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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Demjanjuk threatens hunger strike unless court agrees to seek evidence

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – John Demjanjuk, in a statement read on February 22 to the court hearing his Nazi war crimes trial in Munich, threatened to go on a hunger strike within two weeks unless the judges agree to seek more evidence that he says will exonerate him.

Mr. Demjanjuk charged that Germany is holding “a political show trial” and charged that “Germany’s weapons of torture in this trial include: suppression of exculpatory evidence, falsification of history, introduction of so-called legal principles which never existed in Germany previously, conspiring with fraudulent prosecutors of the U.S.A. and Israel, and a reckless refusal of each argument, motion and exculpatory piece of evidence my defense has submitted which should have already resulted in my acquittal and freedom.”

In particular, Mr. Demjanjuk said the court has refused: “1. To request from Russia and Ukraine, File 1627, the 1,400-page Soviet MGB/KGB investigative file on my case. 2. To request from Russia and Ukraine, File 15457, the investigative file of Ignat Danilchenko, specifically to include the report of interview conducted with him about me at the request of the U.S. authorities in 1983-1984. 3. To request a qualified expert to examine the high-quality photos available of the signature on the No. 1393 Trawniki document which has been falsely attributed to me. ...”

Mr. Demjanjuk’s statement was read by his attorney, Ulrich Busch. (The full text of the statement appears on page 17.) The Associated Press reported that the judges showed little reaction after the statement was read in full, only asking Mr. Demjanjuk whether the words were his own. He nodded in assent.

Mr. Demjanjuk, 90, is accused of 27,900 counts of accessory to murder for allegedly having been a guard at the Sobibor death camp in occupied Poland.

He entered the courtroom on February 22 holding a sign reading “1627” – the number of a 1,400-page Soviet investigative file on his alleged activities during World War II. The defense has asked the court to obtain the file from Moscow, which Dr. Busch has argued could contain proof that an identity card attributed to Mr. Demjanjuk was that of another guard.

The AP reported that the court has rejected the request for the files, saying it is simply a defense “hypothesis” that there could be details on the identity card there.

Meanwhile, the AP obtained copies of a 2001 letter from Ukrainian authorities to the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, which states that the Demjanjuk investigation documented in file 1627 was carried out in 1979-1980 and that all materials were

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Authorities stall on granting routine exemption to UCU

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The Lviv City Council has delayed for a month granting to the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) a routine exemption from paying rent for a 3.7-acre plot being developed for the future Stryiskyi Park campus.

State universities receive the exemption, and the City Council voted the same day to exempt a local prison, said Orest Drul of the Western Analytical Group in Lviv. UCU had no difficulties gaining the exemption in years past, yet this time – at the January 27 and February 17 sessions – the City Council voted to remove the bill from the agenda.

The Lviv City Council is led by the Svoboda nationalist party, which typically supports Ukrainian cultural institutions. Yet the pro-Russian Party of Regions, whose oligarchs are suspected of financing Svoboda, also voted in support of the delay. A Svoboda spokesman

said it’s strictly a procedural issue.

“When this matter was first introduced for the Lviv City Council’s review, it was done on the fly,” Svoboda Press Secretary Yuriy Syrotiuk told The Ukrainian Weekly.

“That happened the second time, without review from the appropriate commission. There are rules on introducing initiatives and holding a public hearing. The appropriate council commission is supposed to meet to make the appropriate decisions. These issues won’t be reviewed until they conform to procedures,” he said.

Deputies of Svoboda and the Party of Regions voted against reviewing the measure, while it drew support from other City Council factions, including the Batkivshchyna party led by opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko.

In recent weeks, deputies of both factions voted against the review offered

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Arrested nationalist activists allege authorities use torture



Volodymyr Musyak

Mykola Kokhanivskiy, famous for chiseling the Lenin statue in Kyiv, protests at the Presidential Administration on February 22 against the incarceration of Tryzub nationalists. He wears a band reading, “I don’t believe it,” referring to the February 17 press conference at which prisoners denied being tortured.

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukrainian nationalists arrested in a nationwide crackdown in mid-January have alleged torture by law enforcement authorities and inhuman prison conditions. They also alleged egregious legal violations and pressure to confess to crimes they didn’t commit.

“We are witnessing complete legal nihilism,” said Sydir Kizin, a lawyer for the nationalists. “Law enforcement authorities are acting as though they live in a separate country where the norms of the Constitution of Ukraine don’t apply to them. They think they can baselessly arrest people and not be held accountable.”

The 14 Ukrainian nationalists currently imprisoned belong to the Stepan Bandera Tryzub All-Ukrainian Organization, a pseudo-paramilitary group formed to defend Ukrainian interests. A member of the Svoboda nationalist party, Yuriy Hudymenko, is imprisoned in his native Zaporizhia.

Ever since taking office a year ago, President Viktor Yanukovich has led the government in persecuting ethnically conscious Ukrainians, or those citizens who embrace their Ukrainian language, history and culture. This included dismissals of state employees for their views and searches of the offices of authors and journalists.

The alleged use of torture conforms to the Yanukovich administration’s neo-Soviet policies, such as restricting the rights and freedoms of political opponents, observers said.

“We’re practically returning to the Stalinist era,” said Dr. Oleh Soskin, director of the Institute of Society Transformation in Kyiv. “Representatives of the Kremlin’s hostile fifth column are in power to fulfill the Kremlin’s assignments and carrying out torture. The boys did the right thing in sawing off Dzhugashvili’s [Joseph Stalin’s] head. Finally someone acted like a hero, to be perfectly frank. And now they’re being tortured, which is practically a mockery against the Ukrainian nation.”

Several of the nationalists imprisoned in January admit to participating in the December 28, 2010, vandalism of the Stalin monument in Zaporizhia, established by the oblast committee of the Communist Party on the front porch of its headquarters.

That evening, several Tryzub activists sawed the head off the metal Stalin statue. Just three days later, a bomb detonated the same statue – an act in which Tryzub denies any involvement.

Law enforcement authorities launched a nationwide sting on January 8 to round up the Tryzub nationalists, arresting 20 and eventually releasing six. Some were charged with hooliganism in the statue’s vandalism, while others faced charges for crimes committed a year ago or longer.

The 20 arrests had no common link, except for the fact that almost all the suspects were members of Tryzub (with the exception of Mr. Hudymenko, a local activist) and almost all were pressured to confess to the December 31, 2010, explosion of the Stalin statue.

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ANALYSIS

Exporting nonviolent revolution, from Eastern Europe to the Mideast

by Courtney Rose Brooks
and Milos Teodorovic
RFE/RL

Srdja Popovic has a dream: a world where political change comes through non-violent struggle.

He started out as a pro-democracy activist in his native Serbia by founding the group Otpor (Resistance), which led the protests that drove authoritarian President Slobodan Milosevic from power more than a decade ago.

Mr. Popovic then exported his nonviolent methods, helping train the activists who spearheaded Georgia's Rose Revolution in 2003 and Ukraine's Orange Revolution in 2004.

And now, Mr. Popovic is deploying his new organization, called Canvas, even farther afield – assisting the pro-democracy activists who recently brought down despotic regimes in Egypt and Tunisia.

"We are simply trying to convince the world that the only right way to make a change is to fight strategically and in a non-violent way," Mr. Popovic says. "I think that those young, secular people that we see these days in the demonstrations all around the Middle East are one new face of that region. I want to believe that they are strong enough and smart enough to beat any extremism, including the Islamic one."

The work of groups like Canvas, combined with the proliferation of social-networking websites like Facebook and Twitter, and the coming of age of a wired – and increasingly disaffected – young generation have combined to create a perfect storm threatening authoritarian regimes from Europe to North Africa, to the Middle East.

Teaching nonviolence

Canvas was founded in 2003 and has trained dissidents in 37 countries, including Zimbabwe, North Korea, Belarus and Iran, Mr. Popovic says. He declines to reveal whether the organization had trained activists in countries that are now protesting against their authoritarian governments, such as Algeria and Yemen, unless the activists do so themselves.

Mr. Popovic's philosophy, and that of Canvas, is influenced by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Gene Sharp, the American author of several books on nonviolent struggle including "From Dictatorship to Democracy."

In the late summer of 2009 the group collaborated with other NGOs to bring approximately 20 Egyptian activists – including some of those who later founded the April 6 movement that spearheaded the recent anti-government protests – to Belgrade for a week of training on tactics they could use to promote change in Egypt.

Petar Milicevic, the founder of Alternative to Europe NGO, helped with the training. He says he talked to the Egyptians about organizing campaigns, the importance of galvanizing youth support, and how to use social media to reach both of these goals.

"During the protests, I was also in everyday contact with some friends in Egypt, so the whole thing that they asked [for] during their own protest was a cry for international attention," Mr. Milicevic says. "Everything else that we could offer, some sort of help, and organizing some relief funds, they said no. [They said] we need just to raise the voice that this is our citizens' revolution, not some sort of Islamic or other sort of coup d'etat."

Laughing all the way to jail

One of Otpor's main methods in overthrowing President Milosevic was to win public support through humor by mocking the regime. They once famously rolled an oil barrel with Mr. Milosevic's face on it down a street while people took turns whacking it with a bat. Activists were often arrested and roughed up, but reportedly rarely held overnight in prison.

But while training dissidents from regimes such as Egypt, Iran, and Belarus, Canvas has had to recognize that it is teaching activists who could spend years in jail for their activities.

Nini Gogoberidze, a Georgian citizen who participated in Georgia's Rose Revolution in 2003, is a Canvas trainer who has worked primarily with Iranian dissidents. She says that while each struggle is different, the level of violence the regime is likely to use on dissidents is what separates them the most.

"In Georgia and in Ukraine, I doubt the security forces or even armed forces actually initiate bloodshed on the streets. Whereas I'm pretty sure that's not going to be true in Iran or in any other country where the regime is violent," Ms. Gogoberidze says. "It's the level of violence that differentiates the struggles from each other."

She describes the trainings as "brainstorming sessions," where activists use their own creativity in developing methods to fight oppression in their countries.

"Nobody knows better than the community members how to get mobilized, you know what I mean. That's the whole idea of the nonviolent struggle," she says. You cannot export fights, [sending] 10, I don't now, Serbs, or Georgians, or Ukrainians, from their countries and make a revolution in another country. It's a totally home-driven and homegrown thing."

'Struggle must be homegrown'

Jack DuVall, president of the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, also held a weeklong educational seminar on nonviolent resistance in Egypt in 2007. He emphasizes that foreign organizations could not conduct "training" in how to fight repression in specific regimes – but could offer up a template for nonviolent resistance.

"Outsiders are utterly incapable of advising individuals in a country who want to engage in civil resistance about how to do so," Mr. DuVall says. "The conceptual and generic nature of this form of struggle can be taught; but then it's up to people on the ground to do that on their own. They're the ones taking the risks."

Gene Sharp, 83, who has become known as the Karl Von Clausewitz of non-violent resistance strategy, has called the Egyptian revolutionaries "very brave." He says that while he is glad his writing was useful to them, all the credit goes to the Egyptian people.

"If people are no longer afraid, then that dictatorship is in big trouble. But they also managed to maintain to a remarkable degree – not perfectly but to a remarkable degree – they managed to maintain their nonviolent discipline even when they were being attacked," Mr. Sharp says. [The full text of RFE/RL's interview with Mr. Sharp may be read online at www.rferl.org.]

"They often were saying, people were interested in maybe using some violence, and people were saying peaceful, peaceful, peaceful. And that was even in demonstrations of over a million people. That's an

(Continued on page 7)

NEWSBRIEFS

Ukrainians evacuated from Libya

KYIV – Twenty-three citizens of Ukraine have been delivered to Moscow from Libya via two planes of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation, the press office of the Embassy of Ukraine to Russia reported on February 23. Another aircraft is expected to bring Ukrainian citizens out of the strife-torn country. An IL-76 military transport plane of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense succeeded in landing at Tripoli airport, but its return to Kyiv's Boryspil airport has been postponed indefinitely. Some Ukrainian citizens left Libya aboard the Russian ferry that on February 22 left the port city of Benghazi for Istanbul. Ukraine's First Vice Prime Minister Andriy Kliuyev is heading a working group to ensure the safety of Ukrainian citizens on the territory of North Africa and the Middle East. He said that, through diplomatic channels, the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ukraine had reached a preliminary agreement that the Greek and Turkish ferry boats expected this week at the port of Benghazi will take on board Ukrainian citizens, including those who do not have valid visas for entry into Greece and Turkey. There are about 3,000 Ukrainian citizens in Libya, who work mainly in the medical sector. (Ukrinform)

Doctors work in Libya at gunpoint

KYIV – Some 3,000 Ukrainians who are working in the medical sector in Libya have found themselves in the middle of the turmoil in Libya, the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda in Ukraine reported on February 11. Ukrainian doctors are saying they are being made to work at gunpoint "for the good of the revolution," the paper has reported. Mykhailo Firtel, a physician with Benghazi central hospital No. 12, who came to Africa from Zhytomyr, said hundreds of wounded and killed people have been taken to the hospital over the past three days and the morgues are full. Dr. Firtel said people in military uniform had told the doctors on Saturday that the city belongs to the opposition. "They said we would have no replacement due to the huge number of wounded people. They were sent to mobile medical points, which

were organized in the city's schools. We don't know what is happening to our colleagues, they cannot be contacted. It is possible that they are working with bullets flying over their heads," he said. Dr. Firtel said the gunmen were polite at first, but eventually warned the doctors that anyone who attempted to escape would be shot and killed. "We can no longer leave the territory of the hospital. There are security guards at the entrance. Some of our colleagues have wives and children. They have to sit in basements and wait for help," the doctor said. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Journalists report from Tripoli

KYIV – Sources at Komsomolskaya Pravda in Ukraine said journalists managed to telephone the Embassy of Ukraine when the February 22 edition of the paper was already being printed. "We are getting information on casualties among Ukrainians, but we cannot check it as communications are not working and there is no Internet connection. The situation is very tense. Our officials are not going outside: there is gunfire and explosions there. No one is guarding the Embassy building, so we are having to take all precautions. We can't leave here either: there is no gasoline in the country, and the food situation is also very difficult," one of the diplomats told Komsomolskaya Pravda in Ukraine. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Yanukovich on "nation's new elite"

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine at a meeting of the Committee on Economic Reforms noted an acute shortage of personnel capable of implementing reforms in this country. According to February 22 news reports, he said: "In the process of preparing and carrying out the reforms, we keenly felt the personnel problem – not enough educated, creative people with unconventional thinking." Therefore, he said, the "New Elite of the Nation" presidential personnel reserve will be formed this year. The president said this will be a really new elite of the nation, which will create a mechanism for selecting and attracting the most talented citizens

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NEWS ANALYSIS: How to turn 'partly free' Ukraine into 'not free'

by **Taras Kuzio**
RFE/RL

Some Western policymakers continue to argue that Ukraine's political system is unlikely to evolve into a full authoritarian system along the lines of Russia and Belarus. President Viktor Yanukovich will slow down his authoritarian blitzkrieg, they argue, and the system will stabilize into a semi-authoritarian system.

In other words, Ukraine will stabilize at "partly free," the semi-authoritarian status that Freedom House gave it throughout the Leonid Kuchma era and to which it returned in 2010 after Mr. Yanukovich's first year in office.

An alternative viewpoint that's gaining ground is that Ukraine will decline further to "not free," the full authoritarian status that independent Ukraine has never held. If this were to take place, Ukraine would join the eight authoritarian CIS countries (Russia, Belarus, Azerbaijan and the five Central Asian states) that are classified as "not free" by the U.S.-based rights watchdog.

The Yanukovich administration has moved farther down the path of authoritarianism in only one year in office than Mr. Kuchma did in a decade. Both administrations resorted to taking political prisoners. Under President Kuchma, members of UNA-UNSO (Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian People's Self-Defense) were imprisoned for their alleged involvement in the March 2001 riots. Under President Yanukovich, former

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and her former Cabinet members are either under arrest or threatened with criminal charges.

Under President Kuchma, elections were falsified in 1999 and 2004 – on both occasions with the assistance of Mr. Yanukovich at the local and national levels. Under President Yanukovich, local elections were falsified last year. Free elections can only be trusted to democratic forces such as Viktor Yushchenko, under whose watch high-quality elections were held in 2006, 2007 and 2010. Mr. Yanukovich is destroying the institution of free elections that brought him to power.

In the 2002, 2006-2007 and 2010 parliaments, Messrs. Kuchma and Yanukovich both sought to bribe, coerce and blackmail opposition deputies to defect to the ruling coalition. Usually these were business leaders in the opposition, whether members of the Liberal Party in 2002 led by Volodymyr Shcherban or the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs led by Anatoliy Kinakh in 2007.

The Communist Party never entered government under the Kuchma administration, but has joined both coalitions established by Mr. Yanukovich: the Anti-Crisis Coalition in 2006-2007 and the Stability and Reforms since 2010. The neo-Stalinist Communist Party is anti-reform and anti-Western, and therefore any coalition that includes such a political force cannot honestly be described as "reformist."

There has also been regression on national identity questions. The Communist Party and Mr. Yanukovich's

Party of Regions voted against the 2006 law on the 1932-1933 Holodomor and the pages on the Famine-Genocide on the presidential website were removed on February 25, 2010 – the day Mr. Yanukovich was inaugurated as president. In 2003, by contrast, President Kuchma launched an international campaign to support the designation of the Holodomor as an act of genocide.

Collapse of independent institutions

Parliament became a rubber-stamp institution under President Yanukovich for the first time in its history, because President Kuchma never had a stable majority. Mr. Yanukovich's Stability and Reforms coalition has brought in 50 opposition deputies, giving it more than 260 in total in the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada.

The courts are in far worse condition today than under Mr. Kuchma. Supreme Court Chief Justice Vasyl Onopenko told the Kyiv Post that "courts as judicial bodies and judges have lost their independence. This is a direct threat to the judicial protection of human rights."

After the summer 2010 reform of the judiciary. "the Supreme Court has been denied the ability to perform its constitutional function," Mr. Onopenko said. "No one guarantees the unity of case law and equal application of laws in state courts. The Supreme Court, which previously did it, is now deprived of such powers."

