

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

A turbulent year for Ukraine

Turbulent was the way to describe 2009 for Ukraine, which plunged into financial crisis. No other European country suffered as much as Ukraine, whose currency was devalued by more than 60 percent since its peak of 4.95 hryv per \$1 in August 2008. In addition, the country's industrial production fell by 31 percent in 2009. Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko confronted the challenge of minimizing the crisis fallout, while at the same time campaigning for the 2010 presidential elections.

Her critics attacked her for pursuing populist policies, such as increasing wages and hiring more government staff, when the state treasury was broke as early as the spring. Ms. Tymoshenko herself admitted that her government would not have been able to make all its payments without the help of three tranches of loans, worth approximately \$10.6 billion, provided by the International Monetary Fund. Her critics believe that instead of borrowing money, Ms. Tymoshenko should have been introducing radical reforms to the Ukrainian economy, reducing government waste, eliminating outdated Soviet-era benefits and trimming the bureaucracy.

The year began with what is becoming an annual tradition in Ukraine – a natural gas conflict provoked by the government of Russian Federation Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Whereas the New Year's Day crisis of 2006 lasted only three days, the Russian government planned months in advance for the 2009 crisis, which lasted 18 days. Turning off the spigots on New Year's Day, Gazprom launched into a smear campaign against the Ukrainian government, alleging it owed hundreds of millions of dollars. The state-owned monopoly claimed the Ukrainian government was stealing natural gas bound for Europe, which was broadcast repeatedly throughout the continent as part of a well-calculated strategy aimed at discrediting Ukraine's role as a reliable transit intermediary.

President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko initially formed a united front against the Russian attack, issuing a January 1 joint statement. Yet once Ms. Tymoshenko had reached an agreement with Mr. Putin that put an end to the crisis, Mr. Yushchenko reverted back to his relentless attacks against the prime minister, declaring her deal an "evident defeat."

Ms. Tymoshenko achieved an average price for natural gas of about \$230 per 1,000 cubic meter, which she touted as lower than what any European nation pays. Yet it was 30 percent higher than Ukraine's 2008 rate and Ms. Tymoshenko could not get Gazprom to pay more in transit fees, which remained at \$1.70 per meter. In response to the president's criticism that she failed to increase the transit rate, Ms. Tymoshenko said that, as compensation, her government secured a \$25 (per 1,000 cubic meters) discount (to \$154) for natural gas used as "technical fuel" to pump gas through pipelines for European customers.

The 2009 New Year's crisis was merely the latest strike in an extensive campaign the Russian government will continue pursuing to eliminate the Ukrainian transit monopoly of Russian natural gas. By staging crises, Gazprom aims to convince the Europeans to support the Nord Stream pipeline, which would transport gas by bypassing Ukraine under the Baltic Sea and into Germany, or pressure Ukraine into surrendering its control of the transit system by submitting it to an international consortium. As another solution, Mr. Putin suggested to German television viewers during the crisis that the Russian government buy the pipelines from the Ukrainian government, "which makes a fetish of the gas transport system, considers it its national heritage, almost as if getting it from heaven, and as not subject to privatization."

The January natural gas crisis exacerbated Ukraine's financial crisis, the seriousness of which led Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk to submit his resignation on February 17 out of disagreement with the prime minister's economic policy. It's widely believed that Mr. Pynzenyk was the author of an anonymous memorandum, released on January 27, that warned of an impending collapse of the Ukrainian economy unless drastic measures were taken. Prime Minister Tymoshenko allegedly forbid distribution of the January 6 memo addressed to the Cabinet of Ministers and ordered Mr. Pynzenyk to recall it, before he allegedly leaked it to the Ukrainian news site, Ekonomichna Pravda.

Prime Minister Tymoshenko had a history of cutting



President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko at the heated February 10 meeting of the National Security and Defense Council.

backroom deals with the Communist Party of Ukraine, which resurfaced when the Cabinet of Ministers voted on January 21 vote to reinstate Olha Ginzberg as director of the State Archives Committee of Ukraine. A former national deputy of the Communist Party of Ukraine, Ms. Ginzburg has no education in the social sciences or archives experience, having built her career serving as a Communist Party secretary and assistant director at a factory in Konotop, Sumy Oblast. Among the favors the prime minister gained from reinstating Ms. Ginzburg was the Communist Party's support for a January 26 vote to dismiss Volodymyr Stelmakh, the chair of the National Bank of Ukraine. Then Ms. Tymoshenko survived a no-confidence vote on February 5 after Communist Party Chair Petro Symonenko and several fellow party members were absent from Parliament on that day and neglected to support the Party of Regions initiative.

Just two days later, on January 23, President Yushchenko issued a decree ordering all government organs to disclose all remaining Soviet repression-related documents issued between 1917 and 1991 that were classified as secret or top secret. Valentyn Nalyvaichenko said the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), where he served as acting chair at the time, would make publicly accessible all its classified documents on Soviet-era repressions – a collection of more than 800,000 items.

The president's decree was the latest step in a three-year campaign to make Ukraine's archived Soviet documents more accessible to Ukrainians and foreigners alike. "The president's position lies in that crimes against people's freedoms and rights, and the criminal actions of government organs shouldn't be and can't be concealed behind a classification of secrecy," Mr. Nalyvaichenko told a January 27 press conference at SBU headquarters in central Kyiv. "The decree once and for all removes the barrier of secrecy, declassifying and publicizing the archives – that is, giving access to all, not just privileged historians, but all citizens," he noted.

While the SBU was releasing documents, President Yushchenko released his anger against Prime Minister Tymoshenko during a February 10 meeting of the National Security and Defense Council, the details of which were leaked to Ukrayinska Pravda reporter Serhii Leschenko, one of Ukraine's top journalists. Behind closed doors, the two leaders accused each other of bringing the country to ruin and hurled mutual accusations of theft and corruption before the council's startled members.

"Yulia Volodymyrivna, you regularly stole gas, and now you're teaching us how to get rid of corrupt people," the president allegedly erupted during the meeting, later accusing her in front of television camera of betraying Ukraine's national security interests with her natural gas agreement with the Russian Federation, which he compared to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

The president alleged that a \$5 billion loan from the Russian government was a tacit condition included to bankrupt the government and force it to surrender its gas

transit system, which is operated by the state monopoly Naftohaz Ukrainy. Ukraine would pay dearly for Ms. Tymoshenko's gas agreement years after she's left the prime minister's office.

In response, Ms. Tymoshenko told reporters that the Russian government was among an entire list of countries to which Ukraine turned to request credit to cover the government's planned spending deficit. She requested officials from the European Union to evaluate the Russian-Ukrainian natural gas agreement. She alleged President Yushchenko is attempting to ruin the natural gas agreement she obtained in order to return the corrupt natural gas intermediary RosUkrEnergo. Additionally, the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) wants to force the Ukrainian government to return 11 billion cubic meters of natural gas to RosUkrEnergo that was bought honestly with state funds from Gazprom, she alleged, bringing \$4 billion in profit to the president.

The conflict between Ukraine's top pro-Western politicians paved the way for new politicians to emerge, promising pragmatism and effectiveness. Most notably, Arseniy Yatsenyuk became a presidential contender when polls in the spring demonstrated he was the third most popular candidate for the Ukrainian presidency, commanding between 10 and 14 percent support at least twice as much as incumbent Mr. Yushchenko.

Rifts emerged in Ukraine's most recognized political parties. It was revealed the Party of Regions is divided between those loyal to Donbas industrial kingpin Rinat Akhmetov, those loyal to the party's ideologically pro-Russian wing led by Viktor Yanukovych and Mykola Azarov, and the so-called Firtash Group, including those who profited from RosUkrEnergo. While tensions have emerged between these groups, the party leadership managed to hold the party together in preparation for the 2010 presidential election campaign.

Unable to keep things together in his party, People's Rukh of Ukraine Chair Borys Tarasyuk announced on January 27 that he was evicting the long-time stalwarts Ivan Stoiko and Yaroslav Kendzior, who commanded significant influence over the party's Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk organizations. He denied the dismissals were related to his decision to ally the party with Ms. Tymoshenko. Yet Messrs. Kendzior and Stoiko made it no secret they were loyal to President Yushchenko and wanted the party to lean in that direction. The two Rukh veterans announced in mid-December they were joining the Za Ukrainu! (For Ukraine!) political party led by Viacheslav Kyrylenko, widely believed to be the leader of Ukraine's revived national-democratic movement. Meanwhile, the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc split into those loyal to Ms. Tymoshenko, led by Our Ukraine parliamentary faction chair Mykola Martynenko and People's Self-Defense Chair Yurii Lutsenko, and those loyal to the president, led by Mr. Kyrylenko.

Ukraine's conflicts weren't limited to those within parties. Tensions flared between Ukraine and the Russian Federation after Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko warned Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Official Website of the Party of Regions

Viktor Yanukovich at the Party of Regions congress on October 23.

Chernomyrdin at a February 17 meeting about disparaging remarks he made concerning President Yushchenko and the Ukrainian people. “[Minister] Ohryzko expressed his protest regarding unfriendly and utterly undiplomatic assessments, commentaries and expressions towards Ukraine and its leadership,” Ukraine’s Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a February 17 statement.

Mr. Ohryzko warned Ambassador Chernomyrdin that further remarks, such as those published on February 11 in the pro-Russian daily newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda, could lead to a persona non grata declaration, making him liable to expulsion from Ukraine.

“You know, he didn’t just fall from the sky,” the ambassador said of President Yushchenko. “By his appearance, he looks as though he’s a normal guy.” He continued: “He’s that type – paints, collects shards. He can walk around some kind of tree stump for three hours and examine it, fantasize. At home, he’s collected quite a bit – mills, millstones, and gigantic [ones]! He put up windmills in Kyiv. And this person suddenly turned out to be this way. Not at all similar. Kill me, but he’s not capable of this at all. However, he’s doing it. Someone is helping him.”

Mr. Chernomyrdin was likely referring to the presi-

dent’s attacks on Prime Minister Tymoshenko in the latter part of his remarks.

Within two weeks of the conflict, Mr. Ohryzko learned that he had burnt too many bridges with his fierce loyalty to President Yushchenko and stalwart Euro-Atlantic stance. Ukraine’s Parliament assembled 250 votes – from the Party of Regions, the Communist Party and 49 deputies of the Tymoshenko Bloc – to dismiss the career diplomat on March 3. While contempt for Mr. Ohryzko from pro-Russian forces had long been boiling, criticism of the prime minister pushed her over the edge, prompting her to sacrifice him in exchange for support in canceling pre-term elections for the Ternopil Oblast Council, where her bloc faced big losses.

The escalating tension between the government’s two foreign policy teams, one led by Mr. Ohryzko and the other led by the prime minister’s foreign policy advisor, Hryhorii Nemyria, had reached its Rubicon during the South Ossetian War in August 2008. After Ms. Tymoshenko refrained from condemning the Russian aggression, adopting the more moderate European Union position, the Presidential Secretariat, with Mr. Ohryzko in tow, began its attack campaign to cast Ms. Tymoshenko as a betrayer of national interests, aligned with the Kremlin. The last straw was a circular signed by Mr. Ohryzko and sent to 31 embassies and consulates, following the raucous February 10 NSDC meeting instructing diplomats to distribute a briefing prepared by NSDC Assistant Secretary Stepan Havrysh. The briefing stated the prime minister’s claims about the role of the NSDC in corrupt energy schemes and as well as her claims that the NSDC was trying to return RosUkrEnergo to the natural gas market were false.

“It had reached the point that Ukraine’s Foreign Affairs Ministry is sending out letters which ask that the prime minister’s deeds be considered mistaken and not conforming with reality,” the Tymoshenko Bloc said in a March 4 statement on Mr. Ohryzko’s dismissal.

During Mr. Ohryzko’s brief tenure, which began in December 2007, the Foreign Affairs Ministry began preparing a European Union Association Agreement, which was expected to be completed in 2009 but wasn’t, and began working towards creating a free trade zone. For the first time, Ukraine began negotiations with the EU on creating a visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens.

The March 3 parliamentary session upset the leaders of the Svoboda All-Ukrainian Union, Ukraine’s leading nationalist force, which was expecting big gains in the pre-term Ternopil Oblast Council election scheduled for March 15. Ukraine’s Halychyna electorate, which most fiercely supports Euro-Atlantic integration, gave up supporting Mr. Yushchenko’s Our Ukraine party and the Tymoshenko Bloc, instead shifting in favor of the nationalists. In hastily canceling the election only 12 days in advance, the government wasted 10 million hrv. The Tymoshenko Bloc’s sudden opposition surfaced after it supported the very same elections at the December 18, 2008, session of the Verkhovna Rada.

Svoboda nationalists compared Prime Minister

Tymoshenko’s interference to the anti-democratic tactics employed by former Presidential Administration Chair Viktor Medvedchuk, who attempted to undermine the Mukachiv election of 2004 but never crossed the line as Ms. Tymoshenko did by cancelling the vote.

Several court rulings and appeals emerged in the days leading up to the elections as the Presidential Secretariat teamed with the Svoboda All-Ukrainian Union to ensure the elections were held despite the parliamentary vote. A Ternopil district court ruled on March 11 that a local election commission had illegally halted the elections and ordered them restored.

When election day rolled around, 54 percent of those eligible to vote turned out to defy Prime Minister Tymoshenko’s attempts to derail the oblast council vote. More than 35 percent cast their votes for the Svoboda nationalists, giving them full control in forming the Ternopil Oblast Council’s coalition government. Local Tymoshenko Bloc operatives, led by the bloc’s oblast division head Vasyl Derevlianyi, attempted to sabotage the vote by using their cars to block trucks from delivering freshly printed ballots. Brawls erupted and the blocking cars were pushed aside or flipped over. The Tymoshenko Bloc suffered more losses as last-minute rulings on the eve of the vote in Kyiv and Lviv reaffirmed the election’s legitimacy for the next day.

