extraordinary. She samples sounds, creates her own and composes aural images from them. In her performance of "Dykhaty (To Breathe)," she accompanied one of her ambient creations with her voice, blowing lightly into the microphone, vocalizing and manipulating sounds, creating a soundscape that at times felt like the wind, sometimes just a slight breeze, sometimes a fury crashing through the landscape.

Mr. Colteaux, Brian Dolphin, Kat Yew, Chris Ignacio, and Ms. Soutus returned to perform a lyrically delightful "I Hear

(Continued on page 14)



Debutante Hour performs at the Ukrainian Institute of America.



Plonna cemetery: Joan Klim headstone before restoration, 2009.



Siemuszowa old cemetery: Tekla Buryk headstone before restoration, 2008.

New life for old cemeteries in the Lemko region of Poland



Plonna cemetery: Joan Klim headstone restored, 2009.



Siemuszowa old cemetery: Tekla Buryk restored headstone, 2008.



Przybyszow cemetery: Jurko Prelka headstone before restoration, 2011.



Przybyszow cemetery: Jurko Prelka headstone restored, 2011.

by Michael Buryk

The old cemetery in Siemuszowa

It was very late in the afternoon when we arrived at the old cemetery in Siemuszowa. The sun was beginning to cast long shadows all around the lush green hills surrounding the small, quiet village. It was not my first time in Poland, but it was my first visit to my ancestral home. My cousin Volodya Cherepanyak and his 85-year-old Aunt Katarzyna Tymczak-Czerepaniak maneuvered slowly and carefully through the thick grass that was growing taller by the day. I set off on my own in a slightly different direction to capture images of as many headstones as I could with my digital camera.

This cemetery looked nothing like the one in Llewellyn, Pa., near Minersville where my Baba Julia and Gigi Mike were buried. There the headstones were crowded together and the gravesites showed traces of regular visits by family to care for them. Here at the old cemetery in Siemuszowa there were few personal touches like flowers or candles, and the headstones were randomly spaced with a lot of room in between. Probably other headstones crumbled long ago to leave

Mike Buryk is a Ukrainian American writer whose research focuses on Lemko and Ukrainian genealogy and the history of Ukrainians in the United States. Readers may contact him at michael.buryk@verizon.net. His website is: http://www.buryk.com/our_patch/. He extends special thanks to Ewa Bryla for being interviewed for this article, to Ewa Charowska for assisting with the Polish translation and to Volodya Cherepanyak for his technical assistance during the phone interview.

these open spaces.

Down the hill, right next to the old wooden (formerly) Greek-Catholic Church of the Transfiguration of Our Lord was the new cemetery, which was well-kept and full of fresh flowers and burning memorial candles. This church is now a Polish Catholic parish and its deceased members are buried nearby. Along with them were interred a few of the former Ukrainian residents.

A year before my visit here, I became very excited in the spring of 2008 when I saw this notice posted by Viktoriya Pryadko in a PDF on the Internet.

"Hello, dear friends!

"I am looking for volunteers for my two work camps: in Holuczko and Siemuszowa. They are starting very soon, but I don't have enough people willing to go there...Could you spread the information about them among your friends, people that you know?... Or, of course, you can go for these work camps yourself...Work camps take place in the Polish mountains, in a very picturesque area, and concern renovating old cemeteries (with the help of professional stone-workers). The detailed description of the work camps is below."

I followed up with a brief correspondence to the e-mail address listed, but did not find out much. The person to whom I was writing spoke limited English and my Polish was non-existent then. But, I looked forward to seeing the results of this restoration effort.

A few years back, I had seen some photos of the old cemetery taken by my cousin Maria Czerepaniak-Walczak on a visit there. It looked impassable and completely overgrown with wild vegetation and many unpruned trees.

So, when I finally arrived at the old cemetery late on a Saturday afternoon in May 2009, I was pleasantly surprised to see that

the grounds were walkable and many of the headstones were easy to read, although many were still indecipherable, with the stone inscriptions fatigued from many years of exposure to the elements. The oldest remaining headstones showed inscriptions from the early part of the 20th century for village residents who were born as far back as 1836. And I did find a few of my own family: Czerepaniak, Hlib, Szwejlyk, Charowski.

But there were no Gburyk headstones to be found. I was later told that my great-great-grandmother, Maria Gburyk, was buried with Rozalia Hlib, who was her daughter Katarzyna's mother-in-law. But, no evidence of my great grandfather Andrej was to be found anywhere. I did later determine that the headstone of a Tekla Buryk was actually that of the wife of my great-great-uncle Joseph Gburyk.

I made a mental note then to dig up information about whoever was responsible for bringing the old cemetery in Siemuszowa back to life. And so this spring 2011 I tried my usual Internet research tactics to uncover a trail that would lead back to the restorers. Completely by chance, I found an e-mail address for Ms. Pryadko who had posted the original PDF about restoration work camps in Siemuszowa.

Viktoriya, a Ukrainian Lemko, was one of the key volunteers in 2008 who helped to organize the other volunteers for the work camps. After some correspondence back and forth, she pointed me to Ewa Bryla, the founder of the Minority Association of Carpathian Heritage (SDMK is its abbreviation in Polish) based in Zagorze, Poland.

Dr. Ewa Bryla's preservation work

In the past, there were some 1,500 Lemko cemeteries in the hills, mountains and valleys of southeastern Poland. The

ravages of Akcja Wisla in 1947 completely destroyed some, while others were left to slowly fade and eventually resemble the countryside from which they were first carved.

Without the local original parishioners and their descendants to maintain the grounds and repair the crumbling headstones and ironwork, many of the old cemeteries became like the one in Siemuszowa: scattered ruins of a deliberately forgotten past.

Dr. Bryla, a Ukrainian Lemko, is a professor at the Krakow University of Technology Institute of Economics, Philosophy and Sociology, where she works full time. But, she maintains a residence in Zagorze near Sanok. Her mother, a member of the Bindas family, was from the small hamlet of Laski near Tyrawa Woloska not far from Siemuszowa. Her father was from the village of Wolica near Bukowsko, which is south of Sanok.

Dr. Bryla became interested in finding her roots in the Tyrawa valley area. She began by contacting Walter Maksimovich, the founder and owner of the lemko.org website. Mr. Maksimovich knew a man from Tyrawa Woloska, Walter Zelwak. Mr. Zelwak was interested in doing something about the ruined conditioned of the Greek-Catholic cemetery in his own town.

At first Dr. Bryla wasn't sure she could undertake such a project, but eventually decided to get involved. During the summer of 2004, she used her vacation time and joined with some of her family and Mr. Zelwak's relatives in an effort to clean up this cemetery.