Mr. Yanukovich has marginalized the Supreme Court as personal revenge for its December 2004 annulment of his second-round election victory. In a February 11 interview with the BBC, Mr. Yanukovich again repeated that the Supreme Court had violated the Constitution in 2004 when it annulled his election and that he had won a "free election."

Under both President Kuchma and Yanukovich, the unreformed "siloviki," or security forces – the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the Internal Affairs Ministry (MVS), and the tax police – have been used against the political opposition and independent media.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov led the tax police throughout its first seven years of existence (1996-2002). The SBU under Mr. Yanukovich has adopted authoritarian tactics against academics, NGO activists, politicians and journalists for the first time since in the pre-Gorbachev era, when its predecessor, the Soviet Ukrainian KGB existed.

Taras Kuzio is an Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation visiting fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. The views expressed in this commentary are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of RFE/RL. (See http://www.rferl.org/content/commentary_partly_free_ukraine_to_not_free/2310282.html.)

Ukrainian activists alarmed over alleged police brutality

RFE/RL

KHARKIV, Ukraine – Human rights activists in Kharkiv have sent an open letter to President Viktor Yanukovich urging him to intervene in the investigations of two alleged suicides in police custody in the past 10 days, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on February 3.

A local man died in the hospital after falling from the fourth floor window of the Loziv district police department in

In the 1990s the MVS was more under democratic control than today, as its internal troops had been taken away in 1991 and transformed into a national guard. But these were returned to the MVS in 2000 and have, like in other post-Communist systems, become the president's praetorian guard. On November 28, 2004, the MVS troops were ordered to Kyiv by Prime Minister Yanukovich, over President Kuchma's head, to violently suppress the Orange Revolution. But they were turned back by the army.

Journalists disappear

Under President Kuchma the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze became an international scandal after a tape recording was released in which the president allegedly ordered Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Kravchenko to violently beat Gongadze. What is less well known is that journalist Ihor Aleksandrov was also killed in 2001 in Donetsk when Mr. Yanukovich was governor of the region.

Last month, The Washington Post asked President Yanukovich about Kharkiv editor Vasyl Klymentyev, who disappeared only seven months after Mr. Yanukovich was elected. The MVS assumes he has been killed. Mr. Yanukovich nonchalantly replied, "Many journalists disappear all over the world."

Media censorship took place under President Kuchma, but the situation is worse today. What differentiates the Kuchma and Yanukovich presidencies was that total censorship under the former was impossible because of the strength of the opposition, inside and outside Parliament, and pluralism within the ruling elites.

Mr. Yanukovich claims that "mercenaries" in the West have been bought to write negatively about Ukraine and that the Czech government was bribed to grant former Economy Minister Bohdan Danylyshyn political asylum.

Mr. Yanukovich's worldview exports Ukraine's domestic situation – where Ukrainian journalists are often paid to place articles and politicians and Cabinet ministers are often corrupt – to the outside world. This worldview does not see either the legitimacy of Western criticism or the legitimacy of domestic criticism by the opposition and media.

Mr. Yanukovich refuses to acknowledge that democratic regression is taking place on his watch and, in this, he is similar to Mr. Kuchma. But, in five areas – political repression, parliamentary independence, media censorship, the use of the "siloviki" and quality of elections – democratic regression is worse under Mr. Yanukovich than it was under Mr. Kuchma.

If this continues, it will lead to Ukraine becoming ranked as "not free" by the end of President Yanukovich's first term in office, following Kyrgyzstan, which dropped after its 2005 Tulip Revolution from "partly free" to "not free" in 2010.

OSCE chair meets with U.S. officials

OSCE

WASHINGTON – OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Audronius Ažubalis, who is Lithuania's foreign minister, held meetings on February 16 with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and senior members of the U.S. administration.

He underlined Lithuania's commitment to promoting the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, searching for resolution of the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area, supporting freedom of the media, building and maintaining trust and confidence, and promoting energy security.

During the meetings, progress in the resolution of protracted conflicts was discussed. With regard to the conflict in Transnistria (also known as Transnistria), Mr. Ažubalis stressed that it is time to move from informal talks to official negotiations in the 5+2 format on a comprehensive settlement. The 5+2 format comprises the sides, mediators and observers in the negotiation process: the Republic of Moldova, Transnistria, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the OSCE, the United States and the European Union.

The OSCE chairmanship will also focus on challenges in the South Caucasus. The OSCE will work within the Geneva framework to develop measures to improve security and address humanitarian needs in areas affected by the August 2008 conflict. Greater engagement by the co-chairs of the Minsk Group will also be required to reduce the growing tensions on the ground in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

At the hearings of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, Mr. Ažubalis also discussed challenges to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and

the rule of law throughout the OSCE region, as well as the need to address emerging transnational threats and the results of the recent OSCE summit in Astana.

"The Lithuanian OSCE chairmanship is determined to work together with all participating states to fully realize the vision of a comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security community throughout our shared OSCE area," said Mr. Ažubalis.

The Helsinki Commission – formally known as the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe – is an independent U.S. government agency responsible for monitoring and encouraging compliance with the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE commitments.

Mr. Ažubalis emphasized the role of OSCE Institutions and field operations in helping the OSCE participating states fulfill their OSCE commitments.

"In the OSCE, security has always been measured in terms of the well-being of the individual. Our community is safest when human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are upheld," he said, adding that improving respect for freedom of the media was a priority of the Lithuanian chairmanship. In June the chairmanship is inviting all 56 participating states to Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, for a discussion on a political and expert level to improve the safety of journalists in the OSCE region.

During his stay in Washington he also met the chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Iliana Ros-Lehtinen, and other members of the committee. Mr. Ažubalis also met with Sen. Benjamin Cardin, co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, and participated in a discussion at the Atlantic Council.

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INTERVIEW: Tryzub member speaks about his interrogation and arrest



Andrii Tarasenko, first deputy chair of the Stepan Bandera Tryzub All-Ukrainian Organization.

by Volodymyr Musyak

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – He was whisked away from Ivano-Frankivsk to Zaporizhia on a charter plane. Then he was made to sit outside for eight hours in freezing weather, on the eve of a daylong, Soviet-style interrogation. That night he was released onto the streets without even a jacket.

Andrii Tarasenko, first deputy chair of the central command of the Stepan Bandera Tryzub All-Ukrainian Organization, gave a January 26 press conference in Kyiv to inform the public about the status of 14 of its members who remain illegally incarcerated, according to human rights activists claimed, while they await trial.

They were arrested as part of a nationwide sting operation to find those who sawed the head off the statue of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in Zaporizhia on December 27, 2010. Yet they were questioned for another crime – the statue's detonation four days later – in which the Tryzub activists deny involvement.

The enormous resources allocated by the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich to address a simple act of hooliganism – charter planes and hundreds of officers – shocked everyone involved.

In an interview Mr. Tarasenko, a 28-year-old native of Kryvyi Rih, described the ordeal both he and his comrades endured during the government's round-up in mid-January.

* * *

Many believe Tryzub (Trident) is a paramilitary organization. Is that the case?

We teach at youth training camps combat preparedness, obstacle courses, martial arts and some elements of shooting from pneumatic rifles. We do all this for one simple reason – 90 percent of our youth don't serve in the army, and have no idea what that is. The nation's fighting spirit is being castrated. Men aren't being raised, but some type of "half-men."

Who led the arrests and how were they done? Or at least in your case.

I have no idea who did it, but I think these guys were from the criminal investigations unit of Ivano-Frankivsk. No one identified themselves, they didn't show documents and didn't explain anything at all. They said nothing. They simply arrested me, placed a hat over my head, handcuffs behind my back, and that's all.

Did they offer any basis for the arrest, or did they silently arrest you? Did you

have any specific charges filed against you?

Simply silent. They explained nothing, said nothing, not reading any rights as in American films or identifying themselves, as our legislation requires. Nothing at all.

I was questioned as a suspect in setting ablaze some café in Halych in December 20, 2009. [Editor's note – Mr. Tarasenko was not directly involved in the December 27, 2010, vandalism of the Stalin statue, yet he was held as part of those investigations.]

Where were you transported immediately after your arrest, and what happened further?

They took two of us – me and [former central command chair] Dmytro Yarosh. The others were arrested throughout the oblast. Afterwards there were arrests in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Obukhiv, Zaporizhia and even Crimea. We were immediately separated and transported to different police stations so that we weren't all in one place.

They took my fingerprints seven times, and photographed me five times with their cellular phones. Not how they're supposed to, near that thing that measures height. They simply snapped photos. From there, I was taken to the district hospital, where they took blood from my finger. I was taken to a traumatologist, and they did radiophotography. Perhaps they were covering themselves, so there wouldn't be any outrage over me being beaten.

Afterwards they transported me to the Ivano-Frankivsk prison, from there I was escorted to the Lviv airfield. I was flown from Lviv to Zaporizhia, where I was taken to the city administration [of internal affairs].

This was a special plane, an AN-24 Motor Sich, which specially flew from Zaporizhia with Berkut forces and several plainclothes men. We flew to Zaporizhia without any other passengers.

What happened when you arrived in Zaporizhia?

For seven or eight hours, I sat in the police truck on the street, by the Internal Affairs City Administration. I was freezing terribly, considering they took all of my outer clothes, gave me some rags and deprived me of a jacket. At night, they took people one by one from the police truck, and conducted interrogations.

I was the last to be led to the investigator. He questioned me as a witness in the beheading of the Stalin statue, and sent me to some office where I sat until the morning, fastened to a chair. At dawn I began to

(Continued on page 18)

Ukrainian nationalists under arrest

KYIV – The administration of President Viktor Yanukovich launched a national sting operation on January 8 to arrest members of the Stepan Bandera Tryzub All-Ukrainian Organization, some of whom admitted their role in the December 27, 2010, act of vandalism in which they sawed the head off the Joseph Stalin statue in Zaporizhia.

Tryzub members denied any involvement in the December 31, 2010, detonation of the same statue, for which many of them were questioned and reportedly pressured to confess to by the interrogating law enforcement authorities.

Tryzub leaders suspect that the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation planted that bomb to serve as a pretext for the pro-Russian Ukrainian government to begin a persecution campaign of Ukrainian nationalists. The government has yet to charge anyone with the December 31 explosion.

The following is a list of 14 nationalists who remain under arrest, including Yurii Hudymenko, a member of the Svoboda political party. Six Tryzub members were questioned and released.

The authorities have shown no consistent legal basis for incarcerating the activists, many of whom were arrested for charges on alleged crimes that were prosecuted and closed many years ago. That lack of consistency, as well as illegal detention, has led Ukrainian human rights activists to allege political persecution.

– Compiled by Zenon Zawada and Volodymyr Musyak of the Kyiv Press Bureau.

Stepan Bandera Tryzub All-Ukrainian Organization

Vasyl Abramiv

Age: 26

Birthplace: Village of Naddnistrianske, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast
Arrested: January 20, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Hooliganism in December 2010 beheading of Stalin statue
Status: Allegedly endured torture

Eduard Andriushchenko

Age: 22

Birthplace: Zaporizhia
Arrested: January 9, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Hooliganism in December 2010 beheading of Stalin statue
Status: Allegedly endured beatings

Stepan Bychek

Age: 59

Birthplace: Village of Svitanok, Ternopil Oblast
Arrested: January 17, 2011, imprisoned in Ivano-Frankivsk

Criminal charge: Illegal possession of firearms*
Status: Allegedly endured psychological abuse

Viktor Davydenko

Age: 57

Birthplace: Rural Zaporizhia Oblast
Arrested: January 11, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Arson of Zaporizhia Communist Party headquarters in 2009
Status: Allegedly endured verbal threats, psychological abuse

Roman Khmara

Age: 31

Birthplace: Kyiv

Arrested: January 8, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Hooliganism in December 2010 beheading of Stalin statue
Status: Allegedly endured beatings

Vasyl Labaichuk

Age: 21

Birthplace: Village of Roznoshyntsiakh, Ternopil Oblast

Arrested: January 9, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Hooliganism in December 2010 beheading of Stalin statue
Status: Allegedly endured torture

Anatolii Onufriichuk

Age: 25

Birthplace: Ovruch, Zhytomyr Oblast

Arrested: January 19, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Hooliganism in December 2010 beheading of Stalin statue
Status: Admitted he capitulated to torture

Yurii Ponomarenko

Age: 24

Birthplace: Village of Krasnokutsk, Kharkiv Oblast

Arrested: January 19, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Hooliganism in December 2010 beheading of Stalin statue
Status: Allegedly endured beatings

Andrii Stempitskyi

Age: 36

Birthplace: Boryslav, Lviv Oblast

Arrested: January 8, 2011, imprisoned in Ivano-Frankivsk

Criminal charge: Illegal possession of firearms*
Status: Allegedly endured psychological abuse

Pylyp Taran

Age: 20

Birthplace: Kharkiv

Arrested: January 8, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Hooliganism in December 2010 beheading of Stalin statue
Status: Allegedly endured torture

Artem Tsyhanok

Age: 22

Birthplace: Zaporizhia

Arrested: January 10, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Arson of Zaporizhia Communist Party headquarters in 2009
Status: Allegedly endured beatings

Vitalii Vyshniuk

Age: 24

Birthplace: Kalush, Ivano-Frankivsk

Arrested: January 12, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Hooliganism in December 2010 beheading of Stalin statue
Status: No reported abuse or torture

Ihor Zahrebelnyi

Age: 22

Birthplace: Village of Bilyky, Poltava Oblast

Arrested: January 21, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Arson of Zaporizhia Communist Party headquarters in 2009
Status: No reported abuse or torture

(Continued on page 7)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The West wakes up

In the wake of upheavals in the Middle East, it seems that the Western press – if not Western leaders – has rediscovered Ukraine. Or more pointedly what came after Ukraine's euphoric Orange Revolution.

On February 7, The Wall Street Journal's editorial noted, "Six years ago, Ukraine had its Egypt moment. A popular uprising toppled an authoritarian regime in what came to be known as the Orange Revolution." The editorial went on to note the grim reality of today's Ukraine, when "Mr. [Viktor] Yanukovich's government is now busily trying to reverse democratic rights, putting pressure on the press, ramming constitutional changes into law to increase his power and extending the Parliament's term by a year." Ukraine, it said, "is under threat from refugees of the Soviet era who grew up with the habits of one-party rule and have never taken to pluralistic politics."

On February 23, The Washington Post observed: "While Western attention is focused on the exciting upheavals in the Middle East, a strategic European country of 50 million people may be creeping out of the democratic camp." The editorial noted that "the government has begun to move against the Orange Revolution's leaders. ... Journalists say free media are under pressure from the government. Local elections held last year were marked by serious irregularities."

The Economist of February 24 wrote: "As in Russia in the early Putin years, the influence of parliament, prime minister and government has been cut back. Decisions belong in the presidential administration. Prosecutors, the constitutional court and the central bank have lost any semblance of independence. ... thuggery and cronyism are in place. ... The air of intimidation has thickened. ... Mr. Yanukovich [sic] has taken a leaf from Mr. [Vladimir] Putin's book by exploiting a right-wing nationalist party in western Ukraine to serve as an easily defeatable opposition that can also be presented in the West and in Kiev [sic] as an ugly alternative to his moderate Party of Regions."

It is worth recalling the inaugural address two years ago of President Barack Obama, who said: "To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history." Today there are questions about how he has handled the multiple popular revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Iran, Bahrain, Libya, etc. And there should be questions, too, about how he has handled Ukraine.

The aforementioned Washington Post editorial pointed out that the "political abuses" of the Yanukovich administration were not publicly mentioned during a meeting of the U.S.-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission. It concluded by stating: "The United States should be pressing harder to stop the democratic erosion. One way to do so is to explicitly link further progress in economic relations with Ukraine to improvements in human rights – and to urge the governments of the European Union to follow suit."

Yes, it's time for the West to get over its "Ukraine fatigue" and get beyond its focus on stability above all else.

March
3
2010

Turning the pages back...

Last year, on March 3, 2010, deputies from the Lviv, Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk oblast councils submitted appeals to the European Parliament asking it to review its condemnation of President Viktor Yushchenko posthumously awarding Stepan Bandera, leader of the Organization of

Ukrainian Nationalists, the title of National Hero of Ukraine.

The resolution, adopted by the European Parliament on February 25, 2010, stated that it "deeply deplores the decision by the outgoing president of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko," and labeled Bandera a Nazi collaborator and voiced hope that the next Ukrainian leadership would "reconsider such decisions and maintain its commitment to European values."

The resolution touched on other subjects related to Ukraine, including the recent presidential election and constitutional reform to cooperation with the European Union, visa-free travel and energy efficiency.

The International Conference in Support of Ukraine submitted a letter of protest to Jerzy Buzek, president of the European Parliament, on March 2, 2010.

Deputies of the oblast councils said the resolution on Bandera was based on slander of so-called "cooperation" between the OUN and Nazi Germany, and were the echoes of Communist propaganda that defamed the Ukrainian national liberation movement during World War II. The deputies called on the European Parliament to review its position based on historical facts, referring to the Nuremberg process, in which neither Bandera, nor the OUN led by him, nor the Ukrainian Insurgent Army led by Gen. Roman Shukhevych were described as collaborators.

Lviv Oblast Council Deputy Oleh Krystyniak told RFE/RL that the European Parliament's position was "an insult to Ukrainians, because the OUN in March 1939 was the first to take up arms to oppose Hitler's plans for the division of Europe. [Bandera] refused to collaborate with the Nazis."

The International Conference in Support of Ukraine (prior to Ukraine's renewed independence known as the Ukrainian Liberation Front) wrote to Mr. Buzek, arguing that "the honoring of Stepan Bandera is not a topic for European Parliament debate" and noting that "our understanding is that this anti-Ukrainian verbiage was introduced last minute with no supporting documentation or evidence by the Polish delegation."

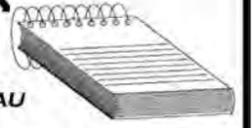
The letter, signed by Askold S. Lozynskyj, chairman, concluded: "We hope that in good faith, Mr. President, you revisit this issue. Ample evidence from Nazi, Soviet and OUN archives can be submitted to refute this specious canard. We are certain that you, as the former prime minister of Poland, can inform your colleagues personally simply by telling the truth. We pray that you do what is right."