As the nation’s politicians waged fierce political battles, the Ukrainian economy continued to deteriorate in the first and second quarters of 2009. Kyiv street kiosks were offering 9.2 hrv per \$1 as the value of the Ukrainian currency fell about 10 percent from the prior week. By the summer, the exchange rate stabilized at a range of 8.0 hrv to 8.5 hrv per \$1. Fiscal policy fared just as bad as budget shortfalls cropped up throughout the first quarter. Amidst unpaid wages, partially paid pensions and insolvent local utility companies, the Tymoshenko government failed to draft an anti-crisis plan, said Volodymyr Fesenko, the board chairman of the Penta Center for Applied Political Research in Kyiv.

While President Yushchenko urged Ms. Tymoshenko to revise the 2009 budget, she declined, stating her preference for more effectively using current funds, as well as those derived from local taxes. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) demanded that Parliament pass a revised 2009 budget, more realistic than what was approved in December 2008. As a result, IMF officials withheld a second tranche of a promised \$1.9 billion loan, citing the conflict between the Presidential Secretariat and the Cabinet. Finally IMF Mission in Chief in Ukraine Ceyla Pazarbasioglu announced on April 17 that she would recommend extending Ukraine \$2.8 billion as part of a second tranche of a loan to stabilize the nation’s economy. She recommended the larger-than-expected loan despite the unacceptable 3 percent budget deficit and Parliament’s failure to pass requested legislation.

Ethnic strife resurfaced in Odesa when self-described anti-fascist activists on April 17 stabbed and murdered Maksym Chaika, a 21-year-old university student and self-described nationalist. The Weekly initially reported that Chaika had ties to neo-Nazis, based on numerous photographs that surfaced throughout the Internet in which he was depicted giving a Nazi salute and wearing a T-shirt with a Nazi eagle. Yet Chaika’s colleague, Volodymyr Musiak of the Black Sea Haidamak Kozak Formation, told The Weekly that Mr. Chaika had no ties to neo-Nazis and instead was involved with soccer hooligans.

Chaika’s murder was the latest attack amidst a pattern of aggression against ethnically conscious Ukrainians in Odesa. Only a month earlier, Odesa’s Ukrainian organizations issued a statement protesting the refusal of local prosecutors and law enforcement officers to investigate and prosecute the city’s anti-Ukrainian agitators, especially businessman Igor Markov, for inciting ethnic and religious conflict. This time, some activists accused Mr. Markov of organizing Mr. Chaika’s murder because he was a Ukrainian activist who demanded authorities prosecute Mr. Markov.

The Chaika murder was planned and organized by Odesa’s pro-Russian radicals and chauvinists, reported an April 20 statement issued by the Vilna Odesa (Free Odesa) civic organization. “Contrary to the efforts of police to write this matter off as a standard incident, an organized political murder is clearly demonstrated,” the statement said. A month after the murder, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) confirmed a suspect in the murder, Andrii Dovhan, was hiding in the Russian Federation. Law enforcement authorities have yet to make any arrests in Mr. Chaika’s murder.

Yet it’s hard to imagine police having much success



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Presidential candidate Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

making arrests when the nation's police chief remained in his post after provoking an airport brawl in Frankfurt, Germany.

It erupted after Lufthansa staff stopped Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko and his 19-year-old son Oleksander from boarding a May 4 flight to Seoul, South Korea. They began cursing fiercely, threw their mobile phones at them and began fighting, injuring four officers and drawing arrest, police reported. They spent a half-day in detention. Frankfurt police spokesman Jurgen Linker confirmed the entire account of the incident published by the German tabloid Bild, except for the son's reported excessive blood-alcohol measurement.

During the incident, Oleksander Lutsenko was particularly aggressive and required handcuffing, the newspaper reported. While his son tested positive for alcohol, the minister avoided testing when demonstrating his diplomatic passport, Bild reported.

Mr. Lutsenko acknowledged at a May 12 press conference in Kyiv that he got into a physical altercation at the airport in Frankfurt and was arrested, but denied drunkenness, claiming he drank only a mug of beer. He submitted a resignation letter to the Verkhovna Rada that day in a carefully manipulated gambit in which Mr. Lutsenko knew his political opponents didn't have enough voters in Parliament to dismiss him. Of the five factions, only the Party of Regions of Ukraine called for Mr. Lutsenko's ouster.

After keeping silent for more than a week, Prime Minister Tymoshenko came to Mr. Lutsenko's defense during her weekly Cabinet press conference on May 13, attempting to shift the media's focus away from the minister's arrest and stirring up empathy for his 19-year-old son, who suffers from thyroid cancer. Mr. Lutsenko was wrong to arrive late for the flight and try to force his way on board during the layover, she said, but "every father should defend his child, particularly one so ill. And that they made a mountain out of a molehill is simply amoral."

The conflicts only augmented calls for the resignation of Mr. Lutsenko, who allowed corruption to flourish within Ukraine's police force under his leadership. It also reflected the corruption of the Orange government.

Disappointment in the Orange government was echoed by U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor in an unusually candid press conference held on May 21 at the construction site of the future U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. He said expected his term as ambassador would be a time for consolidating democracy and economic development in Ukraine, rather than conflict. "I had come from some exciting places such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Jerusalem, and I was ready for some less exciting time and more working time," he said. "Some more nuts and bolts, some more lower-level but important reform work needed to be done. But that was not to be."

Mr. Taylor took over as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in May 2006, just as Ms. Tymoshenko attempted to form a pro-Western coalition between her bloc, the Our Ukraine Bloc and the Socialist Party of Ukraine. As an example of the instability, Mr. Taylor said he had to



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Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko (left) was dismissed by the Verkhovna Rada on March 3. Petro Poroshenko (right) was approved as his successor on October 9.

work with three different prime ministers, three foreign affairs ministers, and three parliamentary chairs in just three years, in addition to the 2007 snap parliamentary election, "so not much reform got done."

"There were economic reforms, democratic reforms and judicial reforms that all needed to happen, and I thought the three years of 2006 to 2009 would be a great time to work those," Mr. Taylor said. He also offered a subtle criticism of the government's handling of the economy amidst the global financial crisis. "The last thing I would say about my feelings of leaving is that I'm very optimistic," the ambassador said. "I am very sure things are going to get better. I am sure things are going to get better economically, because they can't get much worse." Mr. Taylor's last day on the job in Kyiv was May 25.

At about the same time, Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha announced his resignation on May 19 after serving as the president's right-hand man for more than two and a half years, during which he waged vicious public battles against the president's political opponents that caused Mr. Yushchenko's popularity to plummet dramatically.

Mr. Baloha was widely blamed for fueling the nasty, vicious conflict with the Cabinet of Ministers led by Prime Minister Tymoshenko ever since she returned to power in late December 2007. He was also blamed for ruining the president's relations with other key pro-

Western politicians, such as former Verkhovna Rada Chair Yatsenyuk, former Defense Minister Anatoliy Grytsenko and Our Ukraine parliamentary faction leader Mykola Martynenko.

While isolating the president and turning the Presidential Secretariat into a government organ at war, Mr. Baloha created his own political party, Single Center, built from his access to government resources (adminresurs) and recruiting a handful of Our Ukraine deputies from the president's camp.

Mr. Baloha suggested to President Yushchenko in March 2009 that he dismiss Parliament and call pre-term elections, thereby enabling the two to get elected and earn deputies' immunity from prosecution, according to a report by the Ukrayinska Pravda web site that cited an anonymous source in the Presidential Secretariat. Mr. Baloha also suggested leading President Yushchenko's re-election campaign and tried to convince him to run on the Single Center party platform, the May 15 report said.

However President Yushchenko ultimately declined Mr. Baloha's numerous proposals and instead decided to try to resurrect the Our Ukraine People's Union from its dismal status. He appointed longtime advisor and confidante Vira Ulianchenko as Mr. Baloha's replacement on May 19, also naming her the new chairman of the Our Ukraine party. She immediately declared her interest in cooperating with Ukraine's oligarchs, with whom she's enjoyed warm relations.

President Yushchenko's selection of Ms. Ulianchenko was viewed by many observers as the latest capitulation of his professed Orange ideals. She was a top-ranking officer in the Black Sea Shipping Company (Blasco), which was investigated and prosecuted for selling the nation's most valuable ships for personal profit. As authorities began investigating Blasco, Ms. Ulianchenko fled to the U.S. where she lived until returning to Ukraine five years later, soon becoming an advisor to Mr. Yushchenko when he was prime minister in 2000.

A controversy involving First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko surfaced in the springtime when it was revealed that not a brick had been laid for the Children's Hospital of the Future, despite her assurances that it would be treating patients by March 2009. Ever since Ms. Yushchenko participated in the capsule-burying ceremony on March 16, 2006, to launch the ambitious \$120 million project, critics doubted the hospital would ever be built, arguing that such projects take a minimum of 10 years and advising Ukrainians not to contribute.

The three-year delay in simply getting the land for the hospital drew suspicions of corruption and accusations of a public relations stunt from the media and critics of the president and first lady. Only in February of 2009 did the hospital's organizers find land for the project, abandoning their original idea of building it at the elite Feofania medical complex on Kyiv's outskirts and instead gaining the Kyiv City Council's approval to build on 27.5 acres in the city's Holosiyivskyi Park, a state park.

In explaining the delay in construction, Andrii Myroshnichenko, the supervisory council chairman of



Zenon Zawada



UNIAN/Oleksander Yurchenko

Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk (left) resigned on February 17. Defense Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov (right) was sacked on June 5.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Danylo Peleschuk

The Lenin monument in downtown Kyiv was damaged by members of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists on June 30.

the Children's Hospital of the Future Charity Fund, said the Feofania territory consisted of ancient trees that couldn't be cut, leading organizers to decide in the summer of 2008 to look for another location. Yet, Oleh Rybachuk, the former Presidential Secretariat chair and Yushchenko confidante, said he couldn't believe it took two years for a presidential project to find available land.

The bigger scandal involved fund-raising. Although Mr. Myroshnichenko reported in February 2007 that 253 million hryv were raised (\$50.6 million at the time), he acknowledged in February 2009 that only 100 million hryv (\$13 million) were available. Already 15 million hryv (\$2 million) have been spent on planning work, he reported. The gap in funds is a result of Ukrainian oligarchs developing doubts about the project. Mega-millionaire Donbas industrial magnate Serhii Taruta, a member of the hospital's supervisory council, withheld \$15 million because he was dissatisfied with the project's development and transparency.

Controversy plagued the Yushchenko government as well. At the weekly Cabinet of Ministers meeting on May 20, Prime Minister Tymoshenko accused Defense Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov of exploiting his position to engage in fraud and money laundering, demanding his dismissal. Under Mr. Yekhanurov's direction, the ministry allegedly bought food and fuel at double their market prices from fake intermediary enterprises, then pocketed the difference. He also forged documents to misappropriate real estate, the prime minister alleged, based on documents offered by the Control Review Administration.

Observers said her public attack against Mr. Yekhanurov was a carefully staged retaliation for the recent attempt, by the president and others, to dismiss Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko for his drunken episode in Frankfurt and shift media attention away from that scandal towards a close presidential ally. The Verkhovna Rada sacked Mr. Yekhanurov on June 5.

The spring scandals were quickly overshadowed by the attempt in early June by Ukraine's two largest political forces – the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) – to form a coalition government that would remain in place for five years. The negotiations were a complete betrayal of Ms. Tymoshenko's earlier campaign rhetoric demonizing the Party of Regions as a mafia-oligarchic structure, and campaign promises that she would never attempt to ally with her rivals.

Even more shocking were the proposals under consideration: electing Viktor Yanukovich to a 10-year term as president and allowing Ms. Tymoshenko to remain as prime minister until the next parliamentary elections in 2014. Attempts were also made to recruit the centrist Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc, reportedly making the alluring offer of allowing Mr. Lytvyn to remain as parliamentary chair for six more years, reported Ukrayinska Pravda,

the authoritative website that reported many significant leaks of information.

Pragmatic politicians within both forces wanted the coalition in order to avoid another expensive and potentially volatile presidential election, observers said, which has the potential to re-open wounds from 2004 and reignite tensions between Ukraine's pro-Western and pro-Russian electorate. Leaders of both forces appealed to the public to support the grand coalition, declaring that it would bring stability amidst a devastated economy and political gridlock. The prospect of a coalition of Ukraine's biggest political forces – representing the nation's biggest business interests, as well as policies that were largely indifferent to Ukrainian language and culture – ignited panic and fury among the nation's right-wing forces, which called upon the Ukrainian people to protest.

President Yushchenko said he wouldn't allow any constitutional amendment transferring the power to elect the president from the people to the Parliament, and labeled the potential coalition a crime against freedom and democracy and an "anti-constitutional revolt" to usurp power. As the coalition negotiations grew more intense on the evening of June 4, President Yushchenko went on national television and addressed the Ukrainian people with urgency, calling for their support in his bid to oppose what he called an "attack on Ukrainian democracy."

Yet the plans for the "Coalition for Unity and Rebirth" collapsed the morning of June 7 when Mr. Yanukovich announced he was leading his party in withdrawing from the negotiations, claiming there wasn't enough time to reach a quality agreement. "I understood that time is needed for a new government and new coalition, but it makes no sense to create a new government with the approaching presidential elections," Mr. Yanukovich said in a television address. "The few months that separate Ukraine from the presidential elections would simply not have been enough to begin truly, effective anti-crisis activity," he noted.

That same evening Prime Minister Tymoshenko delivered her response in a live, national television address, blaming Mr. Yanukovich for ruining the chance to unite the nation's leaders to cope with Ukraine's economic crisis, as well as distancing herself from the agreement's controversial provisions. "Our political force accepted large, unforeseen compromises," she said of her eponymous political bloc. "We conceded to everyone. We were ready for any losses – political, electoral, image, ranks. But today, not for a second, do I regret that we attempted this. This is the true and righteous path."

The planned coalition would have enabled Parliament, not the people, to elect the Ukrainian president and extended the term for parliamentary deputies by three to five years, leaving Ms. Tymoshenko in place as prime minister for that duration. The proposed Constitution, leaked to the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia newspaper on June 4, contained numerous points that raised concern, including depriving licenses to mass media accused of "disinformation of society," as well as giving the president enhanced control of law enforcement authorities. The proposed Constitution would have also required the Ukrainian president to get approval from the National Security and Defense Council and Parliament before using military force against a foreign invader.