As she was cutting through the thick brush, Dr. Bryla became upset by the condi-

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

challenge for Ukraine. Speaking as a guest on the "Shuster Live" TV show on March 5, Mr. Nalyvaichenko emphasized that "Putin's new presidency is a new challenge to the democratic development and European choice of Ukraine." The former chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) said that the choice of Russians was

totally controlled by the government. "All real and dangerous opponents to the regime were not even allowed to participate in the election, a parallel vote count was nearly broken, and independent observers recorded thousands of gross violations on the voting day," Mr. Nalyvaichenko explained. He noted that the Ukrainian government should stop its "multi-vector" policy, as it has long been ineffective and even dangerous for Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Court confirms legality fine for Yulia

KYIV – The Supreme Administrative Court of Ukraine has declared lawful the claims of the Procurator General's Office and the State Tax Administration against the former head of the United Energy Systems of Ukraine (UESU), Yulia Tymoshenko, for not paying taxes in the 1990s when using funds from Somolli Enterprises Ltd. The decision was announced on March 5 by the presiding judge, Oleksander Nechytailo, having dismissed the appeal by Ms. Tymoshenko and her lawyer, Borys Nechyporenko, against a decision of the District Administrative Court of Kyiv and Kyiv Administrative Court of Appeals, which overturned a decision of the Shevchenkivsky District Court of Kyiv of February 1, 2005, to close the proceedings in the case regarding funds from Somolli Enterprises. Commenting on the decision, Mr. Nechyporenko said, "I am now completely convinced that there is no justice in Ukraine, because even in Soviet times the judges could not allow this." Under the court ruling, Ms. Tymoshenko must pay 954,676 hrv in taxes and 1,355,908 million hrv in penalties. (Ukrinform)

world community. He recalled that last year he discussed with the leadership of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) the work of a management team for the new containment project. "Ukraine must clearly fulfill its obligations to finance projects at the Chernobyl site," Mr. Yanukovich underscored. As Mr. Baloha stated after the meeting, today it is important to ensure that work at the Chernobyl site is performed according to schedule agreed upon with the EBRD, and to complete the work by 2015. (Ukrinform)

Expert sees little chance for IMF loan

KYIV – The chances of Ukraine getting an International Monetary Fund loan do not exceed 5 percent, financial analyst Erik Naiman told reporters in Kyiv on March 1. "The chances of getting the loan and reengagement with the IMF are very small and can be now estimated at just 5 percent. On Wednesday, February 29, the NBU [National Bank of Ukraine] redeemed the first tranche of the IMF loan in the amount of \$600 million. Overall, in 2012 Ukraine has to pay back, including the interest, about \$3.7 billion," the expert emphasized. According to Mr. Naiman, the amount is not critical but, without structural economic reforms, "the second half of 2012 for the National Bank will be quite problematic and difficult." The financial analyst noted that the decrease in reserves of the NBU, which began in autumn 2011, will continue and perhaps even speed up. "The government and the NBU are facing a problem of not only repaying a \$3.7 billion loan, but also the trade deficit, difficulties with drawing foreign investment before the parliamentary elections. Many foreign investors are waiting today and are not investing in Ukraine," he said. (Ukrinform)

Azarov warns of political provocateurs

KYIV – The number of political provocateurs who will try to undermine political stability in Ukraine will significantly grow ahead of parliamentary elections in the country this autumn, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said on March 1 during a lecture titled "How to Ensure the Sustainable Development of Ukraine" given to students of higher educational establishments during a working visit to the Zakarpattia region. "There will be a lot of political provocateurs in the country, especially ahead of the elections. And their main task is to undermine confidence in the authorities. And the undermined confidence in the authorities will immediately undermine confidence in economic and political steps by the authorities. It's much easier to prompt deceived people to endorse wrong decisions," Mr. Azarov said. He predicted that during the election campaign provocateurs would propose openly

(Continued on page 13)

Ukraine first in number of taxes

KYIV – According to 2011 statistics, Ukraine ranked highest in the world in terms of the number of taxes, the president of the Ukrainian Analytical Center, Oleksander Okhrimenko, reported on his blog on March 5. "According to information from the World Bank, in 2011 Ukraine ranked first in the world by the number of taxes. Not by the amount of taxes, but just by their number. The World Bank calculated that Ukrainian businesses in various forms pay 135 different taxes. This is an absolute world record. Romania is the second in this rating. But it looks weak, as it has only 113 taxes. Jamaica is ranked third with 72 taxes," Mr. Okhrimenko wrote. He noted that only three taxes are levied in Hong Kong, four taxes in Georgia, Sweden and Norway, and five taxes in Singapore. At the same time, only seven taxes exist in France. In Great Britain, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Finland there exist only eight taxes. In the U.S. there are 11 different taxes. A new tax code went into effect in Ukraine on January 1. (Ukrinform)

Emergencies minister reports on Chernobyl

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich has heard a report by Minister of Emergencies Viktor Baloha on the start of a project to erect a new safe containment structure at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The meeting was held at the president's residence in Novi Petrivtsi (Mezhyhiria), the president's press office reported on March 3. Mr. Yanukovich noted that overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster is crucial for Ukraine and for the entire

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

populist decisions, as is currently happening in Russia, where individual candidates promise "golden mountains" if they come to power, in particular, to double the size of pensions, salaries or stipends, and create millions of additional jobs. "I see now how candidates for the Russian presidency easily make such promises and deceive people. And I'm very pleased that you, students, know perfectly well that it's impossible to fulfill such promises in a year or two," the prime minister said. (Ukrinform)

Lawyer sentenced for baby selling

SAN DIEGO – A U.S. federal judge on February 24 sentenced an internationally known surrogacy lawyer to five months in prison and nine months of home confinement for her role in a baby-selling scheme that prosecutors say spanned two continents and netted millions of dollars. With her guilty plea, Theresa Erickson acknowledged that she and two other women used numerous surrogate mothers to create an inventory of unborn babies that they would sell for more than \$100,000 each, federal prosecutors said. U.S. surrogates were sent to be impregnated in Ukraine with embryos from anonymous donors. When the women were in their second trimester, Ms. Erickson and her conspirators offered the babies to prospective parents, telling them the developing fetuses were the results of legal surrogacy arrangements in which the original parents backed out. She acknowledged fraudulently representing in court documents that the surrogacy arrangements were legitimate, which allowed the conspirators to profit from the sale of parental rights, prosecutors said. She also acknowledged filing false applications for the surrogates to California's state insurance program to subsidize the medical costs of the deliveries. U.S. District Court Judge Anthony Bataglia also ordered Ms. Erickson to pay a \$70,000 fine. Judge Bataglia sentenced co-defendant Carla Chambers to five months in prison and seven months of home confinement. She pleaded guilty to conspiracy to engage in monetary transactions derived from unlawful activity. Ms. Chambers, a former surrogate, recruited the surrogates, prosecutors said. (Associated Press)