Source: "European Parliament slams Yushchenko for honoring Bandera," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 7, 2010.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY ZENON ZAWADA

KYIV PRESS BUREAU



Yurii Hudymenko's love for Ukraine

The first time I met Yurii Hudymenko, he called a press conference in Kyiv to draw attention to an attack carried out against him and 30 patriots who gathered in their native Zaporzhia on October 18, 2009, to honor the founding of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

In response to his attempts to lead a simple march down the city's central boulevard, more than 40 Russian chauvinist thugs of the Party of Regions of Ukraine attacked them with the support of local police, who urged "beat them quicker because our bosses will be coming soon."

One of the thugs used a pneumatic pistol to shoot at Mr. Hudymenko and the patriots, in clear view of those supposed to maintain law and order.

None of the attackers were arrested, yet Mr. Hudymenko and several beaten colleagues were taken to the local police station, where they were beaten further. Eventually, several of the victims were convicted for simple hooliganism by a local court. The assaulters remain free.

So much for Western-style justice under the presidency of the so-called "nationalist" Viktor Yushchenko, who everyone expected would use the law to protect patriotic Ukrainians against Ukraine's hostile pro-Russian forces. After all, many patriots risked their lives so that he could become president. If he wasn't going to establish the rule of law in Ukraine, the least he could have done is protect his own electorate.

When I traveled to Zaporizhia to cover the unveiling of the Joseph Stalin statue at the local Communist Party headquarters, I met Mr. Hudymenko again for an interview. We talked about what it was like being a young, ethnically conscious Ukrainian growing up and living in a city like Zaporizhia.

The city hasn't changed a bit since the Soviet era, he told me. Everything has practically remained the same. It's the type of place where many young people spend all week working, only to blow all their money on a weekend of partying. Youth and sports organizations collapsed with the Soviet Union, and were never replaced.

"It's a working class city, and the youth have nothing to do," he told me. "The vast majority drink, and couldn't imagine spending a Friday night without a five-liter bottle of beer. They don't remember the weekends, and repeat the cycle week after week. It hurts me to watch all this."

Mr. Hudymenko, 23, struck me as precisely the type of upstanding young man that Ukraine doesn't have enough of. He's articulate, thoughtful and intelligent. He cares deeply for his city, for his country and for his people. He doesn't drink, having seen the damage alcohol had done to his peers.

In March 2010, he even organized a march in the city – "Genocide Without Gallows" – to protest against the degenerative culture overtaking young people in his native Zaporizhia. They called for youths to stop drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes and watching television – all addictive behaviors prevalent in Ukraine.

Mr. Hudymenko told the local media that genocide is being carried out against Ukrainians, only "without gallows or concentration camps, without open wars."

"Our Ukrainian face is being destroyed before our very eyes. What is youth interested in now? Everyone wants a beautiful life without hard work, and rarely does anyone refrain from using alcohol and cigarettes," he commented.

Years ago, I might have dismissed such claims. I don't any longer.

Mr. Hudymenko decided to channel his love for Ukraine by joining the Svoboda All-Ukrainian Union, the nation's leading nationalist political force that is likely to gain a faction in Parliament in the October 2012 elections.

It's unfortunate that the cream of the crop of Ukraine's post-Orange generation is turning to radical forces like Svoboda, rather than finding a nest in the national-democratic forces. We can thank Mr. Yushchenko for decimating the national-democratic idea with his corrupt, ineffective politics.

As a result, many of the youths who used to believe in the values of the Orange Revolution have defected to Svoboda, convinced of the ultimate failure of the ideologies of "liberal democracy" (associated with the Batkivschyna party) and "national democracy" (associated with the decimated Our Ukraine party).

Mr. Hudymenko was arrested on January 10 for allegedly smearing red paint in May 2010 on the statue of KGB founder Felix Dzerzhinsky that still looms over Zaporizhia along its central boulevard – on Freedom Square, no less.

Never mind that a court cleared Mr. Hudymenko of any criminal charges last year. Following the Stalin statue detonation, Zaporizhia Oblast Prosecutor Viacheslav Pavlov ruled to overturn that verdict and to re-try the criminal case against Mr. Hudymenko – a move that in what Ukrainian lawyers said is an illegally conjured pretext to incarcerate this young activist, just for his political views and deeds.

The prosecutor demanded his imprisonment out of concern he would flee. Yet Mr. Hudymenko had been arrested twice in the last year and hadn't fled anywhere before the respective court dates.

(Continued on page 10)



Zenon Zawada

Yurii Hudymenko was arrested on January 10 on charges of which he was cleared – smearing paint on Zaporizhia's statue of KGB founder Felix Dzerzhinsky in May 2010.

WINDOW ON EURASIA

'Three Nations' competing for dominance within Ukraine, according to Lviv activist

by Paul Goble

Most analysts view relations between ethnic Ukrainians and ethnic Russians as the basic source of conflict in Ukraine today. Some have argued that this conflict is among three groups: Ukrainian-speaking Ukrainians, Russian-speaking Ukrainians and Russian-speaking Russians.

But Yurii Mykhalchyshyn, deputy head of the Ukrainian nationalist Svoboda Party in the Lviv City Council, told Glavkom on January 27 that the real conflict in Ukraine at the present time is about "the right to exist" for one or another of "three different national projects" (www.regnum.ru/news/polit/1368975.html).

"Today we can quite confidently speak about the formation" of three distinctive groupings: the Svoboda party leader argues, "[first,] a contemporary Ukrainian nation, [second,] a Little Russian nation, and [third,] a neo-Soviet nation, the representatives of which are commonly called "sovky."

The contemporary Ukrainian nation, he suggests, "is that part of the old Ukrainian ethnic base" who members "consider themselves Ukrainians" and see "continuity and an uninterrupted pattern of Ukrainian statehood from Kyivan Rus' to Ukraine of 1991 and who desire the development of the Ukrainian state in its ethnic boundaries."

The "Little Russia" group is "the politically amorphous part of ethnic Ukrainians who have been subjected to strong denationalization: in particular, as a result of mass repressions, collectivization and the consequences of the second world war for central and northern Ukraine."

Members of this group "recognize their blood relationship to those Ukrainians who position themselves as a clearly conscious Ukrainian nation but are more indifferent relative to [its] future." And they form that part of contemporary Ukrainian society

Paul Goble is a long-time specialist on ethnic and religious questions in Eurasia who has served in various capacities in the U.S. State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the International Broadcasting Bureau, as well as at the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Mr. Goble writes a blog called "Window on Eurasia."

Exporting...

(Continued from page 2)

amazing achievement, and it was key to their success," he notes.

Each unhappy in its own way

Canvas's teachings are now spreading around North Africa and the Middle East through word of mouth and social media.

Zeynep Tufekci, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Maryland in Baltimore County, says that messages of solidarity as well as practical knowledge – ranging from how to deal with tear gas to how to circumvent Internet censorship – have been exchanged between Tunisia, Egypt and other countries in political turmoil.

"It's really just a very integrated movement, even though the uprisings are very national and very organic," Mr. Tufekci says. "They're not just inspired by outside;

which by its passivity and absence of vision... equates two polar tendencies," those of Lviv and those of Donetsk.

"The third part," Mr. Mykhalchyshyn says, "is the neo-Soviet nation, that part of the population of Ukraine which possibly is the result of mixed marriages of Ukrainians, Russians and representatives of other peoples of the former Soviet Union." It is a product of Soviet nationality policy and of efforts to produce a single "Soviet people."

Such people view "the liquidation of the USSR... as a catastrophe in their lives" and continue to "identify with a single all-union center of influence in Moscow." Culturally, spiritually and economically, they identify themselves [not with Russians necessarily] but with the Soviet period of history, "seeing it as a model for the future," he explains.

Such people are extraordinarily hostile to the very idea of the existence of Ukraine as "a separate state unit on the geopolitical map of the world."

According to Mr. Mykhalchyshyn, "today's Ukraine is divided not along an 'east-west- line,' " that is geographically, "but more along one of "a spiritual-biological character." Each of the three groups, he says, has about 30 percent of the population, and thus no one of them is in a pre-dominant position now.

Despite its "biological component," something that will cause many to dismiss it, Mr. Mykhalchyshyn's proposed model really focuses on psychology, and it provides a more adequate explanation for why Ukrainian politics is so unstable and why individuals and groups ally with or oppose one another than do most ethnic models.

Meanwhile, it is increasingly clear that Moscow and Kyiv under the presidency of Viktor Yanukovich are working to promote the third group at the expense of the other two. One clear example of that involves the fate of Ukrainian organizations in the Russian Federation – organizations that Russian officials have moved to close.

Even as Moscow courts move to close Ukrainian autonomy organizations in Russia, people close to the process told Nezavisimaya Gazeta that the Russian powers that be are working with Kyiv to set up "new [Ukrainian] structures with a new [and presumably less nationalist] leadership" (www.ng.ru/politics/2011-01-28/100_ukraina.html).

they're inspired by their own grievances, but the technical considerations are inspired by what's going on elsewhere."

Mr. Gogoberidze, the Georgian activist, says that none of the Iranians she trained were part of any formal activist organization, such as the Green Movement. She says she has trained housewives, students and journalists how to engage in nonviolent struggle.

Asked how Canvas connects with these people, she says simply, "They find us."

Slobodan Kostic and Ena Stevanovic of RFE/RL's Balkan Service contributed to this report, as did RFE/RL's Georgian Service.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

Whose Foreign Affairs Ministry does Gryshchenko head?

by Askold S. Lozynskyj

Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) under the current leadership of Kostyantyn Gryshchenko has taken a position that is difficult to understand. After all, despite the overwhelming closeness of President Viktor Yanukovich's regime to the Russian Federation, Ukraine remains an independent country. One of the functions of Ukraine's MFA and its adjunct diplomatic missions throughout the world is to look out for the welfare of Ukrainians residing and functioning as communities in other countries.

Most recently Mr. Gryshchenko, addressing Ukraine's Parliament, sided with the Russian government in Russia's current dispute with the Ukrainian community there. In fact, Russia is attempting to liquidate existing Ukrainian structures, most notably the Federal National Cultural Autonomy of Ukrainians in Russia (FNCAUR) and the Union of Ukrainians of Russia (UUR). Additionally, it has pressured the municipal Library of Ukrainian Literature in Moscow.

Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov has acknowledged that while the legal bases for liquidation (FNCAUR) are procedural infractions of Russian law, the underlying reason is the organization's political activities, including but not limited to participating in commemorations of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 (Holodomor), giving interviews to Radio Liberty and the like, which does not comport with Russian governmental policy.

At the Verkhovna Rada Mr. Gryshchenko stressed that fault lay with the Ukrainian community in Russia, among other procedural infractions, for "failing to convene annual meetings of members of the UUR." This assertion manifested not only sycophancy but ignorance since, under the by-laws of the UUR, meetings (conventions) of members are to be held on a quadrennial basis.

Mr. Gryshchenko speaks often with little regard for the facts, but manages to shroud errors with a loud tone and a self-assured visage. Some call it arrogance. Ukraine's Parliament did not know any better, but word leaked out. The UUR leadership repudiated the minister's remarks.

The issue, however, is not Mr. Gryshchenko's errors. For some time he and his representative, Ukraine's ambassador to Moscow, Volodymyr Yelchenko have been plotting to compel the Ukrainian community in Russia to reorganize by forming a new structure entirely accommodating to both Russian and Ukrainian policies, which do not differ much these days.

Askold S. Lozynskyj is an attorney based in New York City. He is a former president of the Ukrainian World Congress.

Ukrainian nationalists...

(Continued from page 5)

Oleksii Zanuda

Age: 28
Birthplace: Village of Obukhiv, Kyiv Oblast

Arrested: January 14, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Hooliganism in December 2010 beheading of Stalin statue
Status: Allegedly endured beatings

Svoboda All-Ukrainian Union

But the concept of a non-governmental organization being formed and functioning as a conscience of the community, yet subservient to government pressure is vigorously opposed by the leaders of the Ukrainian community in Russia – and rightly so.

During last year's commemoration of the Holodomor, Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Gryshchenko issued a statement that was read by his ambassador in the United States at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York during a commemorative program organized by the Ukrainian American community. Naturally, the term "genocide" was omitted from the statement.

But, perhaps even more significantly, Mr. Gryshchenko went out of his way to emphasize the suffering of other peoples throughout the Soviet Union. That may have been a Christian approach, albeit historically incorrect and insensitive to one's own people, were it initiated by leaders of Ukraine's churches. But this was the statement of Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry. The statement concluded by calling upon the participants to pray for all those who suffered.

The irony was so palpable that, at the conclusion, a former high-ranking member of Ukraine's diplomatic corps pointed out to me privately, that this was the first time in more than 15 annual observances at St. Patrick's Cathedral that there was no commemorative statement from the president of Ukraine and that the only official Ukrainian government statement attempted to pass over the Holodomor's Ukrainian specificity.

I managed to grab a diplomat from Ukraine's Embassy and cynically requested that he pass on to both the ambassador and Mr. Gryshchenko, that in the future Ukraine would be better served if statements on the Holodomor were simply prepared by the diaspora community.

While the post-program banter at St. Patrick's was personally cathartic, unfortunately, Ukraine's position regarding the Ukrainian community in Russia is damning. The community there, perhaps naively, looked for support from the government of Ukraine. When Minister Gryshchenko and Ambassador Yelchenko sided with the Russians and conspired with the Russians to mold the Ukrainian community in Russia's and contemporary Ukraine's desired image, the Ukrainian community in Russia was doomed with no future as a legitimate non-governmental voice and conscience of Ukrainians in Russia.

Similarly, if Mr. Gryshchenko remains on top, there is no future for Ukraine's current Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It should simply rename itself the Ukrainian Desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. But then Mr. Yanukovich would not be a president and Mr. Gryshchenko would not be a minister. And so the farce continues.

Yurii Hudymenko

Age: 23
Birthplace: Zaporizhia
Arrested: January 8, 2011, imprisoned in Zaporizhia

Criminal charge: Hooliganism in May 2010 smearing of paint on Dzerzhinsky statue in Zaporizhia

Status: No information available

* Police have not stated what the criminal charge of illegal possession of firearms is related to. Bloggers reported speculation that the weapons were planted by police in relation to the December 31, 2010, detonation of the Stalin statue in Zaporizhia.

NEWS AND VIEWS: Reflections on the Ukrainian language

by Jaroslaw Martyniuk

In September 2010, I spent 10 days in Kyiv and Odesa observing focus groups for a client. I've been doing media research in Ukraine since the early 1990s and have observed a number of changes in attitudes toward the Ukrainian language. This article discusses some of these changes and documents a few trends.

For about the last 20 years, attitudes toward the Ukrainian language have evolved in its favor, but not without contradiction and paradox. The best way to describe this phenomenon is to recount a situation I observed while walking down Shota Rustaveli Street, one of the tree-lined thoroughfares in the center of Kyiv. An elderly lady was escorting her 8-year-old granddaughter to school. The grandmother was instructing the little girl about how it's important for her to speak Ukrainian. The irony was that she was lecturing her granddaughter in Russian: "Verochka, ty dolzhna govorit na ukrayinskom yazyike. Ya tebe vseгда govoryu, rozgovorivai so mnoy po-ukrayinski – eto nuzhno" ("Verochka [a diminutive of Vera], you should speak in Ukrainian. I always tell you to converse with me in Ukrainian – it's necessary").

On another occasion, while traveling to Dnipropetrovsk, I shared a cabin with an official working for Ukraine's stock exchange. The man tried speaking to me in Ukrainian but constantly mixed in Russian words and syntax. In the end he apologized, saying that all his life he'd spoken Russian and only recently began using Ukrainian. At that moment, his daughter walked into our cabin, saying in Russian: "Papa, papa, posmotri chto ya sdelala!" (Papa, papa, look at what I've done) and showing him how she had dressed her doll. Her father seemed embarrassed that his daughter was speaking in Russian, and told her that I speak Ukrainian and that she should too. In a split second, the little girl switched to flawless, melodious Ukrainian and said: "Dobryi den, podyvitsia na moyu lialku" (Good day, take a look at my doll).

Russian-speaking parents and grandparents are increasingly encouraging their offspring to speak Ukrainian, but there is also

a change taking place among adults, as demonstrated by an incident that took place at the offices of one of Ukraine's leading marketing research institutes.

Although, I'm usually greeted in Ukrainian, over the years I have noticed that most of the personnel are bilingual but tend to communicate in Russian with each other. Old habits die hard. On one occasion, however, I was surprised to hear everyone, from the director on down to the technical staff, speaking Ukrainian. The institute was welcoming a group of sociologists from Moscow and, as if on cue, to underscore their Ukrainianness, all began speaking in fluent Ukrainian and used Russian only when they communicated with their Russian guests. When the Moscow team left, the staff switched back to their habitual use of Russian.

* * *

There has definitely been a noticeable shift in attitudes toward the Ukrainian language. When I first came to Kyiv in the early 1990s and spoke Ukrainian in a restaurant or in a shop, I would get a perplexed look, as if to say "What village did this man come from?" Any response to my inquiries was almost always in Russian.

Twenty years on things have changed. While Russian is still heard on the streets of Kyiv, I no longer get strange looks when I speak in Ukrainian. If I speak in Russian, chances are that I will get a response in kind, but if I choose to use Ukrainian, most people will reply to me in fairly decent Ukrainian. Young people are especially likely to have a good command of that language.

Yet another change is that by now nearly all Ukrainians are bilingual. Although not all are fluent in both Ukrainian and Russian, surveys show that nearly all (98 percent) understand those languages well enough to understand most of a radio broadcast. This high level of bilingualism also suggests that most Ukrainians are able to switch back and forth between the two languages.

Such flexibility was illustrated by the focus groups I observed in Kyiv. Participants indicated it does not make much difference if news and other information on the radio are broadcast in Ukrainian or Russian, because they understand both languages equally.

In Kyiv, the focus groups were conducted in Russian and Ukrainian, but in Odesa most participants preferred speaking in Russian. Still, the Odesans usually

expressed goodwill toward the Ukrainian language and indicated that it must be protected and nurtured. Considerable majorities of the groups in Kyiv and Odesa also support the idea that Ukrainian should be the only state language and that all citizens of Ukraine should be able to speak it.