Mr. Yanukovich flew to St. Petersburg on June 5 for an informal meeting with Russian Federation President Dmitry Medvedev, reported Kommersant, a daily newspaper published in Kyiv. Only after the meeting did the pro-Russian opposition leader become firm his decision to abandon the coalition talks, Kommersant reported, citing an anonymous source. The next day, Mr. Yanukovich reportedly met with former Presidential Secretariat Chair Baloha and had a phone conversation with President Yushchenko, who tried to convince the opposition leader that he could win the presidential election, Kommersant reported on June 10.

Leaders of the PRU and the YTB reportedly couldn't agree on clear principles for their coalition and economic anti-crisis measures. Observers said ultimately, Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yanukovich couldn't agree on a third document being drafted between the two forces, besides the coalition agreement and the amended Constitution, reportedly called "The Grand Agreement."

It stipulated cooperation between the YTB and the PRU until 2024, including participation in elections as a single political bloc. The agreement allegedly gave Mr. Yanukovich the first two terms as president, and the second two to Ms. Tymoshenko, Ukrayinska Pravda reported.

The Security Service of Ukraine on May 22 launched a criminal investigation into the Holodomor of

1932-1933 with the goal of prosecuting who organized the Famine-Genocide that resulted in the deaths of millions of Ukrainians. Special investigative groups are operating throughout the 17 oblasts of the former Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic devastated by the Holodomor to prepare evidence, such as testimonies and documents, for criminal prosecution in Ukraine, said Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, the SBU chair. "Ukraine has collected enough testimony to launch a criminal investigation on the Famine artificially created by the Bolshevik regime, which led to the mass destruction of the civilian population," he said during a May 25 meeting with a Ukrainian World Congress delegation led by Australian Stefan Romaniw, the UWC's executive secretary.

In its investigation, the SBU is pursuing criminal charges based on the law passed by Parliament in November 2006 that recognized the Holodomor as genocide against the Ukrainian people, as well as Article 442 of Ukraine's Criminal Code, which outlaws acts of genocide, Mr. Nalyvaichenko said.

The sticky summer was filled with tension in Kyiv, where members of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, led by nationalist Mykola Kokhanivskyi, scaled a ladder shortly before dawn on June 30 in order to chip away at the face and hands of the downtown statue of Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin. Five were arrested, including ringleader Mr. Kokhanivskyi, while two escaped.

The defacing of the Lenin statue reignited a movement to remove Soviet-era relics and monuments, inspiring activists to form a Decommunization Committee aimed at using legal means instead of vandalism. Established on July 3, the committee recruited 33 civic and political organizations to lobby for the removal of Soviet monuments and change the names of cities, streets and squares named after Soviet icons involved in the persecution of Ukrainians.

Poltava commemorated the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava on June 27-28 in the presence of more than 60,000 spectators, among them Cossack fraternities from the Russian Federation, Swedish tourists and Ukrainian nationalists who arrived in the spirit of international goodwill. In the Great Northern War between the Swedes and the Russians for control of the Baltic Sea, the Battle of Poltava was the decisive turning point that not only marked the permanent decline of the Swedish Empire, but also ended Hetman Ivan Mazepa's aspirations for Ukrainian independence.

One of the day's bigger controversies was sparked at the start of the ceremony at the Memory of the Fallen Rotunda when the Russian national anthem was played before the Ukrainian anthem, an incident believed to have been planned by the city's Russophile leadership. Additionally, the Russian delegation chose not to visit Poltava's Kozak Cross monument – which doesn't make any references to Mazepa – to place flowers to honor all fallen Kozak warriors, not just those killed in the Battle of Poltava. Meanwhile, Poltava Mayor Andrii Matkovskyi addressed the crowds in the Russian language at the rotunda consecration ceremony. The Swedish delegation presented a bronze bust of King Karl XII to the Poltava City Council with the expectation it would be included in the collection of the Battle of Poltava Museum. Instead city officials tucked it away in the offsite Poltava Ethnographic Museum. Russian Presidential Administration Sergei Naryshkin, who also chairs the Russian Federation's Commission to Counteract the Falsification of History, delivered remarks that were Russo-centric and contradicted basic historical facts.

The State Organizational Committee led by Ivan Vasiunyk, a close advisor to President Yushchenko, succeeded in preventing plans by Mr. Matkovskyi and the City Council to host a "Glory of Russian Weaponry" celebration for Russian Cossack organizations such as Descendants of the Victory.

Three centuries after the Battle of Poltava, Ukraine is stuck in a gray buffer zone between two systems of collective security, in the view of Valeriy Chaly, the deputy director of Kyiv's Razumkov Center, and the nation's permanent internal conflict has forced it to the geopolitical sidelines with the threat that only global powers will decide its fate. Despite electing a firmly pro-NATO president in Mr. Yushchenko, Ukraine lost its chance at deeper Euro-Atlantic integration "because of the non-consolidation of political elites and the inadequate understanding of national interests and priority tasks," he said. "We are practically locked in a zone, which in my view, is a rather dangerous situation for Ukraine," Mr. Chaly said in a mid-July press conference he said

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

was intended to raise awareness and spark discussion on Ukraine's geopolitical future.

While it's often suggested that Ukraine's leadership ought to opt for a neutral, non-aligned status between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Russian Federation, foreign policy specialists know that's not a viable option, he said. Ukraine is already failing to finance its armed forces according to legislative standards and it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for the nation to do so in a non-aligned status, Mr. Chaly said.

Additionally, Ukraine has already international and legal agreements to integrate with the European Union (EU) and NATO. Meanwhile Russia has failed to honor its agreement that it wouldn't pressure Ukraine after it agreed to surrender its nuclear arsenal entirely.

The Russian government is currently pursuing a foreign policy strategy of *realpolitik* with the goal of creating its own sphere of influence within post-Soviet sphere, whether informal or agreed upon, and ultimately changing the balance of power, Mr. Chaly said. Most notably, Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov proposed a European Security Treaty, or a new security architecture, during informal meetings in late June with NATO foreign ministers in Corfu, Greece, as part of the highest-level talks between NATO and Russian leaders since the South Ossetian War.

"Ukraine isn't even following these processes in the appropriate way," Mr. Chaly said. "Only the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is involved, in which diplomats are keeping track through their own efforts, without a minister."

In mid-November, Mr. Chaly was appointed deputy foreign affairs minister by Petro Poroshenko, who became Ukraine's foreign affairs minister on October 9.

After an international manhunt of more than five years, law enforcement authorities on July 21 arrested Oleksii Pukach, a high-ranking police officer who immediately confessed to his involvement in the September 2000 murder of muckraking journalist Heorhii Gongadze.

During an all-night interrogation by prosecutors, Mr. Pukach offered to show authorities where Gongadze's missing head is located and to identify who ordered the killing. It's widely suspected that top government officials, particularly former President Leonid Kuchma, wanted Gongadze dead for his journalistic work. The arrest of Mr. Pukach, who apparently served as the go-between for the murder's orderers and killers as the Internal Affairs Ministry's criminal investigation chief, didn't lead to any arrests among Ukraine's political elite, despite some anticipation that it could be a breakthrough.

Yet a day had not passed before the unexpected July 21 arrest of Mr. Pukach became a scandal in itself.

Claims from Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) officials that Mr. Pukach would name the murder's orderers and locate Gongadze's skull were dismissed by his lawyer, Serhii Osyka, who said his client never gave such information. The scandal intensified after Mr. Pukach dismissed Mr. Osyka on July 27.

While President Yushchenko raised hopes that Mr. Pukach's discovery would lead to arrests of top-ranking officials, the doubts expressed by Gongadze's widow, Myroslava, that Pukach's arrest could lead to a dead end instead are gaining credibility.

In what has been described as the most provocative statement by a Russian leader since Ukrainian independence, President Dmitry Medvedev dispatched an August 6 letter to President Viktor Yushchenko, blaming him for the worst bilateral relations since the Soviet period. He called upon the next president of Ukraine to launch a new era of relations, assuming that Mr. Yushchenko wouldn't be re-elected.

He scolded the Mr. Yushchenko for mishandling numerous critical issues, citing alleged arms delivery to Georgia during the South Ossetian War, energy agreement violations and diplomatic expulsions.

"What we have witnessed during the years of your presidency cannot be interpreted as anything other than the Ukrainian party's departure from the principles of friendship and partnership with Russia," Mr. Medvedev said in the letter, posted on the Kremlin's website five days after its date.

Along with the letter, the Kremlin released a video statement, recorded at the president's residence on the Black Sea coast and posted on Mr. Medvedev's Internet blog, in which the Russian president vented his grievances over the Ukrainian government's policies. Besides military and economic matters, Mr. Medvedev criticized campaigns "to oust the Russian language from the Ukrainian media, education, culture and science."



Official Website of Yulia Tymoshenko

Yulia Tymoshenko at a campaign rally on Independence Square on October 24.

"The Ukrainian leadership's outwardly smooth-flowing rhetoric fits ill with the overt distortion of complex and difficult episodes in our common history, the tragic events of the great famine in the Soviet Union, and an interpretation of the Great Patriotic War as some kind of confrontation between two totalitarian systems," he said.

The Verkhovna Rada voted on August 21 to override President Yushchenko's veto on the election rules bill, which critics alleged significantly restricted voter rights and tipped the scales in favor of the dominating political forces – the Party of Regions of Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc.

It was PRU and YTB deputies who provided 321 of the 325 votes in favor, passing into law their preferred rules which took effect September 1, said Mykhailo Okhondovskiy, a Central Election Commission (CEC) member. The Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc and Communist Party of Ukraine offered no support. Among its key provisions, the law restricted all appeals to a single court, the Higher Administrative Court in Kyiv, which will have two days to review them and reach a verdict, instead of the previous five days. Presidential Secretariat Deputy Chair Maryna Stavniichuk commented: "Meaning the CEC, the organ which guarantees the realization of voting rights, doesn't have rights, and is supposed to leave citizens' appeals and complaints without review. What is this? Tell us national deputies, have you forgotten about 2004?" [It was the CEC which ruled on creating a third round of voting that enabled the election of President Yushchenko in 2004.]

Immediately after the vote, the Presidential Secretariat

reaffirmed previous statements that it would submit the law for the Constitutional Court's review once it takes effect, with the expectation the court would reject those provisions under question.

The Ukrainian hryvnia's 8 percent plunge in value in August and September renewed public demands for the resignation of National Bank of Ukraine Chair Volodymyr Stelmakh, who was widely accused of allowing the central bank to become a den of corruption.

Public frustration approached boiling point when the currency's value dropped to 9 hrv per \$1 on September 4 on the interbank market, or a 15 percent decline. It rebounded to 8.50 hrv per \$1 as of September 10, an 8 percent decline from August 6, when \$1 bought 7.87 hrv.

Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, Ukraine's police chief, called NBU First Assistant Chair Anatolii Shapovalov in for questioning on September 10, two days after announcing he has evidence of criminal activity within the central bank that is currently being investigated. "The exchange rate has become a scenario for destabilizing the situation in the country from the Presidential Secretariat's end," Mr. Lutsenko said at a September 8 press conference. "That's why I turn to the president of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko – either establish order in the National Bank, or prepare your subordinates for prison. It's impossible to put up with this further. A massive fraud is unfolding before our eyes."

The hryvnia's drop became the latest political football between the warring poles of power in Ukrainian politics – President Yushchenko blamed Prime Minister



Official Website of Ukraine's President

A view of the Freedom Day event at Kyiv's Ukrainian Home on November 22 that served as the unofficial launch of President Viktor Yushchenko's re-election campaign.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Zenon Zawada

Swedish soldiers and their Kozak allies charge toward their Russian enemies during the theatrical performance presented on June 27 to mark the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava.

Tymoshenko. Her national deputies accused the National Bank of corruption, and presidential front-runner Mr. Yanukovich blamed them all.

"Who's to blame? Everyone's to blame – the president, and the prime minister and the National Bank chair, who are supposed to sit together, develop a state approach to this issue, and provide all measures to defend the national currency," the opposition leader said on September 8.

Mr. Poroshenko became Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister on October 9 after the Verkhovna Rada upheld the president's nomination with 240 votes, sealing a long-sought arrangement between the embattled political forces.

"He was the single candidate for whom we were able to reach a compromise," Kseniya Lyapina, an Our Ukraine national deputy and presidential ally, told the Inter television network. "Poroshenko demonstrated an ability to reach agreements with friends and opponents alike during the last year." The business magnate's candidacy was supported by a majority of the deputies of the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense, Yulia Tymoshenko and Volodymyr Lytvyn blocs and largely rejected by the pro-Russian forces except for two votes.

Ukraine was without a foreign affairs minister for more than seven months. Mr. Poroshenko's candidacy was viewed by observers as a critical step in getting the nation's foreign policy in order, particularly in preparation for the December 4 Ukraine-European Union (EU) Summit in Kyiv.

President Yushchenko chose the 44-year-old Mr.

Poroshenko as his nominee after not being able to muster support for his March nomination of Oleh Shamshur, a career diplomat serving as Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S. While the Tymoshenko Bloc offered support as early as March, the Lytvyn Bloc held back.

Meanwhile, Mr. Poroshenko played a critical role in financing the Lytvyn Bloc, enabling it to qualify for Parliament in the 2007 elections, according to political observers, including Dr. Taras Kuzio of Carleton University in Ottawa.

Mr. Poroshenko managed to mend fences with Ms. Tymoshenko since their conflict during her first term as prime minister in 2005, when a frustrated President Yushchenko dismissed them both as they constantly locked horns.

Meanwhile, a mix of political and economic turmoil expected in the winter in Ukraine raised concern among the nation's intelligentsia that the Russian Federation could take advantage of the instability to advance its interests, perhaps militarily.

Drawing particular alarm was the first reading of a defense law passed on September 9 by the Russian Duma (Parliament) that authorized its government to dispatch its military to foreign countries to rebuff or prevent aggression against that nation and to defend Russian citizens there, among other purposes. Before the bill's passage, Russian law had allowed for two explicit uses for its military overseas: combating terrorism and fulfilling international agreements. The measure came less than a month after Russian President Medvedev's hostile

public statement towards President Yushchenko.