Kyiv prepares to ratify FTA with CIS

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada is preparing

to ratify an agreement on the creation of a free trade area (FTA) with countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn said at a meeting of the Parliament's conciliatory council on February 6. "We are currently considering the question of the simultaneous consideration of the FTA agreement with CIS countries and with all parties that signed this agreement, in order to prevent the situation when we, in due time, ratified an agreement but it did not start working," Mr. Lytvyn said. Ukrainian First Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development and Trade Andriy Kliuyev, in turn, said that the government would ensure the timely submission of a draft agreement for ratification by Parliament. Mr. Kliuyev said that the agreement must be ratified as quickly as possible. In addition, he said that, according to the conclusions the European Commission, "the FTA agreement with the CIS countries is not contrary to the free trade area with the European Union." Earlier, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said that the agreement on the free trade area in the CIS was not ideal, but "exclusively positive" for Ukraine. Its ratification, he believes, will help solve the "gas issue" with Russia. According to the calculations of the government commissioner for cooperation with the Russian Federation, CIS member-countries, the Eurasian Economic Community and other regional associations, Valerii Muntian, a free trade area with the CIS countries will boost Ukraine's GDP growth by 2.5 percent, or 37.5 billion hrv, in 2012 prices. (Ukrinform)

Average salary grows by 16.2 percent

KYIV – The average monthly salary of a full-time employee in Ukraine in December 2011 amounted to 3,054 hrv (\$382), which was 16.2 percent more than in December 2010, the State Statistics Service reported on January 26. The highest average salary was reported in the field of air transport (9,196 hrv) and the sphere of financial activities (5,898 hrv), whereas the lowest was recorded in the fisheries sector (1,567 hrv) and agriculture and related services (1,960 hrv). In terms of regions, the highest average salary of full-time employees was reported in the city of Kyiv (4,819 hrv) and Donetsk Oblast (3,439 hrv), whereas the lowest salary was recorded in Ternopil Oblast (2,132 hrv) and Chernihiv Oblast (2,211 hrv). The average monthly salary of a full-time employee in Ukraine in November 2011 amounted to 2,727 hrv. (Ukrinform)



On the 20th Anniversary of the departure to Eternal Rest of Mgr. Irene (Orysia) Horodylowska

and

on the 30th Anniversary of the departure to Eternal Rest of Dr. Yurij Horodylowsky

Divine Liturgies will be offered at these
Ukrainian Catholic Churches:

- Sts. Volodymyr and Olha in Chicago, Ill, on March 19, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.;
- St. John the Baptist in Irvington, NJ, on March 21, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.;
- Newly Blessed Martyrs of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (Stryiskyi Park) in Lviv, Ukraine, on March 17, 2012;
- Sobor of St. Sophia in Rome, Italy, on March 18, 2012.

Our family asks for your prayers for the repose of Their souls.

daughters - Zirka Horodylowsky-Smorodsky with husband Myroslaw and family.

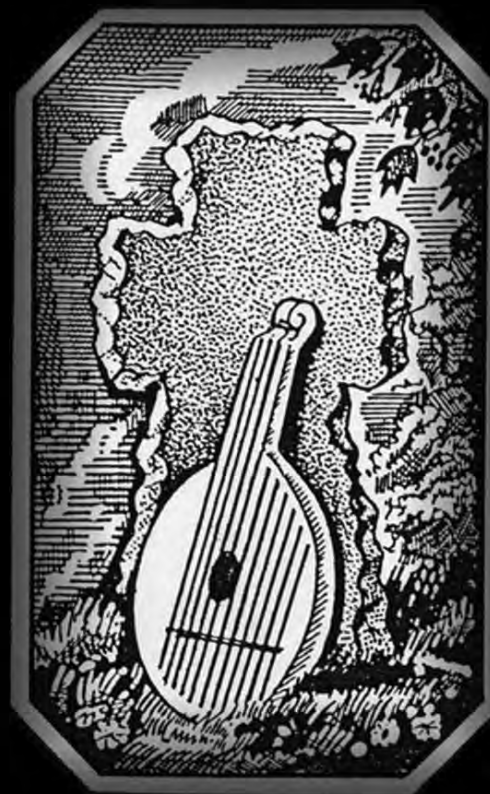
- Marta Horodylowsky-Kozyckyj and family.

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СВ. П.

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| | – ХРИСТИНА (ТУНЯ) СОРОБЕЙ з РОМАНОМ СОРОБЕЙ |
| внуки | – ДАНКО, ГРИЦЬКО і НІНА КОЦКО |
| | – ТАІСА і СТЕФКО СОРОБЕЙ |
| брат | – ІВАСЬ ГАВРИЛЮК з родиною ДАРКА і МИРОН ЯРОШЕВИЧ з дітьми. |

Бажаючих вшанувати пам'ять покійної МАРІЙКИ, родина просить скласти пожертви на UNWLA INC. – Scholarship Program, або на Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Attn: Jill Zatorski, 633 Third Ave, 28th Fl., New York, NY 10017, to support Dr. Nikolett Lendvai's research.

New life for old...

(Continued from page 11)

tions she witnessed. Why were the Greek-Catholic cemeteries allowed to fall into such a state of decay? She knew then that she wanted to preserve these cemeteries and it would take more than a couple of local volunteers and a few extra zloty to do this.

The next year she formed SDMK as a non-profit in Poland. Szymon Modrzejewski, a stonemason who was also very active in efforts to restore Lemko cemeteries as early as 1986 and had formed the Magurycz Association in 2008, became involved in the early preservation work. He also offered advice on how to obtain outside funding.

During the summer of 2005, SDMK began its formal work in the Tyrawa Woloska gmina (local community). Assisting this effort were several organizations, local authorities and volunteers. Also involved was Dr. Bryla's older brother Peter – a mechanic, builder, handyman and a self-taught mason.

In 2007, after receiving some additional funding, four cemeteries were restored in the Tyrawa Woloska area, including the Greek-Catholic and Jewish ones, as well as the Greek-Catholic cemeteries in Krecow and Rozpucie. In 2008, restoration work took place in the cemeteries of Siemuszowa, Holuczkow and Rakowa. In 2009, there was also renovation of historic and forgotten graves near the church of St. Nicholas in Tyrawa Woloska and the local Roman Catholic parish cemetery.

Further renovations also took place in parallel in the foothills of Bukowsko (Pogorze Bukowskie) region south of Sanok – the village of Plonna in the municipality of Bukowsko, and in the Bieszczady Mountains the village of Polyana in the municipality of Czarna. In Plonna, three cemeteries were renovated: near the old Greek-Catholic

church parish and the old Roman Catholic church square. In addition to repairing the Plonna Greek-Catholic cemetery, renovation was started of the destroyed stone church in which the Communists had located storage for the nearby PGR state farm.

In 2010 SDMK worked on cemeteries in the vicinity of the Tyrawa Woloska community in the villages of Stankowa and Paszowa. In the meantime, other renovations took place in the cemeteries of the villages Paniszczow and Izby near Uscie Gorlice and Wola Sokolowa. Also, individual graves were restored in the villages of Dewiatyr and Nowe Selo in Lubaczow county near the South Roztocze landscape park.

In 2011 SDMK turned its efforts to Bukowsko and the villages of Karlikow, Przybyszow and Zagorz, where the headquarters of the association was established. While restoring cemeteries, SDMK also conducted workshops on the history of the area and its multicultural past, which had evolved there over many hundreds of years before the tragedy of Akcja Wisla.