Some believed Russian should not have a privileged status and should be treated like any other foreign tongue. A small minority, however, felt that Russian should be permitted as a second official language in eastern Ukraine, where most inhabitants are Russophone.

A few were embarrassed they could not express themselves fluently in Ukrainian. They want to speak their language well and not "butcher" it the way the current prime minister, Mykola Azarov, does.

Finally, there are indications that people have changed the way they communicate on a daily basis. The 2001 census shows that two-thirds of the population named Ukrainian as their native language; 30 percent named Russian. But this does not reflect how Ukrainian is used in everyday life.

A much better indicator is which language is spoken at home. Current survey findings show the proportion of Ukrainians who speak Ukrainian at home (around 45 percent) is higher than that of those who speak Russian (around 40 percent). In the mid-1990s the ratio was roughly inverse. The shift, though not dramatic, suggests a trend. It should be noted that a substantial proportion of Ukrainians (15 percent) speak a Ukrainian-Russian patois called "surzhyk."

* * *

Over the last century, the Ukrainian language has undergone cycles of revival and near obliteration. The language question is closely linked to Ukrainian national identity. That identity has been stronger in western Ukraine because it was not part of the USSR before 1939 and therefore did not suffer the terrible population losses caused by the genocidal famine (Holodomor) of 1932-1933, the Great Terror and other Stalin-era crimes that afflicted the rest of Ukraine in the interwar years.

The inhabitants of central, southern and eastern Ukraine, on the other hand, were repeatedly, repressed, starved, collectivized and terrorized. That systematic assault against Ukrainian national identity, society, culture and education, combined with the Holodomor's tragic, hyper-excessive mortality affecting at least 4 million Ukrainian

peasants – the backbone of the nation – also dealt the Ukrainian language a crippling blow.

There was a short revival of the Ukrainian language and culture in Soviet Ukraine during the 1920s, and another under Communist Party of Ukraine leader Petro Shelest, from 1963 to 1972. He was removed by the Kremlin for being too lenient toward Ukrainian "nationalism." Shelest's successor, Volodymyr Shcherbytsky, fiercely suppressed any revival of the language and insisted Russian be spoken at all official functions. His policy of Russification, which lasted until 1985, once again left the Ukrainian language seriously weakened.

During the tumultuous late 1980s, Mikhail Gorbachev's liberal policy of perestroika eventually led to growing support for Ukrainian sovereignty and, with it, support for the Ukrainian language. Consequently, the Russification was stalled and, with the declaration of Ukraine's independence in 1991, reversed. Since then, the trends have been encouraging. Ukrainian has taken root as the state language, and has also been widely promoted in the public sphere. More importantly, it is used widely in schools at all levels, and the media landscape has become largely Ukrainophone. The status, acceptance and growth of the Ukrainian language was strengthened.

However, in January 2010, Viktor Yanukovich, the newly elected president of Ukraine, appointed a largely Russophile and Russophone Cabinet of Ministers. Its members are vigorously trying to undo the achievements of the last 20 years. They have launched a systematic attack on Ukrainian language, culture, history and national churches on all levels, including administrative, legislative and judicial, as well as in the realms of education and mass media.

Does this mean that the Ukrainian language is yet again in jeopardy? Will it be able to withstand this latest assault or will it succumb to Russification policies to appease Moscow?

One thing is becoming clear: the process will not be without a strong resistance. Opposition to President Yanukovich's educational and cultural policies is already solidifying, particularly among writers, intellectuals and members of the academic elite, and they have recently found allies in the Verkhovna Rada. Only time will tell which way the pendulum will swing.

Authorities...

(Continued from page 1)

various reasons for the delay, among them that the UCU couldn't be considered a religious institution subject to exemption. They also stated that the UCU gains profit from student tuitions, which university officials said is not true.

Yet the real motive could have been simple revenge on the part of the Svoboda nationalists.

UCU Vice-Rector Myroslav Marynovych published a blog entry in mid-January on the Zaxid.net website criticizing Lviv City Council Deputies Yurii Mykhalchyshyn and nationalist orator Iryna Farion, both of the Svoboda party, for indulging in hate speech when reacting to a Donetsk court ruling stripping Stepan Bandera of the Hero of Ukraine order.

At a January 13 extraplenary session of the Lviv Oblast Council held at the Bandera statue, Ms. Farion called upon Ukrainians to abandon compromise and tolerance in favor of aggressiveness and

egocentrism when dealing with the Party of Regions, whose members she didn't consider to be people.

Meanwhile Mr. Mykhalchyshyn declared that "our Banderite army will cross the Dnipro River, cross Donetsk and throw the blue-assed gang that's currently usurping power out of Ukraine."

"Are you sick of placards? ...Are you sick of speaking about compromise, about reconciliation, about 'east and west together'?" the young politician rhetorically asked those assembled.

"Banderites are people who forced the 'Moskali' [Muscovites] to respect Ukrainians," he thundered. "If earlier they could have asked, 'Well, khokhly [a derogatory term for Ukrainians], what's up?' we responded, 'Everything's fine. But we're not khokhly, we're Banderites!' At that, the traps on those Asian dogs were shut!"

Mr. Marynovych called the Svoboda politicians "zealots," and urged readers to take the Christian approach of love – instead of hate – in addressing political and social issues. With that approach, Christians succeeded in conquering the pagan Roman Empire, rather than

destroying it along with themselves, he wrote.

The Weekly was unsuccessful in contacting Mr. Marynovych for comment.

Part of the problem lies within Ukraine's legal code, which doesn't create a separate category for private universities to be exempt from taxation, as is done in the U.S., said Dr. Taras Dobko, the first pro-rector of UCU. Ukrainian law views private universities no different than private enterprises, he said.

"Our legislation doesn't at all recognize the phenomenon of private universities, which isn't a business but a public service," Dr. Dobko wrote in a text released by the university on February 21 to explain the situation. "Such universi-

ties can have a private founder, but not investors who would gain dividends from its activities."

The UCU paid \$375,000 in taxes in 2010, Dr. Dobko said.

Mr. Syrotiuk insisted there was no conflict between his party and the university and said that the bill would be reviewed in accordance with procedures. Moreover three Lviv Oblast Council chairs, all from Svoboda, met with Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church to discuss that very issue several weeks ago.

"They agreed that it's necessary to calmly sit down, without any emotions, and make all the necessary decisions and resolve all the issues," Mr. Syrotiuk said.

Making contact with The Weekly

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

FOR THE RECORD

Joint statement of U.S.-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission

Below is the text of the joint statement following the third session of the United States-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission. It was released by the Office of the Spokesman, U.S. Department of State, on February 15.

WASHINGTON – Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Ukrainian Foreign [Affairs] Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko convened the third session of the U.S.-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission on February 15 in Washington, D.C. The commission's aim is to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The mandate of the Commission is to make concrete progress toward achieving the broad goals of the U.S.-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership in the areas of nuclear security and non-proliferation, political dialogue and rule of law, energy security, trade and investment, security cooperation, and science and technology.

The Ukrainian party reaffirmed that the development of this strategic partnership remains one of its key foreign policy priorities. The U.S. party reiterated its support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and reaffirmed its readiness to assist with Ukraine's political, economic, defense and security reforms.

Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Gryshchenko underlined both parties' commitment to securing all vulnerable nuclear materials and to increasing cooperation in nuclear security and non-proliferation. They welcomed the substantial progress made toward implementation of the Joint Statement issued by the presidents of Ukraine and the United States during the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit. In December 2010, a substantial amount of Ukraine's highly enriched uranium was removed, with support from the United States.

The Ukrainian party reconfirmed its commitment to get rid of its remaining highly enriched uranium by the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit. The U.S. party reconfirmed its commitment to provide necessary technical and financial assistance valued at approximately \$50 million by the time of the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit as part of this effort, including financial and other resources necessary for the construction of a state-of-the-art neutron source facility that will enhance civil nuclear cooperation.

The parties noted the significant progress toward the elimination of Ukraine's SS-24 solid missile propellant and the destruction of its SCUD missiles.

Ukraine and the United States emphasized the significance of the April 19-22 high-level meeting "Kyiv Summit on Safe and Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy," the Chernobyl Pledging Conference with partnership of the G-8, and the international conference "25 Years of the Chernobyl Tragedy: The Security of the Future," for promoting cooperation to enhance global nuclear safety and security.

Both parties stressed the importance of a successful pledging conference for the Chernobyl Shelter Fund and Nuclear Safety Account to enable the timely completion of projects that will make the site safe.

To further the goals of the Charter on Strategic Partnership, Ukraine and the United States reiterated that their cooperation is based on shared values. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation aimed at strengthening democracy, the rule of law, developing



Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton with their delegations at the third session of the U.S.-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission, which was held on February 15 in Washington.

political pluralism, and promoting judicial reform, and combating corruption.

Both parties discussed the process of approving a new criminal procedure code electoral code, and anti-corruption laws that meet international standards through an established democratic, inclusive process. The United States confirmed its readiness to assist Ukraine in institutional and legal reforms.

Ukraine stressed that responsibility and accountability should be the basis for a viable and sustainable democracy and reconfirmed its strategic goal to implement reforms in line with European standards. In that spirit, Ukraine and the United States discussed the importance of the protection of freedoms and individual rights in a manner in which civil society and stakeholders across the political spectrum will participate.

Both parties welcomed the establishment in July [2010] of the Political Dialogue and Rule of Law Working Group. The working group, which held its inaugural meeting in November in Kyiv, provides a platform to exchange views on democratic, legal and political reforms and the development of civil society. The two parties welcomed the holding of a meeting of Ukraine and U.S. civil society representatives in Washington on February 14 and look forward to increased interaction between non-governmental organizations of both nations.

The Charter on Strategic Partnership notes our mutual commitment to support economic reform and liberalization and to develop a business climate supportive of trade and investment. Today's meeting discussed the need for a fair and transparent investment climate in Ukraine for both Ukrainian and foreign firms.

The parties discussed the global grain market and other agricultural matters, and expressed the hope that Ukraine's significant production potential can contribute to global food security. The United States welcomed Ukraine's successful implementation of its stand-by Arrangement with the International Monetary Fund and encouraged continued cooperation with the IMF.

Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Gryshchenko underlined that energy security remains a key part of our strategic dialogue and expressed support for the development of Ukraine's energy resources, including unconventional gas. The U.S. side welcomed Ukraine's membership in the European Energy Community.

Both parties expressed their support for a transparent energy market in Ukraine, and noted Ukraine's passage of the Law on the Principles of Functioning of the Natural Gas Market and steps to bring gas tariffs into conformity with the market. The United States encouraged Ukraine to restructure the gas sector to help open possibilities for investment in its gas transit system.

The commission noted progress under the Ukraine-U.S. Energy Security Working Group, co-chaired by Minister for Energy and Coal Industry Yurii Boyko and U.S. Special Envoy for Energy Issues in Eurasia Ambassador Richard Morningstar.

They welcomed the agreement for the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct an assessment of unconventional resources that will give the Government of Ukraine and investors public information on potential resources in Ukraine. They welcomed U.S. Agency for International Development technical assistance for the legal, regulatory and environmental framework of unconventional gas development.

Both parties intend to continue cooperation on energy efficiency and to discuss encouraging renewable energy technologies and oil and gas well rehabilitation. They noted the importance of attracting private investment and technology to develop Ukraine's oil and gas resources through open, competitive procurement processes. They welcomed the positive decision of the Ukrainian Interagency Committee on preparing and implementing production sharing agreements concerning the application by Chevron.

Both parties agreed to enhance cooperation to resolve regional conflicts, to promote global stability, deal with cyber threats, climate change and pandemic diseases, and collaborate in science and technology, food safety, health, biotechnology and nuclear medicine. They reiterated support for progress in the 5+2 process to reach a settlement on Transnistria.

The United States and Ukraine confirmed their readiness to continue political dialogue and practical cooperation in the context of the Ukraine-NATO partnership. Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Gryshchenko welcomed the NATO Lisbon Summit decisions and the Alliance's readiness to develop partnerships with Ukraine, as specified in the NATO Strategic Concept.

The United States welcomed Ukraine-NATO interaction in strengthening international peace and security and continued Ukrainian participation in NATO-led and other international peacekeeping operations and in deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo and Liberia.

The United States appreciated the contribution of Ukraine to strengthening global peace and security by actively engaging in peacekeeping operations under the auspices of the United Nations. The United States welcomed the recent decision of Ukraine to deploy additional military helicopters and personnel to the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cote d'Ivoire.

Ukraine and the United States underscored the continuing importance of efforts by the international community to assure the provision of well-trained and deployable military units for multilateral peacekeeping missions, including concerted efforts to address chronic gaps faced by U.N. peacekeepers. Ukraine and the United States intend to explore ways to enhance their cooperation on peacekeeping-related issues.

The United States reconfirmed that the 1994 Budapest Memorandum security assurances remain in effect, and agreed to hold bilateral consultations with Ukraine on security assurances.

Ukraine and the United States highlighted their intent to increase joint efforts against trafficking in persons and HIV/AIDS by signing a bilateral Cooperation Plan on Combating Human Trafficking and the Partnership Framework on cooperation in countering HIV/AIDS in 2011-2015.

The Commission welcomed the creation of the Science and Technology Working Group, which held its first session in November 2010. The working group is striving to increase cooperation between scientific communities; its next full meeting will be held in October-November 2011.

The United States and Ukraine agreed to review progress on visa regime liberalization and enhanced people-to-people exchanges; the next consular consultations will be held in Kyiv in March 2011. The United States welcomed Ukraine's action plan to improve intellectual property protection.

Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Gryshchenko agreed to convene the next session of the Strategic Partnership Commission in Kyiv.

UCCA Chicago brings Ukrainian Days closer to home

by Ivanka Bryan

CHICAGO – Board members of the Illinois chapter of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) have begun work on bringing the “Ukrainian Days” advocacy event, hosted annually by the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) of the UCCA in Washington, to the local level.

U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D – Ill.) met with UCCA-Illinois members in November last year to discuss the dire political situation in Ukraine. The “Ukrainian Days” will be held on April 6-7 in Washington.

Rep. Schakowsky serves on the congressional Executive Committee of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and has been learning about the most recent human rights violations and persecution of journalists in Ukraine. The pressure applied by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) on academic leaders, specifically the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, and the detention of Ruslan Zabilyi, former director of the National Museum “Prison on Lonsky Street” and



U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (center) with members of the executive board of the Illinois branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, (from left) Paul Bandriwsky, Ivanka Bryan, Julian Kulas and Marta Farion.

subsequent confiscation of his records, were just two examples of the intimidation that has become commonplace under

the current regime. Rep. Schakowsky was informed about these incidents by the UCCA delegation.

There was also significant discussion regarding Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s visit to Ukraine, much of which was without Ukrainian political accompaniment when traveling to its western regions. Rep. Schakowsky agreed that those in high political office serve as excellent examples when trying to convey a message to sitting hostile governments. The UCCA leaders also cited the necessity of a U.S. presidential visit to Ukraine to ensure that the “re-set” policy with Russia would not be at Ukraine’s expense.

Furthermore, the UCCA activists said the situation in Ukraine needs to be observed first-hand so that the U.S. government can have a better grip on the gravity of Russia’s aggressive moves in Ukraine.

Overall, the UCCA delegation’s meeting was a success in that a key player in Congress became better acquainted with the volatile and precarious political situation in the homeland of so many of her constituents. The UCCA Illinois branch is reaching out to Congressional Ukrainian Caucus members and other members of Congress in order to maintain productive relationships with key political figures. (Sample letters for prospective members of the CUC are available by contacting UNIS by phone, 202-547-0018 or via e-mail, unis@ucca.org.)

For more information about organizing a meeting with their congressional representatives, readers should contact their local UCCA branch. Registration forms and additional information for the Ukrainian Days are available at www.ucca.org.

Yurii Hudymenko’s...

(Continued from page 10)

Smearing paint on a statue shouldn’t draw anything more than a fine, lawyers said. Mr. Hudymenko has sat in prison for six weeks now. He’s been illegally denied any access to a lawyer, let alone visitors, and the police have released no information on his condition.

If the Party of Regions is truly financing the Svoboda party as its convenient political enemy, then well-meaning patriots like Mr. Hudymenko are being duped. They are suffering for a lie. But we don’t know if that’s true.

What we do know is that Mr. Hudymenko is one of us – he loves Ukraine, its people, its language and its culture. He chose the Svoboda nationalist party as the vehicle to express his love for Ukraine.

I write for The Ukrainian Weekly. Someone else organizes medical airlifts to Ukraine. Someone in New Jersey is leading a dance class, while someone in Boston is researching Ukrainian history. Someone in Kharkiv might be learning Ukrainian for the first time.

No matter how we choose to express our love for Ukraine, and no matter what our individual opinions might be of the Svoboda party, the diaspora ought to pressure the Ukrainian government for the release of Mr. Hudymenko because his incarceration violates not only Ukrainian law, but basic international standards of human rights.

It’s a violation of human rights to retry a suspect on the same criminal charges, and keep him incarcerated on charges of simple hooliganism, or smearing paint on a statue.

Mr. Hudymenko, it appears, is a political prisoner in today’s Ukraine.

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COAL PATCH DAYS

Family stories of Lemko immigrants around Minersville, Pa.

by Michael Buryk

PART II

Other families from the Sanok region

Kramar (Kramer)

There are still some descendants of other Sanok-region Ukrainian families living in and around Minersville. Wasyl Kramar arrived in Schuylkill County from Zboiska, Galicia (now in Poland), in 1896 at the age of 18. He was one of the founders of the first Greek-Catholic parish in Minersville – St. George's.

St. George's church existed high up on Kear's Hill from the 1890s to the 1930s. Wasyl became a coal miner and worked in the Woodside Tunnel at the Lytle Colliery in Forestville. He died there in 1923 after injuries sustained in a mining accident.

Wasyl's grandson Ron Kramer still owns an old-time barber shop in Primrose and has lived in the area for many years. He is very active along with other local old timers in efforts to preserve the memory of our Ukrainian pioneers there. His barber shop is a treasure trove of miners' memorabilia, including many photos highlighting local history. His neighbor growing up in the patch was the family of Nicholas Bervinchak.