"We're starting to think: 'Why is this law being considered now and why was it passed? Particularly after Medvedev's August 11 address to the president of Ukraine,'" said Dr. Mykola Zhulynskyi, chair of the National Council on Cultural and Spiritual Issues and director of the Shevchenko Institute of Literature at the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Zhulynskyi was among 27 leading Ukrainian intellectuals who signed a September 10 statement requesting that the governments of the U.S., Great Britain, France and China call an international conference to ensure Ukraine's safety, as outlined in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum in which the world powers agreed to guarantee Ukraine's safety in exchange for its surrender of its nuclear arsenal.

The Russian Duma on October 21 passed the second reading of legislation authorizing its military to repel attacks and protect Russian citizens in foreign countries, as well as assist foreign governments requesting its aid.

"The law allowing them to use their army to defend their interests on foreign territories applies to Crimea and Sevastopol," said Dr. Volodymyr Cherniak, an economist, Rukh veteran and former Our Ukraine parliamentary deputy. "This isn't by chance. It's a geopolitically strategic approach to defend its interests, when chaos and disorder begin on this territory."

The first shoots of disorder are already apparent. In the view of Kyiv economist Dr. Oleh Soskin, Ukraine is headed towards an inevitable internal financial default, based on the economic data of the first three quarters of 2009. "What does this mean for the average citizen? The Ukrainian state machine won't be able to fulfill its obligations before the citizens of the Ukrainian state," he said.

Evidence of the government failing Ukrainian citizens is already apparent. In Kyiv, three schools shut their doors on October 20 because the district council lacks funds to repair a ruptured heating pipe. Another 158 residential buildings are without hot water, the Tymoshenko Bloc reported. "There are cities which are practically bankrupt and can't make payments," Dr. Soskin said. "Cities and villages still haven't paid for last year's and this year's natural gas. There practically isn't any money to pay for the fall 2009-winter 2010 heating season and we can expect small and middle-sized cities to be absolutely cut off, and the large ones too."

Ukraine's two most popular politicians kicked off their presidential election campaigns as the pro-Russian opposition leader, Mr. Yanukovich, hosted an October 23 made-for-television bash, while Ms. Tymoshenko led her ranks to Kyiv's maidan (Independence Square) the next evening. The campaign kick-offs reflected the distinct strategies each candidate will pursue, as observers criticized Ms. Tymoshenko for exaggerations in her remarks while Mr. Yanukovich was making promises he was unlikely to keep.

Ms. Tymoshenko stressed her unique charisma and character molded by her struggles in her speech before more than 100,000 supporters gathered at the maidan, and mentioned very few specifics plans or goals, which may emerge later. Meanwhile Mr. Yanukovich struck a pragmatic tone in his campaign launch, stressing stability and economic growth more any other theme, which is reflective of PRU politics and the values and approach to life held by southeastern Ukrainians, millions of which live in large, industrial cities.

Mr. Yanukovich frequently criticized the "Orange bosses" who led Ukraine into "chaos, lawlessness and economic ruin." He declared: "The epoch of the Orange project is finished! 'The world is changing. The role of politicians in the renewed world likes in making it maximally safe and stable. The task of national leaders is ensuring in their states the consolidation of universal values – prosperity, stability, confidence in tomorrow and the rights and freedoms of citizens.'"

Mr. Yanukovich was nominated for the Ukrainian presidency by the 12th Party of Regions congress held at the International Exhibition Center, attended by more than 1,100 delegates from throughout the country.

Meanwhile Ms. Tymoshenko's October 24 public convention, organized for a television audience, revealed the extent to which Ms. Tymoshenko's ranks have swelled, drawing numerous defectors from the Yushchenko camp, including People's Rukh of Ukraine Chairman Borys Tarasyuk, who addressed the crowd. Ms. Tymoshenko even snagged President Yushchenko's famed "liubi druzi," the tight circle of natural gas trading millionaires who offered critical financial support in 2004. (Mr. Martynenko, Oleksander Tretiakov and Roman Zvarych all defected to Ms. Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna party.)

Significantly, both candidates' circles of oligarchs



Official Website of Ukraine's President

During an April 13 meeting between Ukrainian officials and the International Monetary Fund (from left) are: Ceyla Pazarbasioglu of the IMF, President Viktor Yushchenko and Volodymyr Stelmakh of the National Bank of Ukraine.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

remained intact.

President Yushchenko kicked off his re-election campaign on November 22 at an event billed as a celebration of Freedom Day – the fifth anniversary of the Orange Revolution that brought him to power.

As the end of the year and the 2010 presidential election approached, opponents of Prime Minister Tymoshenko attempted to push her government towards fiscal collapse by approving legislation that forces wage and pension increases starting November 1, at a time when the government is on the brink of insolvency.

On October 30, President Yushchenko signed legislation passed by Parliament to increase wages and pensions gradually during the next year. Four of five factions (except the Tymoshenko Bloc), supported the bill marking the first time the Communists and the president backed the same legislation. Ms. Tymoshenko said she would ignore the law because her government can't finance the increases, which could require printing as much as 100 billion additional hryv (\$12.3 billion). In response, President Yushchenko claimed the budget indeed has the funds.

The prime minister asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to consider offering her government a desperately needed fourth tranche of \$3.8 billion during a November 11 meeting with European ambassadors and European Commission representatives in Kyiv. "It will be exceptionally difficult without the fourth IMF tranche," Ms. Tymoshenko told the gathered diplomats.

When approving the increases, President Yushchenko openly defied the IMF's demand that the government refrain from wage and pension hikes, which is viewed by political players and observers alike as a cheap, populist stunt during a presidential election campaign with no

long-term benefits.

At year's end, Ukraine's presidential election campaign was being conducted freely and transparently without significant rights violations, Oleksander Chernenko, the board chairman of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU), said at a December 2 press conference in Kyiv. Yet the legitimacy and transparency of the January 17, 2010, presidential vote remained threatened by the Verkhovna Rada's failure to pass a revised elections rules bill in a timely manner, he said.

Another Western-financed, Ukrainian election observation organization, OPORA, reported the quality of this year's presidential election campaign wasn't much improved from 2004. "A threatening amount of aggressive, intolerant information about competitors has surfaced, which reaffirms the absence of political culture," OPORA Elections Programs Coordinator Olha Aivazovska told a December 1 press conference in Kyiv.

Both organizations urged Ukraine's Parliament to approve new elections rules as soon as possible, taking into account recommendations offered by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.

The most troubling provisions of the Regions-Tymoshenko bill were the inability to appeal violations until after the vote, the opportunity for voters to include themselves on multiple registers on election day, the absence of a formal procedure for overseas Ukrainians to vote and the prohibition on Ukrainian civic organizations to monitor the vote.

Yet Ukraine's biggest political forces, the Party of Regions of Ukraine led by Viktor Yanukovich and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, weren't interested in changing the very rules they had authored, which critics said tilts the vote in their favor.

Flu in Ukraine

With the H1N1 virus spreading around the globe, U.S. Assistant Surgeon General/Rear Admiral Dr. Boris Lushniak, a top authority on the H1N1 virus, presented the latest U.S. government information on the growing pandemic to a September 16 international conference in Kyiv.

Dr. Daniel Hryhorczuk, a professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago School of Public Health, and Ulana Mazurkevich, president of the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee, organized the conference, which was Dr. Lushniak's first visit to Ukraine after he took the oath of office as assistant surgeon general and was promoted to rear admiral on August 31, 2006. He is the highest ranking active-duty Ukrainian American officer in the U.S. uniformed services.

The conference, which addressed international approaches to coping with the H1N1 pandemic, was attended by nearly 100 participants, including public health professionals from Georgia, Belarus and the Russian Federation. "Conferences like this are key to us having contract internationally on a very important public health matter, which is the beginnings of a pandemic influenza," Dr. Lushniak said. "Without having international cooperation and the ability for nations to talk with each other and describe experiences and planning efforts, then the pandemic will be much more difficult process to undergo."



U.S. Assistant Surgeon General Boris Lushniak (left), with Academy of Medical Sciences President Dr. Oleksander Voizianov, addressed a September 16 conference in Kyiv discussing international approaches to the H1N1 pandemic.

There is only one recorded case of H1N1 in Ukraine – a laborer who contacted the virus from his job selling vegetables in Detroit, First Deputy Health Minister Dr. Oleksander Bilovol told a press conference at the time.

An unidentified viral epidemic causing pneumonia swept throughout Ukraine in the last week of October, which President Viktor Yushchenko said was a direct result of the government's health authorities failing to heed early warnings about the global pandemic.

Health Minister Vasyl Kniazevych declared an H1N1 epidemic on October 30 and quarantined nine western oblasts, with the most casualties in the Halychyna oblasts of Lviv, Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk. Authorities officially confirmed 14 H1N1 cases the next day.

The contagion affected all spheres of life as Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko declared a three-week recess for schools and universities and canceled all public mass gatherings. Millions of Ukrainians began hoarding masks, medication and citrus fruits, prices for which soared at markets before stocks quickly ran out. The government was deluged with complaints of lacking available masks, gauze and Swiss-made Tamiflu tablets.

Meanwhile an avalanche of conflicting statements from top officials confused the Ukrainian public as to what was happening and what to do. While Mr. Kniazevych declared an epidemic, he was contradicted the same weekend by Bilovol, who said there was no H1N1 epidemic. Statements by politicians ranged from characterizing the epidemic as a common flu virus accompanied by pandemic strains (Prime Minister Tymoshenko on November 2) to a lung plague (presidential candidate Inna Bohoslovskaya on October 30).

The epidemic emerged amidst a nasty presidential election campaign and immediately became politicized by the candidates and used as ammunition against their rivals. As Ms. Tymoshenko flew around Ukraine and visited hospitals, some alleged for campaign photo-ops, the president attacked her.

Authorities shifted their emphasis towards vaccinations, which authorities hoped would be available freely by December. By the time December rolled around, political gridlock and election posturing delayed government plans to launch mass vaccinations in preparation for an expected second wave of influenza and acute respiratory viral infection (ARVI).

The Health Ministry of Ukraine confirmed that 759 people had died of flu and AVRI in Ukraine from October 29, 2009, through January 2, 2010. Over 3.789 million people had contracted flu and flu-like illnesses since the outbreak of the flu epidemic. A total of 217,056 were hospitalized and 180,892 were discharged from hospitals.

U.S.-Ukraine: time of transition

Transitional would be the best way to describe the development of U.S.-Ukraine relations. It began with a new president, Democrat Barack Obama, replacing his Republican predecessor, George W. Bush, in the White House, and concluded with their Ukrainian counterpart, Viktor Yushchenko, facing defeat in the Ukrainian presidential elections scheduled for January 17, 2010.

The year included an exchange of high-level visits, albeit not presidential as in the previous year, which helped smooth out some bilateral rough spots. Vice-President Joseph Biden had a three-day stopover in Ukraine in July, and Foreign Affairs Minister Petro Poroshenko had four days of talks in Washington and New York in mid-December. It also saw the appointment of a new U.S. ambassador to Kyiv, John Tefft, a few bilateral agreements signed or expressed in the area of both foreign and economic policies, as well as a few noteworthy meetings, events and anniversaries that focused on the evolving U.S.-Ukraine ties.

Obama election

On the day President Obama was being sworn in to office in Washington, President Yushchenko's office released the text of his letter congratulating the new American president, noting that Ukraine was "looking forward to close and fruitful cooperation with your administration in the spirit of strategic partnership and friendship that exists between our nations."

President Yushchenko said Ukraine values highly Washington's support of Ukraine's strategic aim of becoming a "full-fledged" member of NATO and proposed raising the working level of the Ukraine-U.S. Interagency Coordinating Group to the presidential level to reflect its importance. He invited President Obama to visit Ukraine, which, he said, "will give a new powerful impetus to the development of the strategic partnership" between the two countries.

As the inauguration of the new U.S. president was being celebrated at numerous festive gathering in the nation's capital, the Embassy of Ukraine joined the festivities by hosting a gala reception. It was sponsored by the U.S.-Ukrainian Business Council (USUBC) with the support of 10 leading Ukrainian-American organizations. Among the 300 guests participating in the event were representatives of the U.S. government and Congress, former U.S. Ambassadors to Ukraine William Green Miller and Steven Pifer, leaders of the Ukrainian American community and two very famous ladies of Ukrainian descent: Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, who a few weeks earlier had completed her second earth-orbit journey aboard the U.S. Space Shuttle, and Oksana Baiul, Ukraine's figure skating gold medalist at the 1994 Winter Olympics.

Welcoming the guests on this occasion, Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Shamshur expressed the hope that the two countries "will be able not simply to move on but to reach a new qualitative level in our relationship."



U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden is welcomed to Ukraine on July 20.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Yaro Bihun

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Petro Poroshenko at a joint news conference with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on December 9 in Washington.

USUBC, the evening's sponsor, which fosters expanding U.S.-Ukrainian commercial-economic relations, had just recently accepted as its 100th member – the Microsoft Corp. Also participating in the event were The Washington Group, Ukrainian American Bar Association, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, Ukrainian-American Environmental Association, Ukrainian Americans for Obama-Biden, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Ukrainian Federation of America, Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

The year 2009 not only saw a change in the White House, but in the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv as well. William Taylor Jr., returned to Washington in June 2009 after three years as ambassador to Ukraine. He left not without regret, as he told the press before departing. After such earlier diplomatic assignments as Iraq, Afghanistan and Jerusalem, he told reporters, "I was ready for some less exciting time." Ukraine, however, did not turn out to be the oasis of calm and stability he had anticipated. Within just a few weeks, the pro-Western coalition fell apart, he said, igniting three years of corruption, gridlock and instability in Ukrainian governance. He noted that over the next three years he had to work with three different prime ministers, three foreign affairs ministers and three Verkhovna Rada chairmen.

President Obama nominated his successor, Ambassador John F. Tefft, at the end of September, and the Senate confirmed his nomination on November 20. Ambassador Tefft has been in the U.S. Foreign Service for 37 years. Most recently, from 2005 to 2009, he served as U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Georgia. Prior to that, he was deputy

assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, responsible for relations with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. He was ambassador to Lithuania (2000-2003) and deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow (1996-1999). His other assignments included Jerusalem, Budapest and Rome.