Another activity of the association is taking inventory of ruined churches in cooperation with students at the Faculty of Architecture University of Technology in Krakow. As of today, the churches were inventoried in 20 villages – from the Lower Beskid Mountains, the Slonne Mountains and near the Bieszczady Mountains in the vicinity of Roztocze.

And what has been the reaction of the local inhabitants and the authorities to the various restoration and inventory projects? Dr. Bryla says the authorities responded favorably and granted permission for her group to set up the work camps. Their cooperation was crucial since the land of many of the old cemeteries actually belongs to the gmina.

The villagers, who were naturally reluctant at first and cool to outsiders coming into their communities and uncovering and

preserving some very painful memories, eventually became neutral and ultimately friendly.

And what's next?

So where does SDMK go from here? Dr. Bryla points out that funding for her efforts is very much on a project-by-project basis. Her past sponsors have included the Foundation Bieszczadzka, the Stefan Batory Foundation, the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and various churches and private individuals, but she is always searching for new sources of funding.

Unfortunately, money to rescue old Ukrainian (e.g., Lemko, Boyko) cemeteries or for other minorities in Poland is not easy to find.

For 2012-2013, the group is considering a restoration project for the old Greek-Catholic cemetery in Tyrawa Solna (the village next to Siemuszowa), which dates back some 200 years. The newer cemetery is well-maintained and sits next to St. John the

Baptist Church (now used by a Roman Catholic parish which allows a Ukrainian Orthodox service to take place once a month to accommodate the local community).

Restoration of the old cemetery would include clearing some brush and tree overgrowth, as well as stone and ironwork. Dr. Bryla's brother Peter now is in charge of all restoration activity. She is just beginning to secure funding for this project and welcomes any donations and new sponsors.

If you would like to learn more about SDMK and their very important work of preserving cemeteries in the Lemko region of Poland, you can find out more here: <http://dmk.witryna.org/index.php?wew=wstep>.

Dr. Bryla can be reached directly at: Stowarzyszenie Dziedzictwo Mniejszosci Karpackich, ul. Filtrowa 19, 38-540 Zagorz; telephone, 013 46 22 670; e-mail, mniejszosci_karpackie@tlen.pl.

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Yara Arts Group...

(Continued from page 10)

America Singing" by Oksana Lutsyshyna and "Sandman's Monolog" by Kateryna Babkina.

Debutante Hour must be seen to be appreciated. Featuring Susan Hwang, Mia Pixley and Marusia Sonevytsky, this group's snappy stage banter is so natural that it is hard to realize that it is all improvised on the spot. The trio performed "Your World View Gets Me Down," "Parking Mojo" about the travails of finding a parking space in the "Velyke Yabluko," (Big Apple), "I'm So Glad You Were Born" and "The Rain Fell Like Kisses."

They ended with "Ya Ne Ta" – their version of "Ya Ne Toi" by the group Piatnytsia from Kharkiv, in which they cleverly changed the gender of the singer. The audience demanded an encore, which they did with "Verkhovyno." This version was not the sweet and cloying one that is so often performed; it was three women singing passionately about the mountains, forests and streams.

Olesia Lew, the cuisine chef at Veselka Bowery, presented the post-concert reception. Starting with traditional Ukrainian foods and ingredients, she translated them into unique works of cuisine recognizable to the palate and presented in a refreshing manner. Among the tasty temptations were four different types of "pyrizhky" wrapped

in delicate dough, "kanapky," the best cheesecake ever, and a variety of dessert cookies that were, dare I say it, better than Baba's.

Accompanying the reception were Francois Nnang of Cameroon on balifon and David Alain Jensen on saxophone. Their lively playing, which included show tunes and traditional West African music, drew an appreciative audience. When they finished, members of Hilka spontaneously began singing some of the village songs that they knew they weren't able to perform. Ms. Zahaykevych, as well as audience members, joined in.

What followed was the "treat" of the evening – almost an hour of village singing performed as in the village, with everyone relaxed, just sitting around, singing songs to be sung for oneself, joking over missed lyrics. What a glorious ending to the wonderful evening.

Sunday, the closing day of the festival, saw the presentation of "Music in the Wood" by Watoku Ueno. This was a shadow puppet show for children. However, its beauty and intricacy were enjoyed by audience members of all ages. Performed in English, the presentation featured original Japanese shadow puppets in a story about beautiful music that emerges from inside wood. One often imagines that shadow puppet shows would be in black and white; through the use of translucent colored papers, Mr. Ueno presented this show in color.



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Registration will begin at 1:00 pm.
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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

“Carol of the Bells” rings for sister city

by Ed Lytwak

WASHINGTON – This year’s “Carol of the Bells” evening on January 26 was a celebration of not only Ukrainian Christmas traditions but Arlington’s newest sister-city. The third-annual event, sponsored by the Arlington Sister City Association’s Ivano-Frankivsk Committee, had a very special reason to make merry. Most recently, the Arlington County Board unanimously agreed to establish a sister city relationship with Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine.

Once again the “Carol of the Bells” dinner was graciously hosted by the Embassy of Ukraine in Georgetown. The evening began with a welcome from Ukraine’s ambassador to the United States, Olexander Motsyk, who spoke on the importance of building the person-to-person connections that are at the heart of the sister city movement.

On behalf of the Arlington Sister City Association, Chairman Karl van Newkirk affirmed these sentiments and announced that the signing of the sister-city agreement would be held at the Sister Cities International Conference to be held in Arlington, Va., on March 3-5.

The dignified festivities began in earnest with Ivano-Frankivsk Committee Co-Presidents Chrystia Sonevytsky and Xenia Jowyk enlisting the help of a young girl to go outside and look for the first star of the night. Traditionally, “Sviata Vechera,” the meatless 12-dish Christmas Eve meal, does not begin until the first star is seen.

As the guests sat down, they shared small pieces of bread and honey (prospora) and offered best wishes to those at the table. The centerpiece of the decorations was a sheaf of wheat, didukh, which symbolizes the abundance of nature. The feast was prepared by the Embassy chef, Serhiy Kinsky, and included such Ukrainian delicacies as borsch (beet soup), holubtsi (cabbage rolls), varenyky (dumplings filled with potatoes, mushrooms, or cabbage) and kutia, the most sacred of Ukrainian foods, which is served only on Christmas Eve.

What Ukrainian Christmas celebration would be complete without koliadnyky (carolers)? The highlight of the evening was provided by a chorus under the direction of Andriy Mariyanich. The 13-person ensemble serenaded everyone with traditional koliady and schedrivky. Among the lovely a cappella music was the “Carol of Bells,” the internationally recognized carol adapted from “Schedryk” by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych.