Ron tells many interesting anecdotes about the life of the Ukrainian miners who lived near the Primrose patch. He notes that because the major companies like Lytle began to curtail their operations in the 1920s and went into a tail-spin during the Great Depression families had to turn to "bootleg mines" to survive. Almost half the miners in Schuylkill County were unemployed and this activity was their only means of income.

Individuals using crude equipment dug the bootleg mines close to the ground surface. My Dad's stepfather, Stanley Marchowsky, worked his own bootleg mine down the hill behind the Primrose patch. One day after lunch when he returned to the coalhole, a slow burning charge of dynamite placed during the late morning that failed to ever go off nearly blew him up. When the smoke cleared and Gigi was found shaken but still alive, Baba forbade any of her sons to go work in the mines again.

Olenick (Olejnik)

One large Ukrainian family, the Olenicks, established a significant inde-

Mike Buryk is a Ukrainian American writer whose research focuses on Lemko and Ukrainian genealogy and the history of Ukrainians in the United States. He is giving a workshop on Ukrainian/Lemko genealogy on February 20 at the Ukrainian Homestead in Lehighton, Pa. You can contact him at: michael.buryk@verizon.net. His website is: http://www.buryk.com/our_patch/.

He extends special thanks to Ron Kramer for all his help in making this article possible and keeping the memory of our Ukrainians and Lemkos alive in Coal Country. Also, special thanks go to all those families who shared their precious memories and anecdotes for this article.

This article is dedicated to the memory of the late Harry Buryk and his parents, Mike Gburyk and Julia Czerepaniak.

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pendent coal-mining operation in Forestville out of their early bootleg activities. The Olenick family of Forestville arrived in the U.S. early in the 20th century. They came from Lisko (now Lesko) in southeastern Poland. Pawel was 27 when he came in 1902 and his wife Aleksandra, was 34 when she arrived in 1905. Their son Harry (Havrila, born 1898) arrived sometime later. Harry married Maria Holubowsky (who had come from Zavadka in the Carpathian Mountains of Galicia) in 1919 in Minersville.

Harry and Maria moved around the area looking for work. He received his official miner's certificate in 1923 and was employed at the Lytle Colliery in Primrose. The couple settled down in nearby Forestville to raise a family of 11 children. During the difficult days of the Depression, like many other Ukrainian, Polish and other immigrant miners, Harry began to dig for his own coal in a bootleg mine behind his house. He also set up a makeshift "breaker" there to process the coal for sale in the area. All his young children pitched in to help with the operation.

Most bootleggers sold their coal to buyers in a 25-mile radius of their operation and typically hauled it by "flivver" (slang for an old Ford Model T car) or in a small truck at night to escape notice. Since they sold the coal for a few dollars below the market price, their product was in high demand. It was estimated that in 1933 the overall size of the bootleg coal business was between \$30 million and \$35 million. During the period 1932-1934, about 5 to 10 percent of all coal sold in the United States came from bootleg mines.

For the Olenicks, this was the humble beginning of an independent coal business that would last until the 1990s. During the 1950s, the family purchased a piece of land near the Lytle Woodside Tunnel in Forestville, and between 1959 and 1960 they built their own large-scale coal breaker. Harry and Maria's sons, John, Nick, Steve and Mike, and a newly arrived cousin, Stiney Holubowsky, ran the Olenick Brothers Coal Co. there. Anna Olenick, one of their five daughters, became the bookkeeper for the business.

Unfortunately, Harry died suddenly on Christmas 1962, when he was struck by a car. But, his sons and daughter continued to run the business successfully for many years after this tragic event.

Olenick's coal breaker was captured for history in a 1968 etching by Nicholas Bervinchak, the Ukrainian American artist whose family was Ron Kramer's neighbor.

In the southern part of Schuylkill



Lytle Colliery, 1915, Primrose, Pa., from the Ron Kramer photo collection.



Harry Olenick's bootleg mine circa 1930s, Forestville, Pa., from a 2010 exhibit at the Orwigsburg, Pa., Historical Society and Museum.

County, the Orwigsburg Historical Society and Museum currently has an exhibit showing a memorable scene from the Olenick family bootleg mine operation in the coal patch in the 1930s. It was put together by Harry's grandson Gary MacCready (son of Olga Olenick, another of the five daughters) with help from his aunt Anna Olenick.

Katchmar (Kaczmar, Kachmar)

There were Ukrainian families who initially immigrated to the Primrose area whose lives were changed forever by their fate in the mines. Sam Katchmar was born in Forestville in 1928. Although his father Stefan had been born in McAdoo, in the early 1900s (about 30 miles northeast of Minersville), there were still strong family ties to Lemkivschyna and especially their native Wysoczany (south of Sanok).

In 1934, Sam's father died in a mine accident at the Lytle Colliery in Forestville. His mother became a widow with six small children and no means of support in the middle of the

Great Depression. So, two years later, in October 1936, when Sam was in the fourth grade, the entire family left Pennsylvania and headed back to Wysoczany, Poland. They settled there on a little 10-acre farm with a new house bought with whatever money they had managed to save in America.

There were about 60 families living in this small Polish village (after World War I Wysoczany and the surrounding villages of Lemkivschyna became part of Poland). In the village elementary school Sam and his siblings learned Polish and Ukrainian. When the Germans arrived in 1939, Polish was out and German was taught in the school. Soviet troops arrived in the fall of 1944, and their family situation deteriorated dramatically. In the Spring of 1947, Sam and his family were swept up in Akcja Wisla and were sent to the Szczecin area of northwest Poland.

Since Sam and all of his siblings were still U.S. citizens, the family petitioned the U.S. Embassy in Poland to return to the U.S. Their wish was finally granted in December 1947 and they left Gdynia for Pottsville. Life back in Pottsville (located about five miles east of Minersville) was not easy for the Katchmar family, but they managed to survive and thrive. His sisters worked in sewing factories and Sam joined the U.S. Air Force in 1948. He eventually got his college degree and became an accountant. The rest of his family did well upon their return to America.

Pellish (Pelech, Pielech)

Our patch in Primrose had some long-time Ukrainian residents besides Baba Julia Czerepaniak-Buryk-Marchowsky. The Pellish family were old neighbors there. Bud Pellish tells the story of his grandfather Nicholas

(Continued on page 19)

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The screenshot shows the website's archive page. At the top, it says 'PUBLISHED BY THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Inc., A FRATERNAL, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, SINCE 1933'. The main title is 'THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY'. Below the title are navigation links: HOME, SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISING, ARCHIVE, ABOUT US, and COMMUNITY EVENTS. The 'ARCHIVE' menu is open, showing options for PDF, Text, and Flash. A search bar allows users to search years from 1933 to 2009 in PDF format. A 'BROWSE YEAR' dropdown is set to 2011, and a 'MONTH' dropdown is set to 2011. A 'TABLE OF CONTENTS (TOC)' section is visible, listing articles such as 'Russian buyers snap up prize assets in Ukraine' and 'The first 100 days: No strategy in Yanukovich economic policy'. A sidebar on the left lists years from 2011 down to 1980. At the bottom, there are images of historical events, including the 'CONGRESS OF AMERICANS OF UKRAINIAN DESCENT' in 1962 and a convention in 1969.

Stefania Dovhan returns to New York City Opera

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – Ukrainian American soprano Stefania Dovhan returns to the New York City Opera (NYCO) in March to portray Adina, a wealthy village girl, in Donizetti's brilliant bel canto work "The Elixir of Love" (L'Elisir d'Amore).

The return of the Kyiv-born soprano is being welcomed by fans and critics charmed during Ms. Dovhan's NYCO debut in 2009 in Mozart's "Don Giovanni," when she sang the role of Donna Anna, the daughter of Commendatore Don Pedro in Seville, Spain.

Performed in Italian with English subtitles, "Elixir of Love" tells the tale of a shy young man's quest to win the object of his affection. The opera is known for its wealth of recognizable melodies and is also noteworthy for the character of Dr. Dulcamara, one of the great comedy figures of the operatic stage.

In a take on Donizetti's beloved classic, this production by Jonathan Miller relocates the action to the 1950s American Southwest, complete with soda jerks, a dusty roadside diner and a vintage Ford convertible.

Beginning with opening night on March 22, Ms. Dovhan will appear with a vibrant cast that includes the rising Mexican tenor David Tomeli as the shy Nemorino.

Ms. Dovhan made her professional debut in the role of Musetta in "La Boheme" at the Opera Studio in Nuremberg, Germany. She has spent a great deal of time on the operatic stage, particularly at Germany's Theater Hagen, where she has been a "fest" (resident) since 2006.

Her association with the New York City Opera came about when Kevin Murphy, NYCO's director of music administration, heard her sing the title role in Charpentier's opera "Louise" at the 2009 Spoleto Festival U.S.A. in South Carolina.

Festival critics were unanimous in their approbation of Ms. Dovhan's vocal and dramatic talents, describing her as "a bewitching Louise," a "spectacular soprano" and "a remarkable discovery."



Soprano Stefania Dovhan

Mr. Murphy brought the soprano to New York for an audition, and she was signed by NYCO to sing one of the leading roles in "Don Giovanni."

The daughter of Kateryna Dovhan Mychajlyshyn, an art professor at Maryland's McDaniel College who is also a practicing artist and art conservator in the Baltimore-Washington area, and sculptor Ivan Chaban of Boston, Ms. Dovhan sang in the Youth Choir at the Kyiv State Conservatory. Her formal vocal training began at age 15 at the Baltimore School for the Arts. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland College Park and holds a degree from the Augsburg Academy of Music in Germany.

Ms. Dovhan credits her mother and her grandparents, sculptor Borys Dovhan and journalist Ruta Dovhan, for "inspiring me and exposing me to music and visual art from a very early age."

Though critics underline her vocal capabilities, many have also pointed to Ms. Dovhan's winning features and slim figure as an asset to the close to 30 roles in her repertoire.

Ms. Dovhan is the recipient of numerous performing arts scholarships and awards, among them the 2010 Richard F. Gold Career Grant; first prize in the Emmerich Smola Competition, one of the highest prizes for young singers in Europe. She was the gold medalist of the 2000 Rosa Ponselle Young Classical Singers Competition, and a finalist of the Placido Domingo Operalia Competition in Paris.

An avid recitalist, she has given solo recitals in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington, Kyiv, Salzburg and Augsburg.

"Elixir of Love" will have seven performances, with matinees on Saturday, March 26, and Sunday, April 3. Evening performances are scheduled for March 22 and 24, and April 1, 5 and 9.

Tickets for "Elixir of Love" can be purchased through CenterCharge at 212-721-6500, online at nycopera.com, or in person at the David H. Koch Theater box office, Lincoln Center (63rd Street and Columbus Avenue.)



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

to implement reforms. (Ukrinform)

Decree on Constitutional Assembly

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine on February 21 signed a decree establishing a Constitutional Assembly, thus supporting the initiative of former President Leonid Kravchuk (1991-1994). The Constitutional Assembly is to prepare amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine. The experts' group includes Mr. Kravchuk, as well as scholars, representatives of the National University of Law Academy of Ukraine named after Yaroslav the Wise, Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, Odesa Law Academy, Central Election Committee and correspondent members of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU). The Koretsky Institute of State and Law of the NASU was invited to provide support for the Constitutional Assembly's experts' group, including analytical support, organization of public events to discuss proposals and recommendations, the involvement in this discussion of scientific experts and the general public. (Ukrinform)

U.S. launches civil-society dialogue

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on February 16 opened the government's first-ever strategic dialogue with civil-society members, pledging U.S. support for champions of human rights. Ahead of discussions with civil-society representatives from more than 20 countries, Secretary Clinton

announced that Washington was significantly increasing funding for their work. "I'm very pleased to announce [that] we are more than doubling our financial support for efforts to respond to threats to civil society – to help human rights workers who have been arrested, activists who've been intimidated, [and] journalists who've been censored," she said. The secretary of state also announced the launch of an "international fund" to provide quick assistance, including legal support and communications equipment, to NGOs targeted in government crackdowns. The civil-society gathering comes as Washington faces criticism from activists for supporting the now-deposed regimes in Egypt and Tunisia – and for not doing enough to help those countries' beleaguered civil societies. (RFE/RL)

Freedom House offers assistance

KYIV – The American NGO Freedom House offered its expert assistance to Ukraine's Central Election Commission in order to improve Ukrainian electoral legislation. This was discussed at a meeting of CEC Chairman Volodymyr Shapoval with a Freedom House delegation headed by Executive Director David Kramer, the press office of the CEC reported on February 23. Mr. Shapoval said that the mixed electoral system in Ukraine, which is currently supported by politicians, can justify itself at a certain stage, particularly under the current circumstances, and become a compromise. At the same time, he said, the two-decade-old practice of parliamentary elections in the country has proven the benefits of the proportional electoral system, but such a mixed elector-

al system would be democratic if regional constituencies are established and open party tickets are introduced. (Ukrinform)

Dzhemilev nominated for Nobel Prize

KYIV – The leader of the Mejlis (Parliament) of the Crimean Tatar People, Mustafa Dzhemilev, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, Ukrinform reported on February 2, citing Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. The initiative was put forward by the International Association for the Protection of Repressed Peoples, based in Germany, and the First World Congress of Crimean Tatars. The nomination was sent to the Nobel Committee by 17 professors from Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Turkey and the United States, members of the Ukrainian and Canadian parliaments, as well as a member of the European Parliament, said the president of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars, Refat Chubarov. Mr. Dzhemilev himself said he regards the nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize not as a personal achievement, but as recognition of years of experience on the part of the Crimean Tatars in solving their problems through non-violent methods. "I regard this as moral support for the 'principle of non-violence', which the Crimean Tatars adhere to... I hope it will help draw attention to the situation in the Crimea, and will emphasize the need for non-violent solutions to all problems in the conflict Black Sea region", he underscored. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich: history won't be rewritten

LIVIV – Speaking to the BBC on February 10, President Viktor Yanukovich vowed that the Ukrainian history wouldn't be rewritten. "Nothing will be omitted from history. History is made up of past facts. We have to treat history as such. This history belongs to Ukraine and the Ukrainian people," Mr. Yanukovich said, adding that the facts of history should be treated with respect. "Therefore, when I was involved in political discussions on the topics of history, I always stressed that, despite our differing interpretations of history, we have to respect the fact that this history belongs to Ukrainians," Mr. Yanukovich said. The president also said that history textbooks should be written by historians and commented that when politicians clash over history, this does not signify a high level of democracy. The country should be devoid of any confrontations related to history, Mr. Yanukovich said. He admitted that there can be a discrepancy among Ukrainians in evaluating some historical facts, however, no pressure can be exerted on individuals with differing viewpoints to live by the beliefs accepted by the majority. (ZIK – Western Information Agency)

Journalists decry pressure on media

KYIV – In a statement on February 18, the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) said Ukraine's journalists and media outlets are under pressure from the authorities, the Telekrytyka media watchdog reported. The NUJ has received a growing number of complaints about harassment by officials of electronic and press media outlets, the statement said. Regional state-run media complain of illegal personnel policies pursued by local authorities by replacing the editors of local publications with people without proper qualifications and experience. "Meddling with editorial policy, censorship, dismissals of journalists are blatant violations of the freedom of speech and Ukraine laws," the NUJ statement notes. "The personnel policy in mass media outlets must be the prerogative of journalists working there, and editors must be elected by a secret or open ballot by their colleagues," the statement said. (ZIK – Western Information Agency)

Tymoshenko pre-trial probe ends

KYIV – The Procurator General's Office (PGO) has completed a pre-trial investigation into the case that combines two criminal cases filed against former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. She is charged with abuse of power and abuse of office that had grave consequences, and violated fiscal laws, the PGO's press service said on February 21. On that day, the investigator presented the final charges and declared the end of the pretrial investigation. Under the current law, Ms. Tymoshenko, together with a lawyer, must review all the materials of the case, and then the case will be forwarded to the court. The accusations against the former prime minister concern the purchase and importation into Ukraine of Opel Combo cars for rural hospitals, as well as alleged misuse of 180 million euros and 200 million euros received by Ukraine under the Kyoto Protocol. Ms. Tymoshenko rejects all the charges. (Ukrinform)

Shukhevych lawsuit suspended

KYIV – The Higher Administrative Court of Ukraine on February 16 suspended its hearings of a lawsuit lodged by lawyer Volodymyr Olientsevych against former President Viktor Yushchenko to declare illegal and repeal a decree conferring the title of Hero of Ukraine on the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, Roman Shukhevych. The suit was suspended due to the existence of a similar lawsuit filed by citizen Anatoliy Soloviov. New court hearings are impossible until Mr. Soloviov's appeal is considered, the court said. A statement from Our Ukraine noted the party's resolve to continue its involvement in the case as an interested party. National Deputy Andrii Parubii said, "Our Ukraine will continue to actively defend its position, to provide legal assistance and to conduct actions of civil disobedience." Mr. Parubii pointed out that the court rejected the appeals of citizens and political parties, including Our Ukraine, to take part in the trial as third parties. However, the court did agree that Mr. Yushchenko could participate as a third party. Thus, Mr. Parubii added, "our position will be heard in court and we will take an active part in its deliberations." (Kyiv Post, Our Ukraine)

Five parties to be eliminated

KYIV – The Justice Ministry of Ukraine reported on February 9 that five out of 185 parties would be eliminated because they failed to participate in the presidential and parliamentary elections. Kommersant-Ukraine reported that the parties to be eliminated are the Moslem Party of Ukraine (founded in 1997), Party of Radical Breakthrough (1998), Green Party of Ukraine (2000), Political Party of Legal Protection (2001) and Pragmatic Choice Party (2000). The basis for their liquidation is non-participation in the presidential and parliamentary elections over a period of 10 years as stipulated by the law "On Political Parties." (Ukrinform)

Population continues declining

KYIV – The population of Ukraine decreased by 17,411 people in December 2010, to 45.779 million people, the State Statistics Service reported on February 16. The number of people living in towns and cities was 31.445 million as of early 2011, while the number of people living in villages totaled 14.334 million. As of December 1, 2010, the population of Ukraine was 45.796 million people. The population of Ukraine shrank by 200,000 last year. Over the past two decades, Ukraine's population has declined by almost 6 million people. (Ukrinform)

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Arrested...