Before departing for Kyiv, where he presented his credentials to Foreign Affairs Minister Poroshenko on December 3, he had two meetings with representatives of Ukrainian American organizations and other groups interested in improving U.S. relations with Ukraine – one organized by the Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine; the other by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

The UCCA and its public affairs bureau in Washington, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), also helped organize with the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in September a briefing on Capitol Hill by former Ambassador Taylor that focused on Ukraine's significance to the stability of the European continent and the future of East-West relations.

Biden visits Kyiv

While a number of senior U.S. and Ukrainian officials visited each others' capitals for bilateral talks during the past year, the most significant came in mid-July, when Vice-President Biden came to Kyiv for talks with President Yushchenko and other Ukrainian leaders. He flew there two weeks after President Obama's visit to Moscow to "reset" the U.S.-Russia bilateral relationship.

While in Kyiv on July 20-22, the vice-president also met

with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko (with whom he had met earlier in Munich in February), Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich (the current leader in the most recent pre-presidential election polls) and former Foreign Affairs Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who has joined the ranks of candidates for president of Ukraine.

During a news conference July 21, following his meeting with Mr. Yushchenko, Mr. Biden underscored Washington's support for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration and energy sector reform. The United States is working "to reset our relationship with Russia," he said. "But I assure you and all the Ukrainian people that it will not come at Ukraine's expense. To the contrary, I believe it can actually benefit Ukraine," he added.

Mr. Yushchenko said they had discussed the need for "radical reforms" in the energy sector and for modernizing Ukraine's natural gas transit system to involve "many international creditors and investors," including those from the United States. They discussed U.S.-Ukraine cooperation in improving the safety of the Chornobyl nuclear plant and Ukraine's integration in European projects to buy oil and natural gas from what Mr. Yushchenko referred to as "traditional and non-traditional regions of supply." This would include the European Oil Transit Corridor project to transport oil from the Caspian Sea basin over the Odesa-Brody pipeline into Europe, bypassing Russia.

After their press conference, Messrs. Yushchenko and Biden visited the newly constructed Candle of Memory Holodomor Victims Memorial near the Kyivan Caves Monastery. From Kyiv, the U.S. vice-president flew on to Georgia for a three-day visit.

Poroshenko visits D.C.

The highest-profile Ukrainian government official visit to Washington came in the second week of December, when Foreign Affairs Minister Poroshenko arrived for four-days of high-level meetings in Washington – with senior U.S. government officials, congressional and business leaders, representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – and in New York, with leaders at the United Nations.

Highlighting the visit were his talks with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, conducted in conjunction with the inaugural session of the U.S.-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission, which was formed to assist Ukraine in the various aspects of its development and to strengthen the U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relationship.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Poroshenko expressed their satisfaction with the results of their meeting.

She reiterated the Obama administration's commitment to helping Ukraine on its "path to democracy and prosperity" and supporting its independence and "further integration" with NATO and the European Union.

Mr. Poroshenko expressed his satisfaction with the U.S. assurances he received about security, economic and other important issues for Ukraine. Listing some of the problems the two countries "should deal with together," he underscored the urgent need for the renewal of what he termed the "crucially important" IMF loans to Ukraine. This issue – the IMF suspension of a scheduled \$3.8 billion loan disbursement to Ukraine because of its failure to implement necessary economic reforms – was on top of the agenda of his talks with IMF representatives in Washington. By year's end, the problem, which had complicated Ukraine's ability to pay for Russian gas supplies, was alleviated.

Mr. Poroshenko discussed these and other important issues also with influential members of the U.S. Congress, Washington think-tanks, and American companies economically involved in Ukraine, as well as and with representatives of leading Ukrainian American organizations.

Other visits, talks

The IMF and other issues were also the subject of discussion of other high-level bilateral meetings – in late April, when U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg visited Kyiv and Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister for European and International Integration Hryhoriy Nemyria visited Washington, and again during Ukraine's Minister of the Economy Bohdan Danylyshyn's visit here in mid-October.

Following Mr. Steinberg's meetings with President Yushchenko and other government leaders, he pointed out that Ukraine is conducting some serious economic reforms. "Our relations are currently strategic and very important to Ukraine," he said, adding that "our joint values and joint aspirations are creating a strong basis for our relations."

Mr. Nemyria led the Ukrainian delegation to the spring meeting of the boards of the IMF and the World Bank. He also met with representatives of the U.S. National Security Council and the co-chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Richard Lugar, to discuss the implementation of the Ukraine-U.S. Charter on Strategic Partnership,



Zenon Zawada



U.S. State Department

Outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor (left) and incoming Ambassador John Tefft (right).

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

the development of bilateral relations for 2009, Washington's support for Ukraine in IMF decisions and ways to overcome the global economic downturn.

Minister Danylyshyn's October visit also focused on Ukraine's IMF problems, the situation in Ukraine resulting from the international economic crisis and related issues. Afterwards, during his meeting with members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, he expressed his gratitude for the funding Ukraine has been receiving from the IMF, for the U.S. support of this funding and for the release of its fourth tranche that was being temporarily withheld.

A few weeks earlier, on September 25, Minister Danylyshyn and the director of the USAID mission to Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, Janina Jaruzelski, signed a bilateral memorandum of understanding regarding basic directions and objectives of the U.S. Agency for International Development assistance program for the coming year. Mr. Danylyshyn noted that the USAID-funded projects are an important instrument of supporting Ukrainian reforms, including strengthening the financial sector, developing market-oriented agriculture, supporting small and medium-size business and addressing social problems.

On October 28, Washington was the scene of the inaugural meeting of the Bilateral Energy Security Working Group (BESWG), created under the auspices of the U.S.-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission. Co-chaired by Ambassador Richard L. Morningstar, special envoy for Eurasian energy, and Sergiy Pavlusha, Ukraine's vice-minister for fuel and energy, the working group discussed the importance of working together to strengthen energy security for Ukraine and Europe.

The BESWG meeting focused specifically on Ukraine's energy sector reform initiatives, ongoing U.S. technical assistance to Ukraine in municipal heating reform and other sectors, and the potential for enhanced U.S.-Ukraine cooperation in energy efficiency and other new areas. They also discussed promoting the participation of the U.S. and Ukrainian private sectors in energy development and the importance of successfully implementing cooperative projects in nuclear power.

As the year was coming to a close, the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) restored its programs in Ukraine, following the signing on December 16 of an agreement resolving a dispute over an insurance claim paid by OPIC. As a result, OPIC can now provide financing and political risk insurance to American companies investing in Ukraine, paving the way for millions of dollars in potential U.S. private sector investment there.

Previously, OPIC had provided more than \$254 million in financing and insurance to 21 projects in Ukraine, in sectors ranging from manufacturing and construction to energy and financial services. OPIC acting President Dr. Lawrence Spinelli called this an historic occasion, indicative of Ukraine's ongoing efforts to improve its investment climate. "We look forward to working with both U.S. and Ukrainian businesses to facilitate new levels of American investment in Ukraine," he said.

Influencing bilateral relations

The development of relations between the United States and Ukraine – or any other country, for that matter – does not happen simply between the two governments directly involved, in isolation from other entities interested in how that process evolves. In Washington, this includes members of Congress, lobbyists, think-tank foundations and institutes, and, needless to say, Ukrainian Americans and their organizations and institutions. And in 2009, as in years past, all have been active in this regard. Some examples follow.

A number prominent Washington-based research foundations and institutions have been active in Ukrainian affairs, among them the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Kennan Institute, Brookings Institution, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the National Endowment for Democracy. Their work is evident in the research and reports of their own expert scholars, their exchange programs and the forums they provide for invited experts and visiting government officials, prominent scholars and cultural figures.

Ambassador Miller, who was the U.S. envoy ambassador to Ukraine in the latter 1990s and since then a senior policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center made the first such presentation in 2009 at the center in early January. It was an analysis of the evolving dire situation Ukraine found itself in 18 years after independence resulting from a combination of external and internal factors. Its resolution, he said, required not only unified action on the part of Ukraine's leadership but strategically necessary assistance from the United States as well.

The Wilson Center's wide-ranging interest in Ukraine



Yaro Bihun

Participating in a December 11 panel discussion on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Voice of America's Ukrainian Service (from left) are: David Kramer of the German Marshall Fund; moderator Myroslava Gongadze of VOA; Steven Pifer, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine; and James Greene, former head of the NATO Liaison Office in Ukraine.

was evident from some of its other Ukraine-related events during the year, among them Ukrainian poet Viktor Neborak's discussion in late January of literary trends in his country as part of the Kennan Institute's "Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series," and, in October, a presentation by Patriarch Filaret, primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, who spoke about contemporary trends in Christian societies, and, more specifically, in Ukraine.

During his visit here in April, Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister Nemyria presented a report on "Current Political and Economic Developments in Ukraine" at the Brookings Institution. A few weeks earlier, Brookings published a report, "Engaging Ukraine in 2009," authored by Steven Pifer, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine and now a visiting fellow in foreign policy at Brookings; Anders Åslund, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics; and Jonathan Elkind, a non-resident senior fellow on energy security issues at Brookings. And, in December, Foreign Affairs Minister Poroshenko, outlined his government's policies at yet another prominent think tank, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, in addition to funding various exchange and development programs with Ukraine, recently has also become a venue for presentations by noteworthy Ukrainians visiting Washington. President Yushchenko's former chief of staff, Oleh Rybachuk, was there in February, predicting that Ukrainians will opt for new leadership in the next presidential election. In June, Dr. Serhiy Kot, a leading activist in Ukraine's efforts to retrieve the countless art treasures stolen by foreign occupiers during the last century, discussed the problems encountered in these efforts during an evening at USUF sponsored by the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

And demonstrating yet another aspect of its work, in February the USUF, through its agreement with the government of Ukraine and the co-sponsorship of AeroSvit Ukrainian Airlines and the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, organized the "Discover Ukraine" exhibit at The New York Times Travel Show at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City – the largest consumer and travel trade show in the United States.

Early in the year, the National Endowment for

Democracy, which over the years has been promoting democratic development in Ukraine, hosted a panel discussion about the development of an independent media in Ukraine and its future prospects. The discussion, organized by the International Forum for Democratic Studies, featured Ihor Lylo, one of Ukraine's leading political reporters and director of two popular Lviv radio political talk shows. Moderated by Nadia Diuk – who was recently promoted to NED vice-president – the discussion also included Voice of America Ukrainian Service television correspondent Myroslava Gongadze.

The Ukrainian services of the VOA and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty celebrated their 60th and 55th anniversaries of broadcasting to the people of Ukraine. Initially, during the Soviet era, this was via short-wave radio broadcasts, which were subject to jamming by Soviet transmitters. Since independence, these programs were carried by local radio stations in Ukraine. The VOA Ukrainian Service ended its radio broadcasts at the end of 2008, focusing its efforts now on its daily television newscasts Chas-Time and the weekend TV news-feature program "Window on America." Both VOA and RFE/RL Ukrainian services now also communicate with their audience over the Internet.

A new project to utilize the technical advances now available in the evolving digital-electronic era to help in the development of Ukraine was launched in January, when the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Chicago-based Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America signed a partnership agreement to establish the Electronic Library of Ukraine (ELibUkr). The goal of this program is to provide Ukrainian scholars and students with access to the world's digitized network of academic and research information on an equal access basis through the Electronic Library/Knowledge Centers. With the support and collaboration of electronic library organizations, faculty from Northwestern University, the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and other Ukrainian universities, ELibUkr intends to provide unprecedented access to public and proprietary information for Ukrainian residents while allowing the rest of the academic world to benefit from the rich intellectual holdings of Ukraine. The ELibUkr Project plans to bring Ukraine's main universities into this system within three years.



Andrew Bihun

Newly confirmed U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Tefft (center) is seen during a November 24 meeting with representatives of Ukrainian American community organizations.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Canada-Ukraine: a state visit to Kyiv

Canada's Governor-General Michaëlle Jean made a state visit to Ukraine on April 23-26. Sworn in on September 27, 2005, Ms. Jean represents the Crown in Canada and carries out the duties of head of state. As a launch of the state visit, the governor general hosted, at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, a celebration of culture and friendship between Canada and Ukraine to which an official delegation of Canadian community and cultural leaders was invited. The state visit to Ukraine focused on Canada's ongoing support for the Ukraine's democratic transformation and economic reform. The visit was an opportunity for the Ukrainian Canadian community to highlight some of the many important projects they are leading or supporting in Ukraine.

The governor general's visit to Kyiv started with a full official state ceremonial greeting, followed by a private working meeting between President Viktor Yushchenko and Ms. Jean. Mr. Yushchenko thanked Canada for its "long-term continued international support of Ukraine." The president hosted the governor general and her delegation at an elaborate state dinner within the renovated structures of the St. Sophia Cathedral complex. The governor general also met with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn.

Ms. Jean spoke to the students of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA). The governor general said she was one of the millions of worldwide enthralled viewers of the Orange Revolution. "When put to the test, Ukrainian society demonstrated its ability to come together for the good of all to triumph over the forces of destruction," she said. The meeting included an open two-hour discussion in which she encouraged the students to participate in civic life.

During Ms Jean's visit, Zenon Potichny, president of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, announced the re-opening of the Chamber's Kyiv office. It had first opened in 1993, but as interest in investment dissipated under former President Leonid Kuchma, it was shut down in 1999.

Ms. Jean also visited Lviv, where she met with Oblast Chair Mykola Kmit and Mayor Andrii Sadovyi and visited the Dzherelo Rehabilitation Center for Children, which serves children with disabilities. She met Zenya Kushpeta of Toronto, who has been the driving force behind the center since 1993. After a tour of the facility, the governor general participated in a roundtable discussion with governmental and educational stakeholders and NGOs on the topic of inclusive education and the integration into society of children with disabilities. Oksana Kunanetz, current director of Dzherelo, Oksana Wynnyckyj, honorary consul general of Canada in Lviv, and architect Volodymyr Luciiv – all Ukrainian Canadians – were recognized as pillars instrumental to the founding of this innovative project.

The Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) but the Dzherelo Center also receives support from community organizations in Canada. One such group is Toronto-based Friends of Dzherelo. Last year, the group invited 50 artists to participate in an exhibit and sale



Jean François Neron/Rideau Hall

Canada's Governor General Michaëlle Jean and Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko, with their spouses, place bowls of wheat at the Holodomor Memorial in Kyiv during her April 23-26 state visit to Ukraine.

of wooden "koliada" stars of their own creation and the funds collected from the sale of the stars were designated for the Dzherelo Center.