It was a most memorable night for all those that attended – including special guests Natalia Terletska, the wife of the Ambassador of Ukraine, the Second Secretary of the Embassy Maryna Zlobina (who has worked closely with Sister Cities and this committee in particular) and the director of the Cultural and Information Center at the Embassy, Counselor Vladyslava Bondarenko. Guests from the Arlington community included board member Walter Tejada and Mary Beth Zimmerman, wife of the Arlington County board chair as well as Karl Van Newkirk, the chair of the Arlington Sister City Association.

Lewytzkyj Foundation awards scholarships

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – Ten seminarians were awarded scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year at St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary thanks to funding by the Rev. Wolodymyr Lewytzkyj Seminarian Scholarship Foundation through St. Andrew’s Society/Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. A total of \$10,500 was awarded for the academic year.

The award dedications include: in memory of the Very Rev. Mykola Metulynsky, Eugene Micevych, Yaroslav Korsunsky and Eugene Ostapczuk (Minnesota); in honor of the families of Anne Ferreira (Oregon), Dr. Gregory and Lili Sitka, Bob Morris (Minnesota); the Wayzata Community Church, St. Katherine UOC Parish and St. Katherine UOC Sisterhood (Minnesota).

Since 1990, the Lewytzkyj Foundation has awarded 425 scholarships to deserving seminarians studying at three western Ukraine seminaries under the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian

Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. The success of the program is demonstrated by the large number of ordained clergy, recipients of these scholarships, who now serve parishes across Ukraine.

In 2011, concern about the deteriorating economic and political climate in Ukraine, along with a desire to provide a broader curriculum to students from Ukraine, resulted in the program refocusing its support on students studying abroad at St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Bound Brook, N.J. The scholarships are awarded based on both merit and need.

Tax-free donations are accepted to expand this mission program to a greater number of students from Ukraine. Donations may be made to The Rev. Lewytzkyj Fund/St. Andrew’s Society, c/o Vitali Vizir, 1023 Yorkshire Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024. For more information readers may contact Luba Lewytzkyj, 952-440-5822 or luba@integra.net

Perth Amboy parish stages “Vertep” and concert



PERTH AMBOY, N.J. – On January 15 at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Perth Amboy, N.J., more than 250 parishioners and guests witnessed a theatrical production of “The Vertep,” a performance is based on the Gospels’ account of the birth of Jesus Christ, and was followed by a Christmas concert, featuring the Boyan Choir. The stunning costumes, stages sets and the wonderful dramatic acting captivated the audience from the very beginning. The theatrical and choral performances were created and enthusiastically organized by Alla Korostil with the support and supervision of the Rev. Ivan Turyk. More pictures from the concert can be found in the Images Category on the parish’s website: www.assumption-catholicchurch.net.

Lutsenko jailed...

(Continued from page 3)

Yanukovych in the 2015 elections.

Mr. Lutsenko, the scourge of the nexus of Mr. Yanukovych, the Party of Regions and organized crime, was jailed by what Luke Harding, former Guardian correspondent in Moscow, describes as the “Mafia State” (London: Guardian books, 2011), which Mr. Lutsenko sought to dismantle as internal affairs minister, as Eurasia Daily Monitor (February 17) has written, and U.S. diplomatic cables reported ([http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=39024](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=39024)).

Marieluise Beck of Germany, a rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), said, “As a reformist interior minister who – among other things – dismantled the criminal hit squad within the ministry responsible for such high-profile crimes as the murder of journalist Georgiy [Heorhii] Gongadze, he angered some persons who are now back in power” (<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/politics/detail/123221/>).

Ms. Beck pointed out that, “The trial against him was unfair, as shown in detail by the observers of the Danish

Helsinki Committee. Furthermore, the ‘crimes’ for which he was convicted could not possibly justify a term of imprisonment even if the prosecution had been able to prove all the allegations against him” (see Mikael Lyngbo, “Legal Monitoring in Ukraine I. Preliminary Report on the trials against former Minister of Interior Yuriy Lutsenko and former First Minister of Justice Yevhen Korniychuk” [Copenhagen: The Danish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, 2011] <http://helsinki-komiteen.dk/Helsinki-gammel/downloads/LM-Ukraine.pdf>).

Mr. Lutsenko was charged with illegally granting an apartment to his lawyer, increasing the pension of his driver and financial irregularities relating to celebrations marking National Police Day. The amount paid for the celebrations (\$35,000) was minuscule compared to the size of corruption in Ukraine and did not go into Mr. Lutsenko’s pocket but to the state-owned Palats Ukrayiny, where the National Police Day held its celebration.

In comparison, on the same day as the sentencing of Mr. Lutsenko, Ukrayinska Pravda reported that table lamps in President Yanukovych’s new office in his palatial Mezhyhiria are handmade and cost \$10,000 each (<http://www.pravda.com.ua/articles/2012/02/27/6959508/>). Last year, news reports revealed that fittings for a bathroom in the

Mezhyhiria palace cost 300,000 euros and a chandelier was purchased for \$45,000. In 2010, two companies working on the estate imported luxury goods worth \$20 million (<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/99514/>).

Obviously, these figures are far larger than the official salary of the president, who has been a state employee since 1997.

The Lutsenko and Tymoshenko cases are blatant cases of selective application of justice by the Yanukovych administration. Mr. Lutsenko’s sentence shows that President Yanukovych has totally ignored Western criticism of the Tymoshenko trial and that his administration does not listen to the West. Incredibly, many Western policy-makers and seasoned ex-ambassadors believed otherwise until last summer.

It is time to acknowledge that it is impossible to reset relations with politicians like Mr. Yanukovych who speak a different language, are a product of a political culture completely alien to European and American values, and who never fulfill promises made to European and American leaders.

The article above is reprinted from the Jamestown Foundation Blog published by the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.



Ukrainian pro sports update: boxing

by Ihor Stelmach

Klitschko notches 50th KO against Mormeck

SOUTH WINDSOR, Conn. – A crowd of 50,000 boxing fans at the Esprit Arena in Düsseldorf, Germany, witnessed no surprises on Saturday, March 3, as heavy-weight champion Wladimir Klitschko toyed with challenger Jean-Marc Mormeck and rolled to a non-competitive fourth-round destruction of the 39-year-old former cruiserweight champion.

At 1:12 of the fourth round the WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO heavyweight champion put together a sweet three-punch combination to knock Mormeck out – a stiff left which froze him, a huge and flush right hand behind it, then connected with a round-house left as Mormeck was dropping to the canvas. The challenger beat the 10-count, but looked wobbly and referee Luis Pabon stopped the fight.

This was Mormeck's fourth bout since moving up to the heavyweight division. He hadn't fought in 15 months.

"His strategy was to make me tired, but I dominated," Klitschko said in a post-fight interview captured by ESPN.com.

Klitschko was officially credited with the 50th knock-out of his career, although

Mormeck claimed he could have continued. Klitschko floored Mormeck in the second round while completely dominating the much more diminutive challenger. Mormeck never connected with a single clean punch, although Klitschko claimed he had been hit with a jab.

The Ukrainian improved to 57-3, Mormeck dropping to 36-5. The latter gave up 6 1/2 inches in height and was 3-for-19 overall in punches. "Dr. Steelhammer" connected on 39 of 135 punches, including 26 of 70 power punches.