(Continued from page 1)

"This arrest is specifically being done to pressure these people to confess to other crimes," said Volodymyr Yavorsky, executive director of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union on Human Rights.

None was charged with the Stalin statue's bombing, but the 14 nationalists facing other charges have been imprisoned for six weeks.

"There's simply too much attention being given to representatives of radical organizations," said Volodymyr Fesenko, the board chairman of the Penta Center for Applied Political Science in Kyiv. "They're concerned that they're capable of violence or provoking some situations, not just protests, but some kinds of forceful acts. Accordingly the police and SBU are reacting with increased attention. But Tryzub doesn't pose any threat to the current government, in my view. This is simply a reaction to radical organizations."

Tryzub has posted the statements of several imprisoned activists on its website, www.banderivets.org.ua.

Anatolii Onufriichuk, 25, said authorities threatened to throw him into a prison cell with sadists and homosexuals during the interrogations. They allegedly used torture techniques such as raising his handcuffed arms behind his back, and beating his legs as he stood in a split position, forcing them wider.

They allegedly choked him by pulling back on the collar of his jacket. He also reported being punched in the stomach.

These techniques caused excruciating pain, Mr. Onufriichuk reported, eventually causing him to sign the statements the authorities wanted from him. He didn't describe what was written in the statements in his February 11 handwritten note about the alleged tortures.

Mr. Onufriichuk also signed a statement claiming he had no complaints against the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), after being threatened with more torture, he reported.

Vasyl Abramiv, 26, wrote that he's being held in a dark prison cell with roaches and rats, which are known to carry disease. There's not enough light to read anything for more than a few minutes, he said.

Police were also looking for confessions in the bombing of the very same Stalin statue three days later, the statements revealed.

Mr. Onufriichuk said he was threatened with being charged in the December 31 explosion of the statue during the interrogations. Mr. Abramiv said he was questioned in the statue's explosion, though he was eventually charged in the statue's beheading.

Tryzub denies any involvement. Andrii Tarasenko, the first deputy chair of the organization's central command, said he suspects the bombing was organized by the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, the successor to the KGB, as a pretext to allow Ukrainian authorities to persecute nationalists.

Mr. Tarasenko said police also used intense pressure in trying to make him confess to the December 31 detonation including repeatedly yelling "Admit it!" and threatening to throw him in a cell where he could catch tuberculosis.

The firsthand accounts of brutal interrogation methods confirmed what human rights activists have long known: that Ukrainian law enforcement regularly break the law when handling crime suspects in their custody.

The Tryzub members said none of the authorities identified themselves, as required by law. Therefore it's unclear whether the authorized interrogators conducted the interrogations, as opposed to



Demonstrators protest at the Presidential Administration on February 22 against the incarceration of 14 nationalists in Zaporizhia.

regular officers.

Other violations were more clear-cut. Authorities broke the law when depriving most of the prisoners of access to lawyers, human rights advocates said.

They are also supposed to gain a court order to hold suspects beyond three days, yet that law was violated in the case of three activists, said Mr. Tarasenko. He was held for five days and given three meals to eat during that time.

The released suspects didn't get back their passports, belongings or even clothing, he said. In Mr. Tarasenko's case, he was released from the police station at night without a penny, wearing a set of rags the authorities gave him.

Moreover he was left to wander in Zaporizhia, though he had been arrested in the Ivano-Frankivsk countryside, from where he had been transported.

Prisoner Eduard Andriuschenko, 22, reported being thrown to the floor and repeatedly kicked by four police officers, while Oleksii Zanuda, 28, reported being severely beaten on his head, causing much swelling.

The more controversial claim involves 20-year-old prisoner Pylyp Taran, who reportedly told his lawyer, Mariana Leniuk, that he was severely beaten, thrown into a holding cell unconscious, and endured electroshock torture.

He reported that a prosecutor came to him in his cell and demanded that he sign a statement confirming he wasn't beaten and doesn't have complaints. Mr. Taran declined, resulting in three officials beating him until he lost consciousness. He reportedly signed nothing.

Journalist Olena Bilozerska, who has close ties to Ukraine's nationalist community, broke this news on her blog on February 12, reporting at the time that Mr. Taran suffered a concussion, lost consciousness periodically and had a swollen bump on his spine.

Zaporizhia prosecutors organized a press conference four days later with nine of the prisoners, including Mr. Taran, who said he wasn't tortured in prison. Seven other prisoners supported that statement on camera, in front of several journalists.

Ms. Bilozerska responded by pointing out that the question posed was whether Mr. Taran was tortured in prison, as opposed to a holding cell at the police station. The prison's medical director also confirmed in the media that Mr. Taran was being treated, and received bandages and painkillers.

Prosecutors interrupted Mr. Abramiv when he began to speak during the press conference of torture at the SBU premises.

Evidence suggests the remaining prisoners were intimidated. A representative from the Verkhovna Rada's Human Rights Ombudsman Nina Karpachova, a Party of Regions stalwart, confirmed receiving

information from Mr. Andriuschenko, who was among those at the press conference, about alleged torture weeks earlier.

Meanwhile Tryzub prisoner Vasyl Labaichuk, 21, also reportedly told his lawyer he was tortured at the Zaporizhia SBU headquarters. He said he had his handcuffed hands held high behind his back, a torture method known as "dyba," which forces the head below the knees in a painful pose.

Prisoner Roman Khmara, 31, refused to offer any comment during the organized press conference, another sign the claims of no torture could have been pressured by authorities. Meanwhile prisoner Vitalii Vyshniuk, 24, wore a medical mask because he contracted tuberculosis after incarceration.

It's also unclear whether the prisoners knew if those present were truly journalists, or the authorities, in which case they would have little incentive to tell the truth, Ms. Bilozerska said. Moreover, alleging torture while returning to incarceration under those very same authorities would have required much courage.

Police torture is nothing new to Ukraine, observers said. The nation's police force has consistently used torture to force confessions to false criminal charges since Ukraine re-established independence in 1991, even under the administration of Viktor Yushchenko, the nation's Western-oriented former president, said Mr. Yavorsky of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union on Human Rights.

"Government structures had more control over the activity of law enforcement authorities in the Soviet era," he said. "Therefore the corruption factor was significantly less than currently. Just in the last year, the Internal Affairs Ministry introduced new quotas for solved crimes. The police will increase the amount of

false incriminations it needs to meet these quotas."

Mr. Yushchenko did put a stop to the long tradition of persecuting political opponents, Mr. Yavorsky said. Unfortunately, pro-Russian extremists were given a free pass to engage in overtly criminal activity – such as the September 2007 brutal attack on Ukrainian activists in Odesa – and were never arrested.

Mr. Yanukovich was prime minister at the time, having been appointed by Mr. Yushchenko.

The evidence demonstrates the recent incarcerations and prosecutions are politically motivated, observers said.

Ukraine's Criminal Code allows for the incarceration of suspects until trial, Mr. Yavorsky said. However, such measures are considered excessive by international standards, particularly when the charges involve misdemeanors such as hooliganism.

"There's no justification for their incarceration because they're not dangerous people," Mr. Yavorsky, a human rights lawyer, said of the Tryzub nationalists.

Moreover acts of vandalism intended to make a political statement are protected from "disproportionate government interference" according to European law, said Yevhen Zakharov, co-chair of the Kharkiv Human Rights Group. Therefore the Tryzub suspects should be considered political prisoners, he said.

"It would have been an adequate reaction for the law enforcement bodies to have required compensation for the damage caused," he said.

Besides extreme punishment, Ukraine's law enforcement authorities, including the Internal Affairs Ministry and the SBU, went to extremes just to make the arrests, Mr. Tarasenko said, offering more evidence the sting was politically motivated.

The national manhunt involved 500 law enforcement officers, Mr. Tarasenko was told by individual officers, who were themselves startled.

An escort of more than a dozen traffic officers and Berkut special forces transported him from Ivano-Frankivsk to Lviv. A charter plane was sent to transport six suspects to Zaporizhia, accompanied by Berkut officers carrying automatic weapons.

"I didn't expect everything to be so Hollywood," he told *The Weekly*. "It seemed as though authorities weren't dealing with Ukrainian nationalists, but with Al Qaeda or Cosa Nostra. This involved car chases and being dragged from cars."

* * *

For an interview with Mr. Tarasenko and more information about the arrested activists of Tryzub and Svoboda, see page 5. For more about Mr. Hudymenko, see the column on page 6.



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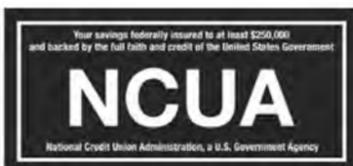
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Demjanjuk...

(Continued from page 1)

sent to the Soviet Prosecutor General's office in Moscow. But the Russian Prosecutor General's Office told the AP earlier in February that it does not have the files and does not know where they are.

Earlier this month, the court heard statements submitted by the defense from a former Ukrainian guard at Sobibor, Ignat Danilchenko, who allegedly told Soviet officials in 1949 and 1979 that he remembered Mr. Demjanjuk from the death camp. In one summary previously read at the trial, Danilchenko, who has since died, said he served with Mr. Demjanjuk at Sobibor and that Mr. Demjanjuk "like all guards in the camp, participated in the mass killing of Jews."

But on February 9, according to the AP, Dr. Busch read a statement based on a 1985 interview with Soviet authorities in which Danilchenko said none of the Ukrainian guards were able to go to the areas where Jews were stripped of their clothes and remaining possessions, and then gassed. "The watchmen had no access to the second or third zones," Danilchenko said, according to the transcript. "Exclusively, Germans carried out the guard duty" in those areas.

Dr. Busch said he received the 1985 testimony from an attorney representing the families of Sobibor victims in the case. He told the court it is believed there is another statement by Danilchenko from 1983-1984 and asked that it be tracked down.

A week earlier, the Associated Press reported that handwriting expert Beate Wuellbeck told the court that only three letters in Mr. Demjanjuk's signature on the identity card allegedly issued to him by the Nazis were clearly recognizable. She stated that she could not verify the authenticity of the signature.

The Demjanjuk defense argues that the Trawniki ID card, which was once held by the Soviets, is a fake made by

the KGB. Dr. Busch requested another opinion from a specialist in Cyrillic script.

Mr. Demjanjuk's son, John Jr. released the following statement on February 22:

"If the Germans are interested in justice, they will simply ask the Russians and the U.S. to turn over all the evidence, including Soviet investigative file 1627 on my father and the missing Danilchenko reports. They have the access to evidence, and we do not. This case has been fraught with government cover-up and prosecutorial misconduct and fraud over the years. So far, this trial has been just another chapter of the same injustice.

"Testimonies and official Nazi war records prove Soviet POWs faced starvation by the millions or were coerced to serve or face execution for desertion. It is abhorrent for Germany to now make its former prisoners and victims responsible for the crimes committed by Germans who in many cases were acquitted or never tried by Germany. This is not about justice being better late than never. Rather, it is Germany's continued utter failure to accept responsibility for destroying the millions of people it captured."

In other news, Mr. Demjanjuk's daughter Irene Nishnic appeared on February 9 at his Munich trial, the Associated Press reported. Ms. Nishnic came into court with her son, holding a white rose that she later gave to her father.

At a break in testimony, Mr. Demjanjuk, 90, motioned for the two to come over and they embraced him as he lay in a hospital bed. Ms. Nishnic had lunch with her father behind closed doors, and refused to answer any questions both during the break and after the day's proceedings, the AP reported.

Reuters reported on February 22 that prosecutors were expected to conclude their case shortly and that final arguments could also begin unless Mr. Demjanjuk's health deteriorates. The trial has had many delays due to the defendant's precarious state of health. A verdict could be reached in March.

Ukrainian activists...

(Continued from page 3)

potatoes, allegedly jumped from a third-floor window of the same district police precinct and died later in the hospital.

The activists say police in Ukraine in the past have physically abused or tortured detained suspects, but now "the situation is getting worse, as it looks as though the police were given the green light to do whatever they want."

Arkadiy Bushchenko, one of the authors of the open letter to Mr. Yanukovich, told RFE/RL that even if the suspects committed suicide, the police department chief should be sacked for fail-

ing to ensure their safety while in custody.

The activists say that in the last 13 months more than 50 Ukrainians died in police custody and that tens of thousands were mistreated by police in 2010.

The police are becoming a threat to Ukraine's national security, the open letter says, and therefore "we demand swift, lawful and fair investigations of the brutal actions by police officers.

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Canadian minister...

(Continued from page 4)

Since December 2010 the UCCLA has been at the forefront of calls for a review of the proposed contents and governance of the taxpayer-funded Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The UCCLA has recommended that all 12 of this national museum's galleries be thematic, comparative and inclusive rather than giving one or two communities permanent, prominent and privileged space, elevating the suffering of some above all others. Present plans call for two galleries: one dedicated to aboriginal issues

and the other to the Holocaust.

"We've been persistent in getting our message out on Twitter," said Mr. Zakaluzny. "This government spends considerable resources monitoring and analyzing Twitter messages and blogs. Yet Minister Moore seems intent on putting a wall up between himself and our legitimate concerns along with those of the many other Canadians likewise protesting against the proposed contents and governance of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. We wonder why. Unfortunately, he isn't answering when we Twitter him, so we're asking other Canadians to help us. Tweet Minister Moore and ask him why he's hiding from the UCCLA."

FOR THE RECORD: Statement to Munich court by John Demjanjuk

Following is the text of a statement made by John Demjanjuk on February 22 in Germany. The statement, Mr. Demjanjuk's third to the court in Munich that is trying his case, was released by his son, John Demjanjuk Jr.

When I was a child, Stalin condemned me to die through the Holodomor, the forced famine. As a Soviet Ukrainian POW of the Germans, they tried to kill me through starvation and slave labor. The U.S.A. and Israel fraudulently accused me of being Ivan the Terrible. As a result, I spent eight and a half years in prison and five years in the death cell. Though innocent, on each of those 1,800 days in a death cell, I feared I was going to die due to the reckless fraud and political motives of corrupt prosecutors and judges who were not seeking justice.

Now, nearing the end of my life, Germany, the nation that murdered with merciless cruelty millions of innocent people, attempts to extinguish my dignity, my soul, my spirit and indeed my life with a political show trial seeking to blame me, a Ukrainian peasant, for the crimes committed by Germans in World War II. They chose me for prosecution – a foreign POW in the brutal hands of Germany – rather than any of the truly guilty Germans and ethnic Germans [Volksdeutsche]. Germany's weapons of torture in this trial include: suppression of exculpatory evidence, falsification of history, introduction of so-called legal principles which never existed in Germany previously, conspiring with fraudulent prosecutors of the U.S.A. and Israel, and a reckless refusal of each argument, motion and exculpatory piece of evidence my defense has submitted which should have already resulted in my acquittal and freedom.

Fearing the truth, the German court and prosecutors continue to turn a blind eye to justice by refusing the following:

1. To request from Russia and Ukraine, File 1627, the 1,400-page

Soviet MGB/KGB investigative file on my case.

2. To request from Russia and Ukraine, File 15457, the investigative file of Ignat Danilchenko, specifically to include the report of interview conducted with him about me at the request of the U.S. authorities in 1983-1984.

3. To request a qualified expert to examine the high-quality photos available of the signature on the No. 1393 Trawniki document which has been falsely attributed to me.

4. To accept as historical fact that the Nazis tortured Ukrainian POWs like me with starvation so that 3.5 million were murdered.

5. To accept as historical fact, based upon overwhelming evidence from multiple countries and dozens of witnesses that POW Trawniki were coerced under a real threat of death and were executed for attempting desertion.

6. To accept as historical fact, based upon the entire record of the U.S. and Israel proceedings, that I have previously been indicted and tried for the crimes now alleged here which resulted in my acquittal and release from Israel.

I have survived the brutality of Stalin and Nazi Germany and the wrongful conviction and death sentence of the Israelis and Americans. I have lived through unimaginable horrors from Stalin and death by starvation, to Nazi Germany and death by starvation and cannibalism as a POW, to Israel and death by hanging. This trial is now nothing more than the execution of these three unjust and horrific death sentences.

There remains no other way for me to show the world what a mockery of justice this trial represents. Unless the Court accepts the historical facts, uses its authority to obtain the critical defense evidence not yet before the court and shows the world that it fully accepts its duty to seek justice rather than just conduct a political show trial, I will within two weeks begin a hunger strike.

KINOFEST NYC NEW YORK'S ONLY UKRAINIAN AND POST-SOVIET FILM FESTIVAL

* Wednesday, March 16, 8 p.m.

I Am From Nowhere
Slovak/Eng. (Eng. subtitles)

Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m.

Torn From the Flag
Hungarian/Eng. (Eng. subtitles)
plus **The First Karaoke**

Friday, March 18, 7 p.m.

Not Alone at Home
Ukrainian (Eng. subtitles)
plus **Mofar Nechay**

* Friday, March 18, 9 p.m.

Short Films by M. Slaboshpytskiy
Ukrainian (Eng. subtitles)
plus **Mum Died Saturday**

Saturday, March 19, 5 p.m.

Women From Georgia
Georgian/Eng. (Eng. subtitles)
plus **2033 Kilometers to the Eiffel Tower**

Saturday, March 19, 8 p.m.

Disco and Atomic War
Estonian (Eng. subtitles)
plus **Radunytsia** and **The First Karaoke**

Sunday, March 20, 2 p.m.

Ukrainian Film Shorts

Sunday, March 20, 5 p.m.

Man With the Movie Camera
1929 classic produced by VUFKU, the All-Ukrainian Film and Cinema Administration
CLOSING RECEPTION

* Location: Millennium Film Workshop, 66 East 4th St., between the Bowery and 2nd Ave. All other screenings shown above take place at The Ukrainian Museum. For the complete Kinofest NYC schedule see www.kinofestNYC.org.

Tickets: \$10 each session, or \$35 festival pass. Limited seating. Order in advance at www.UkrainianMuseum.org or www.kinofestNYC.org.