On September 21-22 the Canada-Ukraine Center Inc. hosted a two-day symposium on the theme "Growing Canada-Ukraine Relations through Science, Technology and Business" at the University of Saskatchewan. Fourteen presentations were made on the selected topics of agriculture, energy, environment, health care and the transfer of technologies between Ukraine and Canada and two concurrent roundtable discussions were held: increasing cooperation and collaboration between Canadian and Ukrainian universities and colleges in the areas of science and technology, and the exchange and commercialization of new technologies.

Dr. Stepan Chekovskiy of the Ivano-Frankivsk National University of Oil and Gas and Dr. Alexandr Bilchenko of the Kharkiv Medical Academy of Post Graduate Education, represented Ukrainian universities. Participants from Canada included academics and administrators from the Universities of Saskatchewan, Alberta, Regina, Manitoba, Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

The Ivano-Frankivsk National University of Oil and Gas and the University of Regina signed a five-year extension to their student internship exchange program; the universities of Alberta and Saskatchewan agreed to investigate collaboration in sustainable agriculture with universities in Ukraine and the Canada-Ukraine Center was directed to continue its work with universities, governments and industry to develop a process for the transfer of technologies.

Within the framework of the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly in October, Ukraine's acting

Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Khandogiy met with Canada's Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon and the roadmap of Ukrainian-Canadian relations was signed. This document concerns cooperation between Ukraine and Canada, codifies their mutual wish to deepen bilateral relations and determine priorities in the fields of economy, policy, security, humanitarian affairs and culture. Canada confirmed its support for Ukraine's possible accession to NATO and Mr. Khandogiy raised the question of a gradual liberalization by Canada of its visa requirements for Ukrainian citizens.

On October 15, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada Ihor Ostash said that Ukraine was planning to open another diplomatic office in Canada – a Consulate General in Edmonton, Alberta. The ambassador said that Edmonton is not only the industrial capital of Canada, but also the city with the greatest number of Ukrainians living in it, noting that the Premier of Alberta Ed Stelmakh is Ukrainian.

Representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Serhiy Kasyanchuk and Myron Spolsky – together with spokespersons of foreign communities, world organizations of Ukrainians as well as national deputies and members of the Ukrainian government, took part in a parliamentary hearing on the topic "Ukrainians Abroad: Current Situation and Perspectives of Development," which took place on October 14 at the Verkhovna Rada. The purpose of the hearing was to discuss the current situation of Ukrainians abroad and ways to get them involved in Ukrainian society.

Mr. Kasyanchuk presented the position of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress: that there was a need for a legislative guarantee of relations between Ukraine and the diaspora – a systemic and logical approach to the development of the relationship between Ukraine and Ukrainians abroad.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress submitted its written proposals to the Verkhovna Rada and they included the following points:

- adoption of effective legislation concerning Ukrainians abroad;
- adoption of necessary laws about the legal status of migrant workers and members of their families;
- support of ongoing exchanges between youth and student organizations of the diaspora and Ukraine, comprehensive support of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Ukrainian Youth Association, which have an international aspect;
- development of research in Ukrainian studies at universities and other institutions of higher learning abroad;
- development of programs popularizing worldwide Ukrainian cultural, historical and spiritual heritage and contemporary achievements with the purpose of improving the image of Ukraine in the world;
- establishment of a system of cooperation and partnership with the leaders of the Ukrainian diaspora headed by the Ukrainian World Congress.

In response to an urgent plea from the government of Ukraine, on November 4 the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF), launched an appeal to the government of Canada, all provinces and territories, and Canadians to help the people of Ukraine deal with a serious outbreak of pandemic flu, calling for donations of specialized medical supplies: antibiotics, sanitizers, masks, syringes, ventilators and basic medical



Zenon Zawada

Governor General of Canada Michaëlle Jean greets Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Paul Grod at an April 24 meeting with Canadian leaders and businesspersons in Kyiv.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Organizers of the November aid shipment sent by the Canada Ukraine Foundation and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in response to Ukraine's flu outbreak (from left): Serhiy Kasyanchuk, Bob Onyschuk and Michael Zozula.

products. Bohdan Onyschuk, chairman of CUF, said that the rapid escalation of the disease could result in a public health catastrophe. The government of Ukraine had closed all schools, implemented a quarantine in nine oblasts and issued a call for medical supplies. The appeal was coordinated with the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada. Paul Grod, president of UCC, said that Canadians could not stand by and watch the pandemic ravage Ukraine.

The first two Canadian relief shipments of H1N1 medical supplies left Toronto on November 9-10. The shipments consisted of some 9,000 pounds of medical supplies that included masks, surgical gowns, disposable gloves, hand sanitizers, oxymeters and assorted other medical goods and equipment. Future shipments were to include antibiotics, anti-virals and other medications that were currently in short supply in Ukraine.

Mr. Onyschuk expressed his gratitude to Health Partners International for donating a large part of these supplies, as well as to Air Canada and Cole Freight, for providing free-of-charge transportation and freight forwarding services. He praised Ambassador Ostash and the Ukrainian Embassy staff in Ottawa for their tireless efforts in fast-tracking the clearance of these shipments with Ukraine. Ostap Hawaleshka, former president of CUF, accompanied the initial shipment. He was to work with Ukraine's Ministry of Health to coordinate future shipments and ensure they are distributed in Ukraine to areas of most need.

There was no question that the Ukrainian community in Canada would become involved in the 2010 presidential election so, at the end of November, the first call for observers was issued by CUF. The presidential election was scheduled for January 17, 2010, with an anticipated second round of voting on February 7, 2010. Volunteers were invited to submit applications with a deadline of December 15 and informed of the conditions and requirements that needed to be met to be accepted as an observer.

Yaroslav Davydovych, former chair of Ukraine's Central Election Commission, was invited to Canada to meet with Canadian Members of Parliament and encourage the government of Canada to send a sizeable cohort – about 500 – of election observers to the election. Mr. Davydovych met with key Liberal members of the House of Commons and the Senate to underscore his concerns about the current electoral laws in Ukraine and point out that there is apprehension in Ukraine about the fairness of the upcoming election.

Bad news came in March when, after 57 years of service, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC) permanently shut down the Ukrainian Section of Radio Canada International (RCI). The UCC put out a "call to action" to protest the shutdown of the Ukrainian Section, urging citizens to write to both party leaders and ministers who have influence on the running of the CBC. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress condemned this decision and Paul Grod, UCC president, wrote to Hubert Lacroix, president of CBC/Radio Canada, pointing out that the cancellation of the service goes against the foreign policy priorities of the government of Canada, which had recently announced that Ukraine would continue to be one of Canada's top strategic bilateral partner countries.

Ukrainians in U.S.: dispersed but active

From Riverhead, N.Y., to Rancho Mirage, Calif., and all points in between, Ukrainians dispersed throughout the United States were very active in their communities during 2009.

This summary of activity actually starts in October 26, 2008, when Bishop Richard Stephen Seminack of the St. Nicholas Eparchy of Chicago, blessed the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church of Our Lady of Zarvanyia in Seattle. The community, motivated by the Rev. Abraham Miller in 2005, had searched for a long time to find a place of their own. Finally, after purchasing an old Protestant Church, the parishioners worked very hard to refurbish it in time to celebrate its first divine liturgy on Christmas. The story about the new church was published in early 2009.

The Ukrainian Rochester Collection, a chronicle of Ukrainian life in the Rochester community over the past 100 years, has been transferred to the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the Rush Rhees Library of the University of Rochester. Wolodymyr Pylyshenko was the initiator and compiler of this collection, which includes personal memoirs, pages from books and periodicals, and photographs, with subsets of materials from various Ukrainian organizations in Rochester.

Ukrainians were featured in a number of photographs in the official calendar of the city of North Port, Fla., which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2009. Three Ukrainians served on the North Port Anniversary Committee and the Ukrainian American Veterans Post 40 led the Ukrainian contingent that participated in North Port's anniversary parade on February 28. Out of more than 75 floats, the Ukrainian American submission won a trophy for "Best in Show."

In Washington, more than a dozen participants attended the "Ukrainian Days" events on March 25-26, sponsored by the Ukrainian National Information Service, the Washington bureau of Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). The goal of the two-day advocacy event was to promote the concerns of the Ukrainian American community, including: the U.S. stance on Ukraine in NATO, the inclusion of Holodomor in the curriculum of genocide studies, the effect of the global economic crisis on Ukraine, energy security and diversification, and Ukrainian concerns about the proclaimed "reset" of the U.S.-Russia relations.

During the March 28 meeting in New York, the board of directors of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine strengthened their 18-year commitment to aid and assist Ukrainian democracy, culture and education by electing to its board a new generation of members committed to these goals. The meeting provided an opportunity to review last year's accomplishments and financial reports and to propose long- and short-term projects to support Ukraine during these difficult financial times. The new leader of the CCAU is Yuri Omelchenko.

In Detroit, Ukrainians founded the Ukrainian American Chamber of Commerce of Southeast Michigan. Its guiding principle is to work together on common ground toward the economic empowerment of Ukrainian American professionals and those who do business or would like to do business in and with Ukraine. The inaugural open house welcomed

nearly 100 guests, who were invited to join the new organization, founded in late 2008. Since the open house, the Chamber has presented several roundtable business discussions and hosted membership networking meetings. Upcoming projects included compiling a membership directory and a list of Ukrainian businesses in the Detroit area.

On March 29 the UCCA witnessed the founding of a new UCCA branch in Riverhead, Long Island. Over 65 members of the local community of Eastern Suffolk County gathered in the church hall of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church to participate in the inaugural meeting.

Sad news reached us from Binghamton, N.Y., that Maria K. Zobniw, a well-known and respected community activist, was among 13 people fatally shot on April 3. They were the victims of a lone gunman, who also critically wounded four others at the local immigration services center before killing himself. Mrs. Zobniw, who was known to family and friends as Mima, was a very active member of the Ukrainian American community and a dedicated civic activist.

Astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper was the special guest on April 25 during the celebration of the 29 years of community service of the Ukrainian Education and Cultural Center in Philadelphia. The day began with photo ops with the executive director, board members and staff of the center, followed by meetings with the administration and children of the Ukrainian Heritage School. During lunch Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper met with leaders of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Ukrainian American Youth Association and then visited with the UHS 2009 graduating class. Afterwards, during a press conference, the captain fielded numerous questions in Ukrainian about her work in space. Finally, the day concluded with a banquet, at which Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper reiterated the three lessons taught her by her Ukrainian father: believe in God, study and never give up.

The Ukrainian Student Federation of America, known as SUSTA, held its annual national conference on April 4 at New York University. This year's conference theme was "Arts, Culture and Ukraine." A new executive board was elected, with the top three positions assumed by new immigrants from Ukraine. Bohdan Pechenyak is SUSTA's new president.

In Tucson, Arizona, parishioners of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church celebrated the fact that finally, after 25 years, on April 4 they found a permanent home with the purchase of a church on the city's north side. An iconostasis, obtained from a church in Minneapolis, arrived in 100 pieces and took six weeks to assemble. The Arizona Daily Star, which reported on the event, also noted that St. Michael's new pastor, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Andriy Chirovsky, is returning the parish to its cultural and spiritual traditions.

In Rancho Mirage, Calif., a celebration of Ukrainian Catholic Easter attended by over 30 people was held on April 12 at the Mountain View Villas clubhouse. Celebrants of the Resurrection Liturgy were Msgr. Basil Smockha of Desert Hot Springs and the Rev. Joseph Radvansky, visiting from Sandusky, Ohio. The community, currently attending Sunday liturgy at private residences, is making an effort to revive the recently closed St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Mission Church in the city of Desert Hot Springs.

On April 13 some 30,000 children and their parents participated in the annual White House Easter Egg Roll in Washington, hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama. Among



A plaque designating the Ukrainian Village section of Parma, Ohio, is unveiled during special celebrations on September 19 by Bishop John Bura and City Councilman Chuck Germana.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Victoria Kavka

Participants of the plenum of the Ukrainian American Youth Association held in Chicago on November 14-15 and marking the organization's 60th anniversary in the U.S.

the participants in this year's events were Gregory Gawdiak, Odessa Howera and Anya Bihun, along with their mothers Khristina Lew, Raissa Howera, and Halyna Bihun, respectively.

On May 3 Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper returned to her hometown of Minneapolis to take part in two events. The first was sponsored by the Minneapolis branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, where the fraternity "Chota Krylatykh" named Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper an honorary member in recognition of her accomplishments in astronautics, space walking and active promotion of the United States, Ukraine and Plast. The second ceremony was the unveiling of a permanent gallery of photographs and posters of the astronaut's two space flights.

The Ukrainian Institute of America in New York completed a significant milestone in 2009: in the restoration of its landmark building, the historic Fletcher-Sinclair mansion on New York's Museum Mile. In addition, after decades of outstanding leadership, Jaroslav Kryshtalsky stepped down from his position as president of the board of directors. Dr. Daniel Swystel was elected as the new president. Soon thereafter the well-known pianist Laryssa Krupa accepted the post of executive director, whose role is to expand the programming beyond concerts and art exhibits and reorganize the institute's collection of books in the hopes of creating a permanent library that will include a music collection of Ukrainian composers and artists.

On May 17 supporters and friends of the Ukrainian Federation of America (UFA) met at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkinstown, Pa., to honor the achievements of E. Morgan Williams. Mr.

Williams, a descendent of Welsh immigrants to Kansas, started working closely with the UFA six years ago on a program to tell the world about the Holodomor. He became a trustee of the Dr. James Mace Holodomor Memorial Fund administered by the UFA and he is now, in cooperation with the UFA, the founder/trustee of the Holodomor collection. Together with the UFA, Mr. Williams has also founded a collection called "Gulag: Through the Eyes of Ukrainian Artists." As a result of his interest in the Famine, Mr. Williams was asked to serve on President Viktor Yushchenko's committee for the 75th anniversary commemoration of the Holodomor and received a Distinguished Service Award from the president in 2007.