Mormeck's plan was to get in close as he often lunged forward with his head low and gloves high, usually clinging to Klitschko in desperation. When the champion set Mormeck down with a big right early on, it seemed clear he was looking for an early ending to the fight. After both pushed and shoved each other into a sprawling match in the third round, Klitschko picked up the pace in the fourth round, connecting with a left jab before flooring the Frenchman once again.

"I've been around for 15 years and now I have the 50th (KO)," Klitschko told his



Wladimir Klitschko delivers a flush right to Jean-Marc Mormeck of France at Esprit Arena in Düsseldorf, Germany, on March 3.

adoring crowd after the match. "It's a big day for me."

The fight had been originally scheduled for December 2011, but was postponed when the big Ukrainian needed surgery to remove kidney stones.

The win was the 18th career defense of his heavyweight titles for the younger Klitschko brother, now 18-2 in title fights. He ranks fourth among all heavyweights in title victories, behind Joe Louis (26), Muhammad Ali (22) and Larry Holmes (21).

After the fight, Klitschko listed Tyson Fury and David Price, both from the United Kingdom, plus Chris Arreola of the

U.S., as potential future challengers. Alexander Povetkin, unbeaten and holder of the near-meaningless "regular" WBA heavyweight title, is another opponent Klitschko may consider in the future. Very much looming on the horizon is a rematch with Tony Thompson, someone Wladimir Klitschko already knocked out, but is mandated to fight a second time.

Klitschko's older brother, Vitali, unanimously out-pointed British challenger Dereck Chisora in Munich two weeks ago and thought his next fight would be against David Haye, the British boxer who lost to Wladimir last July and is currently retired.

Soprano...

(Continued from page 10)

National Opera that same year and debuting at the Moscow Bolshoi Theater in 1993. In the meantime, she participated in and won many international competitions.

As TWG Cultural Fund's director Svitlana Shiells noted in her introductory remarks, the selection of the Austrian Embassy as the venue for this concert was not insignificant. When she began her international singing career, Ms. Loukianetz chose Vienna to be her professional home. It was the second major city in a 1993 European competition tour that also included Venice, Prague, Munich, Paris and Rome. She won the top prize among its 240 competitors. Since then, she has performed in many of the world's prominent opera houses, including New York's Metropolitan.

Ms. Shiells recounted that one of the leading stars of the opera world impressed by her voice was none other than Luciano Pavarotti. "Bravissima! Molto benne!" was how he reportedly reacted upon hearing her performance in "Un ballo in Mascara," she said.

"He was so impressed with Victoria and her ability to express the deepest emotions through her immense voice that he mentioned her in his memoirs," she said. "He wrote with wonder how such a small woman could have – as he put it – such a brilliant soprano voice they could hear on Capri," she said.

Also a winner of numerous leading international competitions, and a recipient

of diplomas "with honors" from leading conservatories – among them Tchaikovsky in Moscow, Glenn Gould in Toronto, and a master's degree from the Music Academy in Lviv, where she was born – Ms. Humetska also performed on a number of leading concert stages as a soloist and chamber player.

But, unlike Ms. Loukianetz, she is not a newcomer to Washington. In 2009, she and fellow Lviv musician Solomiya Ivakhiv, a violinist, performed a concert at the Embassy of Ukraine.

Thomas Stölzl, the Austrian Embassy's economic counselor, who helped in the concert's presentation, when asked for his assessment of the event, said that the artists' performance of songs dear to the Ukrainian and Austrian hearts "succeeded in building a musical bridge between" the two countries and "reminded everybody in the audience of the eternal truth that without love there is no world worth living."

A week before coming to Washington, Ms. Loukianetz and Ms. Humetska presented a concert at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City. The Loukianetz-Humetska performance was the third of four concerts in the TWG Cultural Fund's 2011-2012 Music Series.

The next concert, scheduled for Sunday, March 18, at The Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria, Va., will feature the classical works of composer, musician and songwriter Boris Skalsky. He will be joined by a number of Washington- and New York-based musicians, among them the MIVOS Quartet, guitarist Anthony Pirog, cellist Rubin Khodeli and pianist Zdana Krawciw-Skalsky – his mother.

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Координатор транспорту Scope Travel
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12 Days
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Провідник пл сен Марійка Гельбіг

TOUR C Aug 13-25 \$2690
12 Days
Kyiv, Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky
Sokil, Kolomyia, Zarvanytsia
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LETOM SKOBA Aug 8 – 25 \$3000
17 Days
Kyiv, Kaniv, Iv. Frankivsk, Tatariv, Bukovel
Kolomyia, Chernivtsi, Kamianets Podilsky,
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OUT & ABOUT

- Through March 25 Chicago Art exhibit, "Bulgarian Artists Abroad," Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 or www.bulgariansartistsabroad.net
- March 15 Winnipeg, MB Presentation by Sophia Kachor, "Pysanka - Talisman, Decorative Art, Identity Marker," Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218 or ucec@mymts.net
- March 16 Winnipeg, MB Presentation by Svitlana Kukharenko, "Abnormal Death Memorials in Ukraine: A Folklorist Perspective," University of Manitoba, 204-474-8905
- March 16 Edmonton, AB Presentation by Mykola Yakovyna, "Ukraine: Prospects for Emerging from Crisis," Ukrainian National Federation - Edmonton branch, www.unftcanada.ca
- March 17 New York Lecture by Valentyna Kharkhun, "The Author's Myth of War in Oleksander Dovzhenko's Cinema Novel 'Ukraine in Flames,'" Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- March 17 Syracuse, NY St. Patrick's Day "Ukrainian Style," Syracuse Ukrainian National Home, 315-478-9272 or syracuseunh@hotmail.com
- March 17, 24 Chicago Pysanka Workshop, with instruction by Vera Samycia, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 or info@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org
- March 17, 31 Winnipeg, MB Pysanka Workshop, Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218
- March 18, 25 Olyphant, PA "Pagash" Sale - Ukrainian/Slovak Lenten Meal, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, 570-489-2476 or www.stcyriils.maslar-online.com
- March 18 Alexandria, VA Concert with Boris Skalsky and friends, The Washington Group Cultural Fund, The Lyceum, 301-229-2615 or twgculturefund@gmail.com
- March 18 Roseville, CA Taras Shevchenko program, Ukrainian Heritage Club of Northern California, Valley Springs Presbyterian Church, 916-771-2402
- March 18 Winnipeg, MB Presentation by Mykola Yakovyna, "Ukraine: Prospects for Emerging from Crisis," Ukrainian Cultural Center - Oseredok, www.unftcanada.ca
- March 18 Jenkintown, PA Concert featuring singer and composer Victor Morozov, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1764
- March 18 Whippany, NJ "Spring Swarm Meeting," Ukrainian American Beekeepers Association, Ukrainian Cultural Center of New Jersey, petrusiakotlar@gmail.com
- March 18 Toronto Art exhibit, "William Kurelek: The Messenger," Hamilton Art Gallery, arranged by the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation, 416-766-6802
- March 18 Winnipeg, MB Fashion show, "A Fashionable Brunch," Canad Inns - Polo Park, 204-942-5405 or www.mpue.ca
- March 19 Cambridge, MA Lecture by Mayhill Fowler, "An Urban Carousel: The Rise, Fall and Consolidation of the Soviet Ukrainian Beaumonde," Harvard University, 617-495-4053
- March 20 New York Presentation by Valentyna Kharkhun, "Museumification of the Soviet Past or Communism in the Museum," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu
- March 22 Hamilton, ON Film screening, "The Maze" by William Kurelek, with Robert Young and Nick Young, Art Gallery of Hamilton www.artgalleryofhamilton.com or 905-527-6610
- March 22 Ottawa Presentation by Irena Makaryk, "Les Kurbas Theater Berezil in Paris and New York," Ukrainian Scientific Society of Ottawa, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, 613-723-1673
- March 22-24 Ottawa Lenten Retreat, hosted by the Rev. Peter Galadza, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, 613-723-1673 or www.st-john-baptist-shrine.ca