 The Ukrainian Museum
222 East 6th Street
New York, NY 10003 • 212.228.0110
www.ukrainianmuseum.org

 The Ukrainian Museum's film series is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



THE Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation is **NOW HIRING!**

THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION (UCEF) of North America (Canada and USA), is seeking **three** well-organized, highly motivated individuals with experience in the non-profit charitable or corporate sectors to fill **key positions** in the development of a fundraising campaign to support the educational needs of the Ukrainian Catholic Community:

MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR CANADA

Job responsibilities will include hiring and management of an office staff in Toronto as well as regional staff in other provinces and Ukrainian-Canadian communities. The Managing Director-Canada will answer to the Executive Director UCEF North America and work closely with the UCEF Management Committee, local support committees, the clergy and lay leaders, as well as strategic partners in various universities and institutes of higher learning. Job responsibilities will include:

- Preparation of an annual organizational budget and staff work plan with a clear delineation of staff responsibilities and a process for evaluating staff performance
- Regular reporting to the North American Executive Director on execution of the fundraising plan, deliverables & progress vis-à-vis campaign targets
- Management of office staff
- Relationship management with local support committees
- Fostering an effective dialogue with Ukrainian Canadian bishops, clergy and prominent lay leaders to ensure growth and strengthening of the Foundation's prominence throughout Canada.
- Must be a leader, team-player and self-starter.

Compensation and benefits:

The compensation for the individual hired will be based on experience and qualifications. The UCEF has a reputation for compensating employees well. Our rewarding compensation practices are rooted in our Foundation's commitment to professional excellence. The applicant may be a resident of Canada or the United States, although Canadian citizens will be given preference. Ukrainian language proficiency is highly desirable but not essential. Other relevant skills and experience will be considered.

GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL PROJECT MANAGER

and

WEST COAST REGIONAL PROJECT MANAGER

Job responsibilities for these **two positions** will entail extensive travel and outreach to Ukrainian-American and Catholic communities in Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and North Dakota for the **Great Plains Region** and in British Columbia, California, Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver for the **West Coast Region**. Each Regional Project Manager will answer to the Director of Finance and Development and will work closely with clergy and lay leaders as well as strategic partners.

In each position, key job responsibilities will entail: Developing a regional fundraising plan for major donors; recruitment of competent high impact volunteers, philanthropists and corporate leaders for a Capital Campaign and local fundraising efforts; close contact and coordination of events with local support committees; fostering an effective dialogue with Ukrainian Catholic clergy and prominent lay leaders to ensure growth and strengthening of the Foundation's prominence along the West Coast and in the Great Plains Region of the United States and Canada.

Salary in mid five figure range may be negotiable based on previous non-profit or managerial experience and past track record. Benefits and travel expenses will be covered. Applicants may be residents of Canada or the United States. Ukrainian language proficiency is highly desirable but not essential. Other relevant skills and experience will be considered.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact the Search Committee, c/o **Ihor Shust** at 215-947-2795 (sihor@verizon.net), or call **Jean Waterman** at the UCEF office at (773) 235-8462.

Tryzub member...

(Continued from page 5)

shiver severely. My temperature rose, and I was freezing. At morning they began to torture me morally and psychologically. One officer, two, five at a time, all day, until the night. "Admit it, admit it, admit it!" They let me go at night.

Was the arrest ever explained? Were any charges brought against you?

No, at night I was questioned as a witness. The next day I had the same interrogation, but this time as a suspect. I signed that interrogation [record], signed the promise not to flee, and that's it. No one explained anything to me, and at night I was simply kicked out of the administration, not getting any documents in my hands.

Not even transporting you home?

My wife specially traveled from Kyiv not necessarily to meet me, but just to feed me something. I hadn't eaten for two days. As it turned out, she was able to meet me. She fed me and we traveled home. If not for her, I would have ended up at 10 p.m. in an unknown place, poorly dressed, without a penny, without a telephone, without a passport, without anything. I don't know what I would have done.

So you weren't fed? They didn't give you anything to eat?

No. I was fed at prison because it's the standard practice there. But they were constantly transporting me somewhere. I ate three times at prison. So for five days under arrest, I ate a total of three times. I know that the law limits arrests to three days, after which a court's permission is needed for a longer arrest. I was held for five days, without judges.

Do we know anything about the health and psychological condition of the others arrested from your organization?

Very little is known because not everyone was able to gain access to a lawyer. They say they barely are able to stand on their legs because they were intentionally not transported to holding cells or prisons [where food is served]. They are held in police stations, where there isn't any food, underwear, toilets, nothing at all. No one's feeding the boys, except for slop once every day or two. Some have been living like this since January 8.

Their parents and lawyers aren't allowed to see them? Only some?

Those lawyers who are persistent get through and work with them. But we can't even find some guys. We know that they're in Zaporizhia, we know that they're somewhere in the police stations. But where exactly we don't know because the police don't offer any information.

Did you personally endure torture?

Hunger, cold and psychological abuse. They told me scary tales of tuberculosis, about my unfortunate children whom I won't see anytime soon, about life imprisonment, that sort of thing.

How are they trying to prove that you were involved with the Stalin bombing? Are they offering facts, or are they demanding a confession without offering any facts?

They are simply demanding confessions. They have no facts and there can't be, because I have nothing to do with this. They told me that the boys all pointed to me, and everyone is accusing me of organizing everything. They brazenly lied to break me. But they didn't manage to achieve that.

What are your further steps if the guys aren't released and their whereabouts remain unknown?

Firstly, everyone needs access to lawyers. Food deliveries need to be organized for everyone so that they could eat normally, and enable them to change their clothes too. That's the main task. Afterwards we need to employ all possible means of influence on the government to release them, including international bodies. We'll do everything in our power. These are our brothers, and we'll never abandon them.

What can you say regarding the detonation of the Stalin statue? Maybe you have some leads or facts that you can offer on behalf of the organization regarding these explosions.

We have two versions: either some nuts did this without any reason, or this is an intentional provocation from the security services – and not even our [Ukrainian] security service – in order to launch a pressure campaign against Ukrainian nationalists. The sequence of events demonstrates this.

We are leaning towards the second version because the mosaic began to form when there was only the explosion [of the Stalin statue on December 31, 2010] which didn't hurt anyone, followed by the shot-out court window [on January 16]. Then came the Makiyivka explosions [on January 20], then afterwards in Domodyedovo [airport in Moscow on January 24], and discussions that Ukrainian nationalists could be responsible. It becomes obvious that this is a series of provocations, and we have deep suspicion that it won't stop at that.

Even during the questionings by the police and Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), we told them they can blame the explosion on us or not, but rest assured that a single explosion in Zaporizhia won't finish us if they're doing serious work. As we can see, there were the shots at the court which wasn't worth anything. But it was specially done as a pretext to stir all this up.

St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church Newark, NJ

We are addressing the need
of wheelchairs for the handicapped of Ukraine.

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who would like to donate
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Family stories...

(Continued from page 11)

who migrated to the Minersville area from Wolica in the Lemko region of Poland in 1899. Bud's Dad, Alex, was born in 1909 in Forestville, where his father, Nicholas, and his mother, Maria, had settled. Nicholas became a miner, and Alex eventually followed in his father's footsteps.

The Pellish family later moved to the patch where Bud was born. Their house was the first one on the right as you entered the patch from the main road. Across the Forestville Road their neighbor was the family of Nicholas Bervinchak. Bud's Mom, who was a Polinsky (Palinski), was related to the Bervinchak family from the Carpathian village of Rzepedz.

Nicholas Bervinchak actually included Bud's grandmother in several of his etchings of the patch depicting local work in the fields and pulling up coal from one of the bootleg mines ("coalholes").

Julie Kowalchick-Pellish, the sister of Alex, was my Baba Julia's good neighbor and friend. I can still remember them chatting over the white picket fence whenever we'd go for a visit.

Alex Pellish never wanted his son Bud to work in the mines, although he did help his Dad above ground by pumping water from the family's own bootleg mine near the patch.

Often, men who had been laid off from the "legal" mines, or who were looking for additional income or fuel, would work the thin coal seams that were close to the ground surface. The coal companies could not work these seams profitably, but a few friends or a large family could dig a "coalhole" with primitive equipment and reap some small reward for their efforts. However, underground water seeping into the mines, both bootleg and legal ones, was a constant problem. So the major work on the weekends for the bootleg miners was to bring out as much of it as possible so they could return to the tunnel on Monday.

Bud still remembers once in the early 1950s when he was in the 10th grade Alex took him underground in a mine tunnel and shut off the lamp. In the total darkness with the sound of creaking timbers and running water, he was scared out of his mind. Alex cautioned him that this was the one and only time he would ever set foot inside a mine.

A year or two later, Alex almost drowned in a major flood in the Dando mine where he worked. He never went back to the mine after that near fatal incident and eventually became a watchman in a local manufacturing plant. Bud graduated from the local Cass Township High School in 1955 and in 1959 left the patch for service in the Navy.

After military service, he came back to the Minersville area, married and began raising his own family there.

An artist in Coal Country

Nicholas Bervinchak, a Ukrainian Lemko from Rzepedz, Galicia (now in Poland), symbolizes the miners' thirst to rise above the difficult conditions of daily life to produce a lasting cultural and artistic contribution to American life in Northeast Pennsylvania in the early part of the 20th century.

Nicholas was born in 1903 in Mahanoy City, about 23 miles northeast of Minersville. His parents were Iwan and Fenna Bervinchak, and he had at least one younger brother, Michael, who was also born in Mahanoy City in 1905. Apparently the family was living with Iwan's brother Wasyl there. They made

one trip back to Rzepedz between 1905 and 1907 since their return to the U.S. (under the name "Barvinczak" was noted in an Ellis Island immigration record dated September 9, 1907).

Shortly after their return to the U.S., Iwan was killed in a coalmine accident. Even at age 4, Nicholas knew he could never work in the mines because of the loss of his father there. As he grew older, he took an interest in drawing pictures.

In an interview that appeared in the September 12, 1971, Sunday edition of the Allentown Call-Chronicle, he offers a glimpse of his early efforts. "I first started drawing on paper in which the butcher wrapped meat. Then, on a trash bank near my home in Black Heath [a small village next to Primrose], I found a drawing book. I filled this in and from then my appetite for art work increased."

After his stepfather sustained injuries in the mines on several occasions and with their family continuing to grow, Nicholas had to end his formal education in the fifth grade to go to work picking slate as a breaker boy in the Lytle Colliery in Primrose. He began to draw on the walls there, which wasn't appreciated by the breaker boss. But, his working buddies picked up his share of the load, which gave him time to sketch and draw.

In 1922 Bervinchak spent his days watching the church painter Paul Daubner of Budapest decorate the interior of Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Minersville. He was still working the night shift in the mines at the time. Daubner asked for a sample of his work and was so impressed that he offered him an apprenticeship at \$5.62 per day – the same rate that Nicholas earned in the mines.

The relationship with Daubner would last 15 years after which he branched out in the church-decorating field alone in New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Illinois.

Among his better known etchings are those that depict life in and around the mines – especially in the area near our patch in Primrose. Bervinchak had a natural ability for this artistic technique and always preferred to use a victrola needle as his etching tool.

Some of his 180 etchings include: "Miners Driving a Gangway," "Bootleg Coal Miner" and "Buck Run Colliery." Many were done during the period 1933 to 1941. And his close connection with our patch in Primrose is reflected in several of his etchings including four depicting the seasons there and the ones previously mentioned of Bud Pellish's grandmother who was a relative of Nick.

His etching, "Olenick's Breaker,"



"Olenick's Breaker," a 1968 etching by Nicholas Bervinchak, from the catalogue of the 1987 Philadelphia exhibit "The Ukrainian American Experience, 1787-1987," archives of The Library of Congress, Washington.

done in 1968, brings back many memories to me. It was in 1987 that my Uncle John Ondisco took my family on a tour of another coal breaker down the road from Olenick's in Forestville. The Olenick family played an important role in the history of Ukrainians in the Minersville area. The Olenick name is written in my own grandfather Mike's diary from the 1920s attesting to their importance in the Ukrainian immigrant community.

Bervinchak went on to become a world-known artist. Some U.S. presidents such as Lyndon B. Johnson and Dwight D. Eisenhower enjoyed his etchings and hung them in the White House. The National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Institution now own many of his works. His etchings were also exhibited at the Whitney Museum of Art and the National Academy in New York City, the world's fairs in Chicago and New York, and in cities around the globe such as Milan, Italy, and Stockholm, Sweden.

The Ukrainian Museum in New York City has a collection of 40 of Bervinchak's works that were donated by his widow, Anna. They were shown there in the fall of 1984 in conjunction with the exhibit "To Preserve a Heritage: The Story of the Ukrainian Immigration in the United States."

Another important public showing of his work took place in November 1987, in Philadelphia at The Port of History Museum, Penn's Landing. The exhibit titled, "The Ukrainian American Experience," had as its guest curator Christina Czorpita and was co-sponsored by the museum with the Ukrainian

American Committee, "We the People 200." It featured several of Bervinchak's better-known etchings, as well as some of the works of the well-known artist Jacques Hnizdovsky, who was born in western Ukraine and eventually emigrated to New York City. He is probably best known for his woodcuts of scenes from nature.

Bervinchak truly made a major contribution not only to Ukrainian immigrant culture, but also to American regional art. In 1975 he and his wife, visited their beloved Ukraine to find out more about their ancestral roots. They returned from this trip with several of his paintings and etchings of scenes from daily Ukrainian life. Bervinchak died in Pottsville, on June 28, 1978.

Ukrainian community lives on

It's been well over 100 years since the first Ukrainian Lemkos made their way to the Minersville area from the foothills and the slopes of the Carpathians. The homeland of these early pioneers is no longer called Galicia in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but is now part of southeastern Poland. As a result of Akcja Wisla, the forced resettlement of Lemkos and Ukrainians by the Polish government in 1947, most of the descendants of those who came to settle in the Coal Country of northeastern Pennsylvania have no connection with any of their relatives in Europe who were scattered throughout Poland and Ukraine.

My own effort to reconnect with the families of my paternal grandparents took almost 30 years and a lot of good luck along the way.

But to their credit, the Ukrainian Lemkos of the Minersville area and eastern Pennsylvania have preserved their cultural and religious identity painstakingly passed down to them from their grandparents and parents.

The well-attended annual Ukrainian Seminary Day in Primrose is only one example of this. The Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, directed by Dr. Paula Holoviak, with its roots in the Anthracite Region of eastern Pennsylvania, is another. The annual festival at the Ukrainian Homestead in Leighton, also provides the children of Coal Country pioneers a place to gather and celebrate their heritage.

Hopefully these active, richly embroidered memories of our ancestral past in Lemkivschyna and eastern Pennsylvania will continue to live on in our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren over the next 100 years. The enduring spirit of our patch will never die.



"Ron Kramer's barbershop, November 2010, Primrose, Pa.

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DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES OF DETROIT, MI

announces that its
ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
will be held on
Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 1:00 PM
at the Ukrainian Cultural Center
26601 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members
are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates
and two delegates from the following branches:

20, 82, 94, 165, 174, 175, 292, 341

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.
Meeting will be attended by:

Anatole Doroshenko – Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly

DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Dr. Alexander Serafyn, District Chairman
Vera Krywyj, Secretary
Michael Shumylo, Treasurer

Федеральна Кредитова Кооператива СУМА Йонкерс, Н.Й.



повідомляє своїх членів, що

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**у суботу, 19 березня 2011 р.
о 7-ій годині вечора**

в залі Дому СУМА
301 Palisade Ave, Yonkers, New York 10703

*Цього року закінчується каденція наступних трьох членів
Дирекції:
Івана Оліярчика, Любомира Щура та Стефана Канітули;
та двох членів Кредитної Комісії:
Ярослава Гаца та Петра Муля*

Пропозиції до Номінаційної Комісії слід пересилати на адресу:

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Yonkers, NY 10701

Після Загальних Зборів буде перекуска.

*Про Вашу участь прошу повідомити
Анну Коцур 914-220-4900*

Remembering 'Sadochok Kazok' in Chicago



Graduation of the "Sadochok Kazok" preschool in 1971.

by Ruta V. Halibey

CHICAGO – A long time ago, little children in the Ukrainian community impatiently awaited Saturday. On that day they skipped alongside their mothers to a building on Chicago Avenue that looked like all the others. But, inside there was a special magic room where they could play, listen to stories, sing songs and learn poems.

Back home they would tell everybody all about the interesting things that occurred that day, and ask, "When do we go to 'sadochok' again?"

Fifty years have passed since the time that a group of young women organized Branch 29 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, and started five decades of service to the Ukrainian community of Chicago. This new branch was dedicated to honor the memory of 500 heroic women who stood facing Soviet tanks in support of political prisoners in the gulag concentration camp near Kingir in Kazakhstan.

Their courageous deed touched us deeply. We felt that we too, could do something that at least in some small way would accomplish actions useful to Ukraine, a land that we had left as children. With youthful energy we started a project that was most important at the time: a preschool named "Sadochok Kazok." This project was to help families raise their children in a familiar environment.

A teacher, with the help of parents, designed an interesting curriculum. Children learned to love Ukrainian songs, poetry and folklore. Each Saturday 25 to 30 little ones trotted over with their mothers to that magic room to play with other

children and, in the process, improve their knowledge of the Ukrainian language in order to prepare for future studies at the Ukrainian heritage school.

This pre-school "Sadochok Kazok" was sponsored and supported by UNWLA Branch 29 for 25 years. Later, we passed it on to a branch composed of younger women, who to this day continue to develop this worthwhile program.

In order to improve knowledge of the Ukrainian language and culture so important to us, the branch also organized for the children traditional "embroidered clothing dances," masquerades and prepared theatrical performances of "Snow White" and "Ivasyk Telesyk."

The branch published a collection of children's poetry by Kateryna Perelisona, and a coloring book, "Maluyemo," which became popular.

Members of the branch set themselves other tasks as well. One of those was to inform Americans about matters pertaining to Ukraine. UNWLA members joined in activities of the Federation of Women's Clubs of Chicago and organized exhibits about Ukrainian arts, culture and history in libraries, museums and during ethnic festivals.

In preparing for these events, members had to learn more about the Holodomor, and facts about the past and present of Ukraine. The trio "Pisnya" was a wonderful addition to many programs. The branch also organized several exhibits for Ukrainian artists, providing them opportunities to show their creativity to the public.