At the end of May, Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian Heritage Center of the Ukrainian National Association, was the site for the first-of-its-kind reunion of American veterans of Ukrainian heritage. The main mission of the reunion was to reach out to Ukrainian Americans who have served or are on active duty in the U.S. military, and allow them to meet and communicate in an informal setting. Veterans, who came from as far away as Florida, shared their military experiences, met old friends, made new ones and were also informed about current issues that face the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Ukrainian National Credit Union Association held its 28th annual meeting on June 5-6 at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany. Some 60 representatives of all 16 Ukrainian American credit unions gathered to discuss current issues facing the credit union and to elect a new board of directors headed by Bohdan Watral. Despite the recession in 2008, Ukrainian American credit

unions contributed over \$3 million in support of community organizations, once again emphasizing their tremendous impact on the Ukrainian community.

Volodymyr Yavorivskyi, who has supported the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF) since its inception in 1990, presented Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, founder and president of the fund, with an award on behalf of Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn in recognition of its contribution to Ukrainian medicine. The presentation was made at the CCRDF's fourth annual international gala fund-raiser in Kyiv on June 6.

Two and a half weeks before the Obama-Medvedev summit, on June 17, members of the executive board of the UCCA met with representatives of the U.S. Department of State, the White House and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to discuss the new administration's policy toward Ukraine. Although expressing frustration regarding the appearance of Ukraine's lack of political stability and economic management, Robert Boehme, director of the Office of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, assured the UCCA of President Barack Obama administration's commitment to relationship with Ukraine.

Following very important trips foreign trips by President Obama to Russia and Vice-President Joe Biden to Ukraine and Georgia, the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), an assembly of 18 ethnic organizations representing Americans of Central and East European descent, had an opportunity to meet on August 26 with the principal architects for the Obama administration's foreign policy agenda in Washington. The coalition members were briefed on the



The growing Ukrainian community of North Carolina at an August picnic celebrating Ukraine's Independence Day.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

trips and broached issues related to the missile defense shield, strategic partnerships and commissions established with Ukraine and Georgia, energy security, the defense of human rights and liberties in the region, and the Armenia-Turkey rapprochement.

On September 22 members of the CEEC also had the opportunity to meet with National Security Council officials from the White House and learn more about the Obama administration's new plans for a missile defense system in Europe. The CEEC voiced concern about the negative perceptions engendered by the decision to change course and the manner in which the announcement was handled. The CEEC also offered suggestions for the Obama administration to consider that would demonstrate continued U.S. support for Central and Eastern Europe.

The Embassy of Ukraine and the Ukrainian American community of greater Washington area marked the 45th anniversary of the Taras Shevchenko monument's unveiling with a commemorative ceremony on June 27. Addressing the crowd on the grounds of the Ukrainian poet's memorial, Ukraine's Ambassador Oleh Shamshur called the unveiling an enormous achievement of the Ukrainian American community and "convincing proof of their enthusiasm and commitment to the liberty of their historic motherland."

The 2009 North Dakota's Governor's Award for the Arts honored the Ukrainian Cultural Institute (UCI) for its preservation and promotion of Ukrainian arts. The UCI was organized in 1980 as an independent entity of the North Dakota Ukrainian communities. It works through Dickinson State University to provide Ukrainian history and language classes, as well as various symposia and workshops on Ukrainian topics. The UCI also promotes Ukrainian culture and history through a number of exhibits throughout the year and several publications.

North Dakotans also honored Abraham Lincoln for signing the Homestead Act in 1862, which gave new settlers 160 acres of free land and a promise of a better life. Therefore, beginning in 1897, thousands of Ukrainian peasants immigrated to North Dakota. The UCI chose the historic signing to honor the homesteaders by using this event as the theme for the Ukrainian Festival on July 17-19 and having grandchildren place wreaths on their progenitors' graves as part of the "History Alive" program.

The Ukrainian Fraternal Association (UFA), founded in 1920 as the Ukrainian Workingmen's Association, announced its merger with the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America, founded in 1912. The UFA, which was based in Scranton, Pa., had held 26 conventions and was the owner of the Verkhovyna resort in Glen Spey, N.Y., for over 50 years. With the merger of the two organizations came the demise of the newspaper Narodna Volya, a publication of the UFA. A notice in Narodna Volya's last issue, dated August 31, noted that its subscribers would begin receiving issues of America, the bilingual weekly of the Philadelphia-based Providence Association, beginning in October.

On September 19 the city of Parma, together with the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, celebrated the dedication and unveiling of plaques designating a two-mile stretch on State Road between Tuxedo Avenue and



George Kuzmowycz

Accepting the Bethlehem Peace Light from the Austrian Air representatives who flew it to the U.S. are members of the "Ti Scho Hrebli Rvut" sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. A ceremony welcoming the peace light's arrival was held at John F. Kennedy International Airport on December 4.

Grantwood Drive as the "Ukrainian Village." The ceremonies that day, attended by thousands of area residents, also included a religious service, a parade and a festival. It is estimated that about 15,000 Ukrainian Americans live in Parma and make up the city's largest new immigrant demographic.

While visiting New York to participate in the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly, President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine addressed some 200 Ukrainian community representatives gathered on September 22 at The Ukrainian Museum and presented state awards to nine distinguished Ukrainian activists. In his address to the gathering, the president spoke of the challenges facing Ukraine, especially in view of the approaching presidential election and the need for constitutional reform to set the country on the right track. Also while at the museum, President Yushchenko was given a private tour of an exhibit of sculptures by Ihor Grechanyk from Kyiv, dedicated to the 18th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Ukraine's consul general in Chicago, Konstantyn Kuryk, hosted a reception honoring the Friends of the Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago – Club 500, marking 17 years of service to Ukraine. The reception was held at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago's well-known Ukrainian Village on the evening of October 9. Approximately 100 members of the organization and their guests had the opportunity to informally socialize with the Consulate General's officials and staff.

Sixty years ago, a group of young Ukrainians in Philadelphia, acting on the initiative of Mykola Baczara, created the first branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) in the United States. In order to fittingly mark the 60th anniversary of the UAYA's establishment

in Philadelphia, a jubilee banquet and ball were held on October 24 at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, with 250 people attending the formal banquet. Because many long-time members were recognized during the UAYA's golden jubilee, this year's ceremonies were aimed at lauding those who had contributed significantly to UAYA's growth and development over the last 10 years.

The UAYA celebrated its 60th anniversary throughout 2009 in many different ways. Among the festivities was a national plenum in Chicago and a banquet and "Zdvyh" in Ellenville, N.Y. In addition, UAYA members came together once more to celebrate not only the 60th anniversary of their organization, but also the 60th anniversary of the Mykola Pavlushkov Branch in Chicago at a banquet held at the Ukrainian Culture Center on November 14.

Dr. Oleh Wolowyna reported in November on the pages of The Weekly about the growth of the Ukrainian community in North Carolina, where the Ukrainian population has increased from under 5,000 in 1996 to 14,000 by 2006 (according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census). Some 3,000 of this group are new immigrants to the United States who have settled in an area outside the traditional Ukrainian communities. Dr. Wolowyna's "Community Profile" noted that the Ukrainian Association of North Carolina was founded in 2005 on the initiative of a group of Fourth Wave immigrants.

In November, the UCCA announced that it was seeking individuals interested in volunteering as international election observers for the January 17, 2010, presidential election in Ukraine. The UCCA will provide all volunteers with official accreditation from Ukraine's Central Election Commission, extensive training to familiarize observers with all the laws and regulations related to the election process, as well as in-country travel and lodging coordination. However, all expenses related to travel, food, and lodging must be borne by the volunteers themselves.

One million flu masks and over 12,500 bottles of hand sanitizers were purchased by the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Inc. (UUARC) on November 3 and flown to Ukraine. AeroSvit initiated a free cargo transportation program to accommodate the urgent need to fight the flu epidemic in Ukraine. The shipments were received by the Kyiv representative of UUARC, Vira Prynko, at Boryspil Airport in Kyiv and picked up by representatives of the Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv Oblast state administrations.

Thousands of Ukrainian Americans attended the solemn commemoration of the 76th anniversary of the Holodomor at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on November 14. A requiem service was concelebrated by the hierarchy of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches, assisted by 30 clergy. The Dumka Chorus of New York, under the direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky, sang the responses. In addition to the speeches given by various dignitaries from Ukraine and United States, William Pope, senior advisor for Europe at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, read President Obama's message on the occasion of Ukrainian Holodomor Remembrance Day.

The Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC) and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation have undertaken a program to perpetuate the memory of the Holodomor in Ukraine through the use of modern technology. "The goal of our partnership," said Nadia K. McConnell, president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, "is the distribution of information



Yaro Bihun

The 25th anniversary of the establishment of The Washington Group was marked with a reception on December 4 at the Embassy of Ukraine. Among the speakers was former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller (right).

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Yaro Bihun

Ukrainians gathered at the foot of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington on June 27 to celebrate the 45th anniversary of its historic unveiling.

about the modern history of Ukraine, not only for those in the United States, but also for people in Ukraine and for those in Ukrainian communities in different countries." Ihor Gawdiak, president of the UACC, concurred with Mrs. McConnell and added that "Videotapes, movies on DVDs, interviews on the Internet and other technologies will build this 'monument,' which also can be seen and heard in homes everywhere."

The Washington Group (TWG), an association of Ukrainian American professionals, known for its Ukraine-related socio-political, cultural and economic community activities in the nation's capital, celebrated its 25th anniversary with a jubilee reception on December 4 at the Embassy of Ukraine. The festive gathering brought together more than 100 members of the organization, three former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine, and other U.S. and Ukrainian diplomats and government officials. The event was also attended by the Ukrainian American astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper.

Representatives of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization joined Latvian and various American scouting groups in a ceremony at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City on December 4 to welcome the arrival of the Bethlehem Peace Light in the United States. The Peace Light of Bethlehem program dates back over 24 years and has grown into a worldwide movement with scouts and guides from various countries participating in the distribution of the Light. Plast in Ukraine has been a part of this movement for the past 12 years. This year, U.S. members of Plast's "Ti, Scho Hrebli Rvut" sorority have undertaken the responsibility to share the Bethlehem Peace Light with as many local Plast chapters, churches and the Ukrainian communities in the United States and Canada, as possible.

"Ukrainians of Western Pennsylvania," a new pictorial history book by author Stephen P. Haluszczak, covers the four waves of Ukrainian immigration to western Pennsylvania. Since the late 1800s the Ukrainian community in western Pennsylvania has played an important role in the area's development. The book features vintage photographs, including all Ukrainian churches in the area, and the history of community organizations. This book was yet another in the series "Images of America" issued by Arcadia Publishing.

"Ukrainians of the Delaware Valley" was the latest installment of Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series. It features a photographic history of Ukrainians in the Delaware Valley from the turn of the 20th century to the present. With over 200 photographs, the book traces 17 Ukrainian communities located along the Delaware River, as they sought to preserve their uniquely Ukrainian culture and customs in the United States.

"The Anthracite Coal Region's Slavic Community," also from the "Images of America" series, deals primarily with Slovaks, Poles, Ukrainians and Carpatho-Rusyns, who initially came to the anthracite region of Pennsylvania to work the coal mines. A historic photo of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky visiting Ukrainian Catholic faithful is among the book's offerings.

Canada's Ukrainians gain recognition

The political year began with some bad news for the Ukrainian community in Canada. On January 22 Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff announced his Shadow Cabinet, removing Member of Parliament (MP) Borys Wrzesnewskyj from the position of critic for citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism, and not naming him to any other position. Mr. Ignatieff's problematic relationship with the Ukrainian community and Mr. Wrzesnewskyj's removal again raised worries regarding Mr. Ignatieff's views about Ukrainians stemming from his questioning of Ukrainians' claim of national identity apart from Russia which he raised in his 1993 book "Blood and Belonging."

The first scholar and political analyst to react to the news of Mr. Wrzesnewskyj's removal was Taras Kuzio, who wrote that "Borys Wrzesnewskyj is an energetic and committed Ukrainian Canadian whose removal from the shadow Cabinet undermines the Liberal Party's professed allegiance to diversity and inclusiveness, and throws a dark shadow over Michael Ignatieff's support for traditional Liberal values." Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk wrote a letter to Mr. Ignatieff in which he underlined Mr. Wrzesnewskyj's effective leadership and the respect and appreciation with which he is regarded in the Canadian Ukrainian community.

In May 2009 Michael Ignatieff was confirmed as leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, assuming the role of an aspiring national leader. His views of Ukrainians continued to be an issue. There were demands for an apology on what some found to be derogatory and unacceptable comments made in his book. Mr. Ignatieff's negative views of Ukrainians were used by the Conservative Party to claim that Mr. Ignatieff does not deserve to be a political leader.

After a few months, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj was named special advisor on emerging democracies to the Liberal and, in this capacity, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj backed the resolution in Parliament of Liberal Foreign Affairs Critic Bob Rae to commemorate the victims of Europe's totalitarian regimes. Mr. Rae proposed that an annual day of remembrance to be held on August 23, the anniversary of the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact between the Nazi and Soviet regimes, to be called Black Ribbon Day, a Day of Remembrance. He said that knowledge among Canadians about the Nazi and Soviet regimes is alarmingly superficial and inadequate and his resolution was meant to show that Canada will not stand for crimes against humanity and that Canadians must not allow such crimes to remain misunderstood and unrecognized.