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

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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Ukrainian children welcome Jackie Evancho

by Michael Ulicky

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. – Children of the Ukrainian community of the desert region of California welcomed 11-year-old singing sensation Jackie Evancho prior to her sold-out concert performance on Saturday, January 28, at the Event Center of the Fantasy Springs Resort and Casino in Indio, Calif.

Jackie, who is of partial Ukrainian heritage was excited to meet the children, some dressed in lovely embroidered blouses, who presented Jackie with bouquets of flowers and a special gift of a pysanka, a hand-decorated Ukrainian Easter egg, as a traditional gift of life and a symbol of good luck.

Afterwards, Jackie, performing

with a wonderful symphony orchestra, wowed the enthusiastic audience with operatic, Broadway and other popular classics, including songs from her PBS Special and the newly released CD/DVD “Dream With Me In Concert.” As an added bonus Jackie introduced a wonderful new singer, Josh Page, and also brought her brother Jacob on stage to sing a lovely duet.

Maybe once in a generation, there comes along someone who is blessed with a gift from God of such an incredible voice. Our desert community is fortunate. On Saturday, we welcomed and fell in love with, and gave standing ovations to America’s new favorite sweetheart, soprano Jackie Evancho.

(To find out more about Jackie



Bohdan Olesnicki

Children of the Ukrainian community in the desert region of California welcome Jackie Evancho: (front row, from left) Christina Olesnicki, John Olesnicki, Andrew Hayduke (back row) Adriana Olesnicki, Jackie Evancho and Juliana Olesnicki.

and her upcoming concerts throughout California and across the country as well as to order her CD/DVD, you can log on: www.jackieevancho.com.)

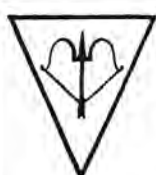
The Ukrainian children and their families who greeted Jackie are from St. Michael’s Ukrainian

Catholic Mission in Palm Springs, Calif. The Rev. Myron Mykita from the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Los Angeles travels to the desert and celebrates liturgy the fourth Sunday of each month at Our Lady Of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

Altar boys inducted in Olyphant



OLYPHANT, Pa. – Five altar boys – including triplets – were inducted into the Society of Altar Boys of St. Cyril’s on February 26 by the Rev. Nestor Iwasiw (right), of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church. Senior altar boy Joseph Garfalo (left) assists the induction of Joseph Skirpan, Brian Radle, Samuel Sczesniak, Jordan Radle and Thomas Radle into the altar boys’ society.



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Tel.: 773 486-0394 (від 8:00 до 10:00 ранку)
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..... ім'я і прізвище матері (подати дівоче прізвище)

Завваги

.....

.....

..... Підпис батька або матері

Jaroslawa Johnson visits Ukrainian school, leaves students with message and goodies

by Larissa Sloniewsky

WASHINGTON – “Learn where you are from, your true history.” These are the words uttered by the respected – and fascinating – lawyer and author Jaroslawa Johnson when she talked about her life and work with students of the upper grades of the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies in Washington.

Ms. Johnson’s take-home message was one of remembrance: know the past, because that’s what makes a person unique.

Ms. Johnson was born in Volyn, Ukraine, before World War II, and left for Germany with her family. They lived as displaced persons in Germany for the remainder of the war. Later, the family fled to America.

She describes the arrival in New York Harbor as thrilling but quick, as she caught only a glimpse of the city before family members left for their new home in Pennsylvania. Settling in with a kind family whom they hardly understood, Ms. Johnson and her family had to start a new life from scratch. But Ms. Johnson notably hasn’t forgotten her roots.

After graduating from high school and college, Ms. Johnson became a lawyer and started working for an American law firm. Since beginning to work with Chadbourne & Park in Ukraine, she has been jetting back and forth between Ukraine and the United States.

Commenting on Ukraine’s cultural evolution since she immigrated, Ms. Johnson had this to say: “The

women in Ukraine are very modern and are all learning English. Every university in Ukraine now offers English courses.” This contrasts sharply from the situation in the recent past, when Ukraine’s population learned primarily Russian in the universities.

In addition to being a successful lawyer, Ms. Johnson has also written a Ukrainian American cookbook with help from her family and friends. She brought her new cookbook, “Legacy of Four Cooks: Recollections of Ukrainian Home Cooking,” to school to show the students and to talk about it with them.

Ms. Johnson noted that many relatives had conflicting ideas for “the best borsch recipe” or “the best varenyk recipe,” and that a lot of the recipes were more complicated than she thought. She also said that writing the cookbook brought back many memories from her childhood.

Inspired, Ms. Johnson began to look for old pictures from the war-era and her arrival to America, and included these pictures in her cookbook. It was especially at that time that she began to think about the power of human individuality.

“A person’s individual history is more important than the history of the world,” she said. Perhaps this way of thinking can serve as a lesson to humanity: that figuring out who a person is can help inspire them to do great things. Ms. Johnson encouraged the students to think of 10 questions they would like to ask their relatives about their families and their past as they gather over Christmas or other



Jaroslawa Johnson speaks to students at the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies in Washington.

holidays.

The students of the Taras Shevchenko School were intrigued by Ms. Johnson’s presentation. They were also fortunate to sample homemade “khrustyky” and “medivnyk” made according to recipes in the cookbook. It was a Saturday at

Ukrainian School not to be missed: Ms. Johnson not only provided students with food, she also gave them food for thought!

Larissa Sloniewsky is a student at the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies in Washington.