For social occasions, UNWLA Branch 29 had gatherings for its members with entertaining programs and excellent refreshments.

*Ruta V. Halibey, is press secretary of
UNWLA Branch 29*

(Continued on page 21)



The first visit by Sviatyi Mykolai (St. Nicholas) to the preschool in 1961.

REFLECTIONS: The story of a Ukrainian philatelic auction

by Val Zabijaka

This brief narrative is dedicated to all those wonderful stamp collectors, bidders, and consignors without whom the Zabijaka Mail Auction would not have been possible.

The auction began as the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (UPNS) Auction in September 1972, after Lubomyr Hugely suggested to this writer that we try setting up an auction to sell Ukrainian stamps. During the time that Mr. Hugely served as the secretary of the Society of Ukrainian Philatelists (the name of our organization before it was changed to UPNS in 1972), he had one mini-auction of a few Ukrainian stamps in the society's newsletter.

I first met Mr. Hugely in 1947 in a displaced persons' Camp in the old city of Ulm, Germany. We were students in a typing school and, due to post-war housing shortage, we lived in an old castle with walls more than three feet thick.

Lubomyr, whom I met again in the United States more than 30 years later, assisted me in setting up and organizing the initial auction. Regular auction rules were announced and lots were sold at a slight advance over the prior high bid. The first auction closed on September 15, 1972, and offered 76 lots realizing about \$200 worth of sales. It seemed to be a great success then with, if memory serves me right, about seven bidders.

The original intent was for the auction to be an integral part of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society thus providing an accessible stamp market to the membership and acting as a benefit to attract collectors to our society. The auction was published as part of the Trident-Visnyk, the UPNS newsletter. All realized profits from sales went to the society. Initially, we had a semi-annual auction, later it was changed to three times a year, closing on January 15, May 15 and September 15.

The number of bidders participating in the early auctions was fairly small, around 20 or so. In order to publicize Ukrainian philately, the auction, and the UPNS, I placed a number of ads in U.S. and Canadian philatelic publications. In Linn's Stamp News, one of my ads was placed under the "Russia" category, but



Some of the offerings of the most recent Zabijaka Mail Auction.

read, "Ukraine is not Russia..." The ads not only brought new auction bidders, but also helped in the UPNS membership drive.

My advertising campaign continued as I placed ads in England, Germany and the Netherlands. I had heard that the late Walter Deck, a small dealer and society member, sold some Ukrainian cinderella (privately issued) stamps to collectors in Japan. I, therefore, tried to get guidance on where I could place an ad in Japan. I received some information, but ad prices (close to \$1,000) there were prohibitive for my small publicity budget.

I also placed ads in several Ukrainian American publications, but these did not bring me any new bidders or inquiries.

Nonetheless, I continued my efforts by recruiting Edwin Mulroz from the Netherlands, who became my European publicity chairman. Mr. Mulroz placed ads in various philatelic publications in Europe, but with very limited success at a great cost. Ultimately, I had to discontinue this effort.

While the publicity did not result in a large growth in bidders, the auction's fame, if you will, spread and I received some requests for auction catalogues and sold some material to Taiwan and various other countries.

When I began the auction, I did not have a computer program and so had to set up the auction on accounting paper by hand. This was very time consuming and difficult. It became even more tedious as the number of lots increased to about 200 and bidders to more than 30. The first auction had two consignors, Mr. Hugely and myself. The following auctions had more, and at one time the auction material came from 11 sellers from United States, Canada and Europe.

To ease my workload, since the auction was a one-man operation and I had a very demanding full-time job, I began to look for an auction program and contacted a friend in Chicago, who was both a stamp dealer and a computer specialist. He prepared a custom program for me that I purchased for \$100. Later on, he

modified this program and started selling it to other auction houses.

The UPNS auctions continued in that format for many years, turning over the profits to UPNS, which in one auction amounted to over \$800.

In 1996 the UPNS asked me to separate the auction from the society newsletter, to no longer include it as a part of the newsletter mailing and to change the name to indicate it was separate and distinct from the UPNS. This was quite a shock to me. I had to scramble to find a printer, set up timing and procedures, and take care of mailing. All this in addition to the regular efforts of responding to inquiries, organizing and printing the auction, entering bids, preparing bills and processing payments to consignors.

So, auction No. 70 was renamed the Zabijaka Mail Auction and it continued to grow. At times the number of lots exceeded 600, and sales \$8,000. With the 103rd Auction (2007), I offered a color photo page for the first time. Figure I shows a color photo page from the 113th Auction, which closed on January 15.

Starting with Auction No. 105 (2008), Andy Martyniuk began to assist me with the auction. Not only has he set up two photo pages in color, but he also typed the "Regular Issues" section identifying tridents in the process. Slowly he is becoming an expert in identifying trident overprints.

At first, the auction catalogue was sent to all society members, but later it was mailed only to active collectors. Initially, the printed auction catalogue was mailed to collectors in the U.S. (about 66 percent), in Canada (about 25 percent) and other countries (about 10 percent). The most recent 113th auction was sent out to the U.S. (about 55 percent), Canada (about 9 percent) and other countries amounted to about 35 percent. Through advertising, I was able to attract a few bidders from Europe, but was not able to achieve success in Canada. Advertising in Canadian philatelic publications also did not attract any new collectors to the auction.

A few years ago I also had my own webpage on the Internet, but it turned out to be a very expensive proposition with

(Continued on page 23)

Remembering...

(Continued from page 20)

Social services demanded a lot of planning and hard work. Like other Ukrainian women's organizations, the branch helps provide aid to orphans, the elderly, the needy and invalids in Ukraine. In past years the branch raised funds for student scholarships, as well as victims of floods, the nuclear accident at Chornobyl and other disasters.

Most of the branch's efforts are directed to helping orphans with clothing and toys, school and sports supplies. Still, the most useful were our long-time efforts in sponsoring and supporting the "Sadochok Kazok" preschool.

UNWLA Branch 29's celebration of 50 years of activity will take place on Sunday March 27, at 1 p.m. at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave. in Chicago. All the members of the community are invited, but former pupils of the "Sadochok Kazok" are especially encouraged to come and renew their friendships. (RSVP by March 15 to Maria Hrynevych, 708-452-8397, or to Eva Zelenko, 708-386-8187.).

KLK Invites Members, Family and Friends

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Lift Tickets and Races: Adults \$55.00 Seniors (65 & up) \$45.00

Young Adults (13-18) \$40.00 Juniors 7-12 \$35.00 Toddlers 6 & under \$10.00

Race Tickets only : Adults & Seniors \$10.00 Children 2-18 FREE

Lift Ticket only: Adults \$50.00 Young Adults \$40.00 Seniors \$40.00

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Races begin at approximately 9:30 AM

Dinner and Awards Ceremony:

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Time: 6:30 pm

Adults: \$45.00 Children ages 14 & under Free if accompanied by an adult

Please visit our website@ www.klkusa.com to access registration forms.




"Music at the Institute"

The Directors of the Ukrainian Institute of America are pleased to announce the appointment of



Solomia Ivakhiv

as the new Artistic Director of MATI - Music at the Institute



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Kinofest NYC set for March 16-20

NEW YORK – Kinofest NYC has announced the dates of its 2011 film festival, which will take place in New York City from Wednesday, March 16 to Sunday, March 20.

This is the second annual Kinofest NYC festival and it has grown this year from one to two locations and expanded the number of screening sessions from six to 11. The screening venues are two East Village landmarks: The Ukrainian Museum, which is sponsoring the films being screened at its facility on East Sixth Street, and the Millennium Film Workshop on East Fourth Street.

2011 program highlights

- Georg Misch's "I am From Nowhere" is a documentary about the village of Mikova, Slovakia, the ancestral home of the family of Andy Warhol. The film investigates the fuss the media has made of Warhol's relatives who still live there, media fame, and Warhol's legendary "15 minutes of fame."

- Pavla Fleischer's "The Pied Piper of Hutzovina," details a road trip made through Ukraine by the filmmaker and Eugene Hutz, the lead singer of New York's gypsy punk band Gogol Bordello. The filmmaker's aim is to rediscover a forgotten romance; Hutz's purpose is to rediscover his gypsy roots. The result is a story of two people traveling together on two very different courses.

- Jaak Kilmi's "Disco and Atomic War" is a tongue-in-cheek documentary about growing up in the Estonian capital of Tallinn during the waning days of the Cold War. The filmmaker comically recounts how Estonians had discovered the American series "Dallas" via television transmissions from Helsinki, and how the Communist leadership haplessly attempted to "protect" citizens from the corrupting influence of televised capitalist decadence.

- Klaudia Kovacs' "Torn From the Flag," a historical documentary-thriller about the international decline of communism and the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, is composed of both archival footage and interviews conducted in the U.S., Hungary, Russia and Italy.

- Dziga Vertov's "Man With the Movie Camera," is the groundbreaking Soviet classic, completed in 1929 at VUFKU, the All-Ukrainian Photo-Cinema-Directorate. This film will be presented by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk of Columbia University, who will discuss its significance within the context of a Ukrainian filmmaking narrative.

- Also to be screened is a series of film shorts, including Murat Mamedov's

"Adam and Eve," describing the hardships of living as a coal miner in eastern Ukraine; Maxym Vasyanovych's "Mom Died On Saturday in the Kitchen," a personal story of love and loss; and Tatiana Korol's "Akbulak," a story of immigration and return, set in Kazakhstan.

For complete program listings by venue, readers may log on to KinofestNYC.com.

Kinofest NYC is New York's only film festival showcasing emerging Ukrainian and post-Soviet cinema. The inaugural Kinofest NYC film festival took place in early 2010 at The Ukrainian Museum and was a resounding success. Films representing Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, Lithuania, Georgia and the United States were shown over six screening sessions. The event attracted sizable audiences and brought together a variety of guest presenters, films and enthusiasts.

"This year we have expanded the festival to two screening locations – The Ukrainian Museum and the Millennium Film Workshop – both of which are established East Village cultural institutions and the perfect outlets for our films," said festival director Andrew Kotliar. "With a larger and increasingly experienced organizing team, we were able to widen our scope and increase our offerings."

Program director Damian Kolodiy has finalized the festival program and is excited about the growth in the festival's presentations. "We've got a good mix of films, short documentaries and narratives, some really innovative and creative work that has never been seen in the United States before," said Mr. Kolodiy.

This year's festival is being produced in part with the cooperation of The Ukrainian Museum in New York under the auspices of its film program. (The museum's film program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council). Major sponsors of the festival include Self Reliance (New York) Federal Credit Union and the Veselka restaurant.

Founded in 2009, Kinofest NYC is a festival committed to celebrating the art of independent cinema. Kinofest NYC seeks to educate and entertain its participants and to provide opportunities for the public to watch independent film from Ukraine and other post-Soviet countries. The festival also serves as a forum to introduce new filmmakers from these countries to American audiences and industry professionals. All films are in English or their original language with English subtitles.

Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!



As in the past,
The Ukrainian Weekly
will publish a special section
devoted to the Ukrainian
community's debutantes.
The 2011 debutante ball section
will be published on March 27.

The deadline for submission of stories and
photos is March 14.

OUT AND ABOUT

- March 2 through April 8 New York Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love," featuring soprano Stefania Dovhan, New York City Opera, Lincoln Center, 212-870-6582 or www.nycopera.com
- March 3 Ottawa Dinner meeting, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Ottawa Branch, Ukrainian Community Center, uccattawa@gmail.com
- March 3-4 Toronto Film screenings, "Between a Rock and Hard Place: Ukrainian Cinema Since Independence," University of Toronto, 416-946-8113 or www.utoronto.ca/ceres
- March 4 Edmonton, AB Film screening, "Folk!" by Roxy Toporowych, University of Alberta, 780-479-2813 or lynnine.pawluk@ualberta.ca
- March 4 Chicago Concert with music by Ephyra, The Abbey, www.ticketfly.com/event/26889
- March 4 Phoenix, AZ Wild West Ukie Fest bonfire, West Eagle Feather Rd. cul de sac, chrystia@cox.net
- March 5 Pittsburgh Pre-Lenten dance, featuring music by Chervona Kalyna, Ukrainian Community of Western Pennsylvania, Best Western Parkway Center Inn, 412-897-0741 or www.ucowpa.org
- March 5 Westlake, OH Presentation of debutantes, featuring music by Veseli Chasy, Plast Sorority Buryverkhy, LaCenter, 440-884-2149 or 440-572-4069
- March 5 Lehigh, PA Mardi Gras party, featuring music by DJ Captain Mike, Ukrainian Homestead, 215-235-3709 or 610-377-4621
- March 5 Phoenix, AZ "Kaktus Kolomyika" dance, featuring music by Svitanok, Sheraton Four Points Hotel, 480-991-4656 or 602-882-1552
- March 5 Ottawa Pierogi and vodka night, Ottawa Ukrainian Student's Club and the Ottawa Ukrainian Soccer Club, University of Ottawa, uofoukrainians@gmail.com
- March 5 New York Taras Shevchenko conference, Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- March 5-8 Ottawa 53rd national congress, Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union, University of Ottawa, uofoukrainians@gmail.com
- March 6 Warren MI 75th anniversary luncheon, Ukrainian National Women's League of America - Detroit Regional Council, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 248-656-0306
- March 7 Cambridge, MA Lecture by Olha Luchuk, "Panteleimon Kulish and Shakespeare: A 19th-Century Project in the Europeanization of Ukrainian Literature," Harvard University, 617-495-4053
- March 12 Mashantucket, CT Boxing match, Sergiy Dzinziruk versus Sergio Martinez, Foxwoods Hotel and Casino, 860-463-1210 or kozak6064@snet.net
- March 16 Ottawa Wine and cheese art exhibit, Ukrainian Students' Club, University of Ottawa, <http://uofoukrainian.webs.com>
- March 16-20 New York Film festival, "Kinofest NYC," The Ukrainian Museum and Millennium Film Workshop, www.kinofestnyc.org
- March 19 Cleveland, OH Film and literary evening with Irene Zabytko, "Remembering Chornobyl in Film and Literature," Ukrainian National Women's League of America - Branch 12, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 440-526-6863
- March 20 Whippany, NJ Fashion show, luncheon and gift auction, Plast Chortopoloky Sorority, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-471-0515 or lvhuk@verizon.net
- March 21 Cambridge, MA Lecture by Bohdan Futey, "The Rule of Law and Constitutional Guarantees in Ukraine," Harvard University, 617-495-4053

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.

The story...

(Continued from page 21)

only a few new bidders. Recently, however, Jerry Kalyn, the UPNS webmaster, was kind enough to put my auction back online and to link it to the UPNS webpage for a minimal cost. Although, it still is not very effective at drawing new bidders, it does add to the UPNS site and hopefully will attract new members.

Regularly in the past, I mailed out about 180 catalogues, but now the mailings have been reduced to about 100 with about 50 catalogs additional catalogues sent out by e-mail. In the past, catalogues were mailed to as few as five different countries; the 113th auction was mailed to 11 different countries. At one time, I also had bidders from China and Azerbaijan, and inquiries from Pakistan and India.

Early in the past, I received some strongly worded correspondence stating that the auction ought to be in two languages (Ukrainian and English) and I once made a bilingual effort, but it was difficult and it took up more space. Another time a call came from a member in New York City who felt that the stamps should be sold to Ukrainians only. Still another letter urged me to sell only to UPNS members.

There were some other interesting occurrences. Once a European bidder sent me a bid of \$1,000 for a Western Ukrainian Moldauer cover (which at that time was worth about \$40 or so). I was quite concerned since he was a new bidder and I didn't know what would happen if I had another bidder with some ridiculous bid for this item. But nothing happened, and our European collector bought the cover for about \$45.

Another crisis came later, when a new bidder from Philadelphia bought many items from the auction for a total of \$1,200 – a record at that time. (Since that record, I have had several major individual purchases amounting to close to \$4,000.) I have never sent packages valued more than \$500, so I hesitated about to what to do with this purchase.

Finally, I decided on UPS and insured the package for \$1,200. Several weeks after receiving the payment and mailing the package, I had a frantic call from the buyer saying that the package never arrived. But UPS came through and after I received the \$1,200 settlement, I promptly sent it to the concerned buyer. Unfortunately, he never bid again, although we became good friends and he visited me. I keep wondering, however, where the stamps disappeared to.

The auction has been a great experience for me and has served as a venue for making many new friends. Additionally, much interesting material has passed through my hands. But to me, the most important aspect of the auction has been its positive impact on our society's membership and on Ukrainian philately.

* * *

With this brief article I would like to recognize and thank all those individuals who have helped me with this auction, especially Mr. Hugely, who left philately much too soon, Mr. Kalyn, our computer guru, and Mr. Martyniuk, who has proved to be a dependable friend and assistant.

If you'd like to learn more about Ukrainian philately, check out the website of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (UPNS) at www.upns.org or write to: Andrew Martyniuk, 1235 Fairview Drive, Kent, OH 44240, to receive a free informational pamphlet.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 5

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh-A), the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN), and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) invite all to the 31st annual scholarly conference dedicated to Taras Shevchenko. The program will open with welcoming remarks by Dr. Orest Popovych, president of NTSh-A, followed by three lectures: Dr. Oles Fedoruk (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), "Shevchenko's Relations with Kulish: Newly Discovered Sources"; Dr. Oleksandr Boron (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), "Echoes of Charles Dickens in Shevchenko's Works: Intertextualities and Typological Similarities"; Dr. George G. Grabowicz (HURI and NTSh-A), "Some Parameters of Shevchenko's Early

Reception: the Case of 'Haydamaky.' " Closing remarks will be provided by Dr. Anna Procyk (UVAN and NTSh-A). The program will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 4 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130. Please note the earlier than usual starting time.

Sunday, April 10

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Museum will be celebrating its 35th anniversary with a luncheon to be held at 1-5 p.m. at the Battery Gardens at Battery Park. Featured will be a jazz performance by the Askold Buk Trio and a silent auction. Tickets are \$150 per person; space is limited. Valet parking is available. RSVP by March 28 to The Ukrainian Museum, 212 228-0110 or info@ukrainianmuseum.org. For more information log on to ukrainianmuseum.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.

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

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

Information should be sent to: preview@ukrweekly.com 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.**

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