Mishanyna

Spring is almost here. And, with the warmer-than-normal weather most of us have been experiencing, we are beginning to see the first flowers of springtime. This month’s Mishanyna, therefore, is dedicated to the early flowers of spring. Find the capitalized words on the list hidden in the Mishanyna grid.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| CROCUS | LENTEN ROSE | SNOWDROP |
| DAFFODIL | NETTED IRIS | spring SNOWFLAKE |
| GLORY OF THE SNOW | PASQUE FLOWER | TULIP |
| GRAPE hyacinth | PHLOX | VINCA |
| HYACINTH | SCILLA | winter ACONITE |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | O | D | P | L | A | Y | V | I | N | C | E | P | O | P |
| I | H | I | A | C | O | N | I | T | E | R | A | H | R | O |
| L | Y | A | S | I | D | E | N | C | T | A | S | O | C | D |
| Y | A | M | Q | I | U | T | C | R | X | E | I | X | S | A |
| R | C | A | U | S | D | T | A | O | O | K | R | C | S | F |
| O | I | N | E | C | I | E | L | C | L | A | I | H | A | F |
| S | N | T | F | I | S | H | O | U | P | L | D | E | M | O |
| E | T | U | L | I | P | I | V | S | L | F | E | E | P | D |
| P | H | L | O | C | K | S | D | A | S | W | T | S | O | I |
| A | X | E | W | O | C | O | I | L | I | O | T | E | R | L |
| R | O | M | E | S | R | O | S | I | D | N | E | R | D | I |
| G | L | O | R | Y | O | F | T | H | E | S | N | O | W | L |
| C | R | O | C | K | C | O | R | N | O | R | T | R | O | Y |
| R | O | S | E | X | U | R | N | L | O | X | O | Y | N | C |
| S | Y | D | L | E | N | T | E | N | R | O | S | E | S | O |

Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!

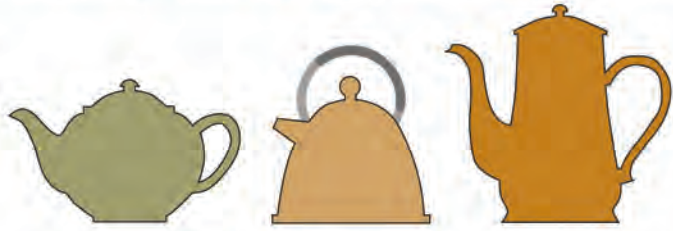


As in the past, The Ukrainian Weekly will publish a special section devoted to the Ukrainian community’s debutantes.

The 2012 debutante ball section will be published on March 25.

The deadline for submission of stories and photos is March 12.

“Tea with Friends & Family” Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 1:00pm



A Fundraiser for the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ)

Please join us at the Cultural Center and enjoy an afternoon of tea, an assortment of tea sandwiches and delightful desserts. A complimentary glass of wine included.

Many chances to win fabulous prize baskets, door prizes, bid on unique silent auction items and try your luck with the 50/50!

Gather your friends and family and let us help you organize a table.

Cash Bar

Advance ticket sales only
Admission: \$40 per person

Checks payable to: ACE/UACCNJ
Send to: UACCNJ Attn: Tea Fundraiser
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UACCNJ

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 17

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Dr. Valentyna Kharkhun (Nizhyn, Ukraine) titled “The Author’s Myth of War in Oleksander Dovzhenko’s cinema novel ‘Ukraine in Flames.’” Dr. Kharkhun is professor of Ukrainian literature at the Mykola Hohol National University of Nizhyn. The lecture will take place at the society’s building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

PALATINE, Ill.: The Ukrainian American Military Association, Conservative Veterans of America, ACT for America and the Veteran Defenders of America invite the members of the community, veterans and patriots to a national security briefing “Sharia Law for Non-Muslims,” based on a book written by Bill Warner of the Center for the Study of Political Islam, www.politicalislam.com. The presentation includes the doctrine of abrogation, Sharia finance and the dualistic nature of Sharia. The meeting

takes place at the Palatine Library located at 700 N. Court, Palatine, IL 60067 at 2-4 p.m. There is no charge for this event. For additional information contact Col Roman G. Golash (ret.), at romangolash@sbcglobal.net or call 847-910-3532.

Saturday, March 31

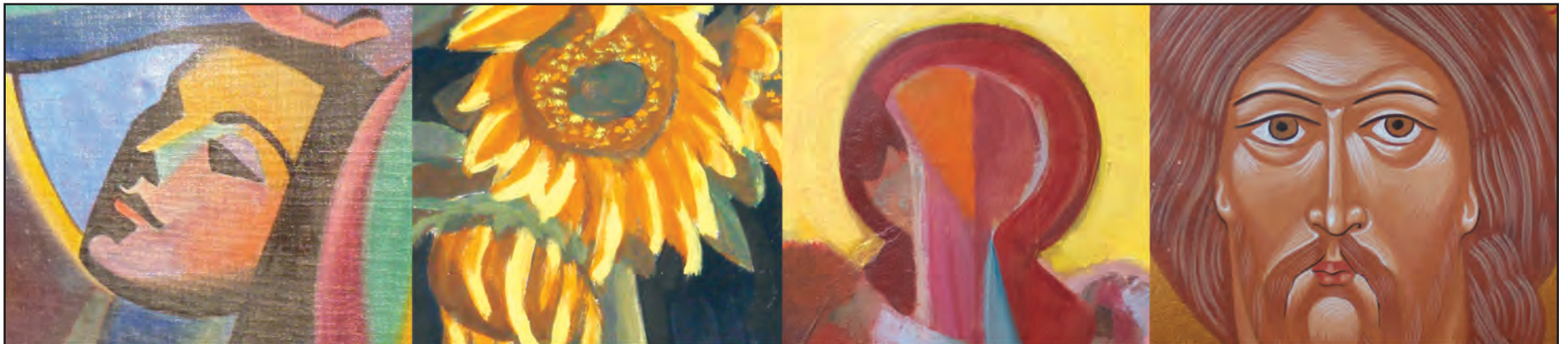
NEW YORK: The Center for Traditional Music and Dance, New York Bandura Ensemble, Bandura Downtown and The Ukrainian Museum present “Kilims and Constructions,” a multi-media performance to complement the museum’s current exhibitions “Kilims” and “Borys Kosarev: Modernist Kharkiv 1915-1931.” Performers include bandurist/singer Julian Kytasty and the Black Square Ensemble in a program of musical compositions and improvisations intertwined with video projections, movement and text. Concert starts at 7 p.m. at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St. Admission is \$15 (\$10 for CTMD/museum members) and includes reception. Tickets may be purchased online at www.ukrainian-museum.org.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**.

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

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



A SPECIAL INVITATION

THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION
AND THE UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA
cordially invite you to attend a

SILENT ART AUCTION

to benefit the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv

Special guests:

UCU International Academic Relations Director Olena Dzhedzhora
UCU Senior Project Manager Andriy Kurochka
Featuring jazz by the Askold Buk Trio

SATURDAY March 24, 2012

7-8 p.m. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

8 p.m. art auction and program, bidding will close at 9:30 p.m.

Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 East 79th St. New York, N.Y.

Admission: \$75 per person

For more information please call Marta Kolomayets (773) 235-8462 or Sofika Zielyk (212) 533-6419 or e-mail marta@ucef.org