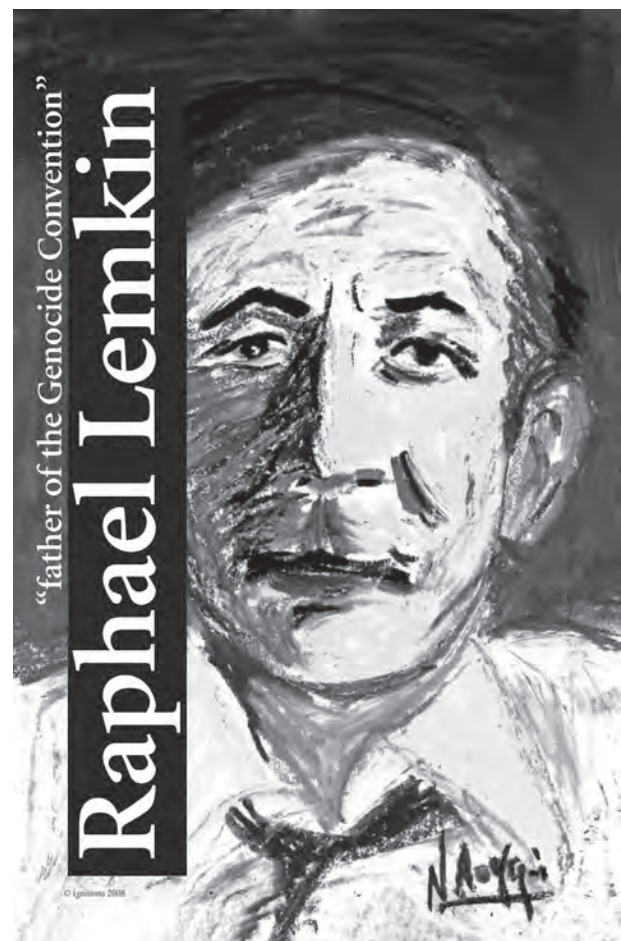
Mr. Wrzesnewskyj spoke at the November 9 commemoration in Toronto of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and warned against appeasement to what he called "Kremlin's emerging Putinism."

Holodomor Memorial Day

As the Holodomor Memorial Day approached, an educational campaign on the Holodomor was launched on November 16. Thousands of postcards – released by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation, with support from Ukrainian organizations in Canada, the United States, Australia and Great Britain – were sent to embassies and consulates internationally, urging governments to recognize officially that the Famine was an act of genocide perpetrated by the Soviet regime of Joseph Stalin. The postcards featured a pastel drawing of Raphael Lemkin and an excerpt from his 1953 speech "Soviet Genocide in the Ukraine." This educational effort was aimed at reminding governments everywhere that the father of the United Nations Convention on Genocide was personally convinced of the genocidal character of Soviet rule in Ukraine.

On November 23-29, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress held its second National Holodomor Awareness Week, the goal of which was to unite the Ukrainian community and all Canadians in remembering the victims and raising awareness of the Holodomor. Work with provincial ministries of education and local school boards continued, to ensure that all students in Canada learn about the Holodomor and that all Canadian provinces recognize the Holodomor as genocide.

On November 25 a private member's bill was introduced in the province of British Columbia recognizing the Holodomor as an act of genocide by Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Bruce Ralston (NDP). On November 25 members of the Quebec National Assembly unanimously accepted the introduction by Louise Beaudoin of the Parti Québécois, of a private member's bill recognizing the Holodomor. The provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario have already enacted such legislation. The government of Canada officially recognized the Holodomor in 2008 and designated November 28 as National Holodomor Memorial Day.



A postcard depicting Raphael Lemkin, "Father of the Genocide Convention," was released in November by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation to commemorate the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.



Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Former Ontario legislator John Yaremko on June 12 became the first laureate of the Paul Yuzyk Award for Multiculturalism. The award was presented by Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney.



Canada Post on July 6 released a pysanka stamp (bottom right) featuring the huge pysanka monument in Vegreville, Alberta, as part of its "Roadside Attractions" series.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

A solemn commemoration of the Holodomor was held on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on November 24, followed by other commemorative events across the country as Ukrainians marked November 28 as Holodomor Memorial Day. Flag installations were set up in St. Catharines, Hamilton and Toronto – displays of 33 black flags symbolizing the year the Holodomor reached its peak. Candles of remembrance were lit in homes in solidarity with Ukraine; many participated in memorial services in their local churches, and church bells tolled 10 times in memory of the 10 million lives lost.

The documentation of Holodomor survivors' testimonies, a UCC-sponsored project, is continuing and excerpts of the testimonies can be seen on the website www.holodomorsurvivors.ca.

Internment recognition

The issue of reparations for World War I internment finally reached a resolution phase as the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund – an endowment valued at \$10 million – was officially launched on September 14. Interest earned on that principal shall be distributed annually by an endowment council representing the affected communities. Thousands of postcards and posters were distributed to individuals, public and university libraries, and various ethno-cultural communities providing information about how to apply for a grant to do research, commemorate or otherwise recall what happened to thousands of Ukrainians and other Europeans during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920. The fund will be held in trust and managed by the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko in Winnipeg.

Continuing its efforts on behalf of marking the internment operations, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) on October 24-25 installed the 21st of 24 memorial plaques at the Edgewood internment camp site in the West Kootenays region of British Columbia. Plans were made to put up the last three memorial plaques in Montreal; Lethbridge, Alberta; and Halifax, Nova Scotia. A conclave, organized by Andrea Malysh of Vernon, was held at the time and the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund endowment council was introduced to the UCCLA.

Another issue taken up by UCCLA is the presence of veterans of the KGB and alleged Soviet war criminals in Canada. The UCCLA announced on January 22 that it would intensify its campaign to get all NKVD, KGB and other Communist secret police veterans out of Canada. Its "No KGB in Canada!" campaign involves mailing thousands of pre-printed postcards to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister of Immigration, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney and the Minister of Public Safety Peter Van Loan. The cards carry the message: "Veterans of Soviet secret police formations like the NKVD, SMERSH and KGB should not be allowed to enter Canada or to remain here. No exceptions. Denaturalize and deport them all, immediately."

UCCLA's chairman, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, explained that for years the government of Canada and the RCMP have been alerted to the illegal presence of veterans of the Soviet secret police in Canada. Yet there have been no repercussions and when the RCMP's War Crimes Unit was asked to investigate allegations about Communist collaborators in Canada, they responded that there was insufficient evidence upon which to act.

The issue of the presence of former KGB members in Canada became more concrete at the end of the year because of the case of Mikhail Lennikov, a self-confessed veteran of the KGB who has requested to stay in Canada. Although both the Immigration and Refugee Board and a judge of the Federal Court of Canada have ordered Mr. Lennikov's removal, he has defied those decisions, claiming a (non-existent) "right of sanctuary" by staying in a Lutheran Church.

Organizational life

The Ukrainian National Federation (UNF) once ran Ukrainian language schools ("Ridni Shkoly") at most of its branches but this is no longer true. With the aim of restarting such "Ridni Shkoly," a workshop to provide teachers and community leaders with the tools needed was organized by the Ukrainian Language Education Center at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) and held at the University of Alberta. At the workshop, various contemporary approaches to language teaching were demonstrated. Materials from the workshop and follow-up information are posted on the website forums on www.shkola.ca.

Youth organizational life is reviving. The 75th anniversary national convention of the Ukrainian National Youth Federation (UNYF) of Canada was held at Hawkestone, Ontario, on July 3-5. A new, eight-member national executive team headed by National President Volodymyr Grytsiv



An installation in Toronto of 33 black flags symbolizes the year the Holodomor reached its peak. The installation marked Holodomor Memorial Day, observed nationwide in Canada on November 28.

(Edmonton) was elected along with a three-member controlling committee. On July 3 some 100 convention participants and guests welcomed banquet guest speaker Borys Sirskyj, who spoke about Sen. Paul Yuzyk's life and his contribution to the Ukrainian Canadian community and to Canada. There were sports tournaments, a concert, a traditional Ivan Kupalo celebration and a dance for everyone. At the conclusion of the convention a blessing ceremony for the new UNYF national executive flag performed by the Rev. Ostap Chornij of Toronto.

The UNYF was founded in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in 1934 as part of the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada. Its aim is to unite youth of Ukrainian Canadian ancestry in order to educate them to be conscious of their heritage, as well as their role in and contribution to Canadian society. The UNYF currently has branches in Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, West Toronto, Hamilton and St. Catharines (Ontario), and Montreal. Branches are under development in Sudbury (Ontario), and Saskatoon and Regina (Saskatchewan).

Since its revival two years ago, the Canadian Student's Union (SUSK) continues in its active mode. SUSK held its 51st annual congress in Toronto on February 20-22 with more than 65 delegates – double the attendance from the previous year. Some of the topics covered at the congress included: trafficking of humans, Akcja Wisla in Poland, issues of concern to third- and fourth-wave Ukrainians. The League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC) was presented by Volodymyr Paslavskyi and the Ukrainica Research Institute by Taras Paslavskyi. Student-led workshops allowed delegates to share their experiences of university life. The dinner was attended by former SUSK presidents, government and community leaders, including Borys Wrzesnewskyj (MP), Paul Grod (president of UCC), Dr. Oleh Romanyshyn (president of LUC), and Mykhailo Wawryshyn (president of the Ukrainian Canadian Professionals and Businesspersons Foundation). The congress concluded with the passing of resolutions and the election of a new executive. Marco Jacuta was elected president.

With the assistance of Members of Parliament James Bezan, Judy Wasylycia-Leis and Wrzesnewskyj, the Ukrainian Canadian community posted thousands of postcards across Canada inviting people to make use of their public and university libraries. UCCLA Chair Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk explained: "By asking Canadians of Ukrainian heritage to go to a library on March 9, the 195th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's birth, we want to make sure that books on Ukraine and Ukrainian Canadian themes are taken out and read. We want to underscore the contribution Ukrainians have made to Canada while also recalling the long struggle Ukrainians waged to secure their independence."

Personalities of the year

Former Ontario legislator John Yaremko became the first recipient of the Paul Yuzyk Award for Multiculturalism presented on June 12 by Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney during a special ceremony at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto. The Paul Yuzyk Award for Multiculturalism commemorates the late Sen. Yuzyk (1913-1986) who played a key role in the development and implementation of Canada's multiculturalism policy. Mr. Yaremko was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his advocacy of education, human

rights and multiculturalism, as well as his philanthropic activities. The award includes a \$20,000 grant, which will be given to an eligible, registered not-for-profit Canadian organization or association of the recipient's choice.

Mr. Yaremko was the first Ukrainian Canadian elected to the Ontario Legislature, where he served as a distinguished member from 1951 until 1975. He was Ontario's first minister of citizenship (1961) and the province's first solicitor general (1972-1974). He and his late wife, Myroslava, made many philanthropic gifts that reflect their wide range of interests. In 2002 the John and Mary Yaremko Program on Multiculturalism and Human Rights was established at the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto with an endowment of \$600,000 and in 2008 Mr. Yaremko pledged \$50,000 to the John Roberts Library at the University of Toronto to preserve and make broadly accessible library materials relating to Ukrainian history, literature, language and culture through digitization.

On May 15, Randy Bachman of Bachman-Turner Overdrive (BTO) fame and a founding member of the Guess Who, was honored as an Officer of the Order of Canada, the country's highest civilian honor, by Governor General Michaëlle Jean for "his contribution as an iconic Canadian rock musician and for his support of Canadian music as a producer of emerging Canadian artists." A native of Winnipeg, Mr. Bachman is proud of his matrilineal Ukrainian half – he received his award wearing a Ukrainian embroidered shirt.

On October 4, the Shevchenko Medal was presented by Paul Grod, president of UCC, to Alberta Cabinet Minister Gene Zwozdesky at the 11th annual Hetman Awards ceremony hosted by the UCC Alberta Provincial Council. Mr. Zwozdesky received the medal in recognition of his work as a dedicated community volunteer, leader and activist. At the provincial level, Minister Zwozdesky led the establishment of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations and helped orchestrate the first visit by an Alberta premier to Ukraine. He presented the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act in the Alberta Legislature, which passed in a single day. Also in attendance at the event was Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, who presented the Hetman Awards, with UCC Alberta President Daria Luciuk, 11 volunteers. The premier noted that the spirit of volunteerism was a significant force among the early Ukrainian pioneers and commended the Hetman Awards honorees for their work.

Another recipient of the Shevchenko Medal was the Rt. Rev. John Tataryn of Toronto. The presentation was made on October 25 by UCC President Grod during the golden jubilee celebrations of St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church. The Shevchenko Medal was awarded in recognition of the Rev. Tataryn's remarkable accomplishments in the development of the Ukrainian Canadian community over the past 50 years. A native of Sydney, Nova Scotia, he built and nurtured the new parish community of St. Demetrius in Toronto, spearheaded the building of a seniors residence and is responsible for the building of the Ukrainian Canadian Care Center, a long-term care facility. He initiated and fostered numerous church, cultural and community organizations, and organized humanitarian and social assistance to communities South America and Ukraine.

The Shevchenko Medal is the highest form of recognition

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Sandra Semchuk

Participants in the October 24 unveiling by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association of a memorial plaque at the site of an internment camp in West Kootenays, British Columbia.

that can be granted by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. It recognizes individuals of Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian descent, as well as institutions and organizations, for their outstanding national contribution toward the development of the Ukrainian Canadian community.

The editorial board of the Winnipeg Free Press was named the recipient of the John Synnack Award for Journalism, sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko. According to Shevchenko Foundation President Andrew Hladyshevsky, "The Winnipeg Free Press was chosen for best sustained coverage in 2008 of the 1932-1933 Holodomor, a famine/genocide of historical significance to the free world and the Ukrainian Canadian community." The year 2008 was full of events across Canada to commemorate the Holodomor, as well as to explore the issues and controversy surrounding it. The Winnipeg Free Press was there throughout the year with coverage. The award, which is named in honor of John Synnack, who served as editor of Ukrainian Voice from 1947 to 1970, was presented on March 9.

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, a professor of political geography, has been appointed interim head of the Department of Politics and Economics at the Royal Military College (RMC) of Canada, in Kingston, Ontario. Dr. Luciuk began teaching at RMC in 1990 and is the author and editor of over a dozen books and a prolific writer of commentaries published in the mass media. As well, he serves as chairman of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and is a member of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund. Dr. Luciuk begins his new duties as department head on January 1, 2010.

Other events

Towards the end of the exhibit "Ancient Ukraine: the Remarkable Trypillian Culture," which ran at the Royal Ontario Museum from November 30, 2008, through March 22, 2009, the ROM staff, including Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, president and executive director of ROM Governors, met with the gala organizing committee to present a summary of the exhibit achievements and to express the ROM's appreciation. The committee consisted of Olia Kalymon (chair), Lida Gadacz and Sonia Holiad (co-chairs), and 17 members from the Ukrainian community of Toronto. The gala dinner, organized by the committee, sold out six months in advance, was attended by 560 people, including honorary patron Kateryna Yushchenko, and raised \$115,000 for the support of the exhibit. The opening weekend Ukrainian Day at the ROM attracted a sizeable crowd, not only from the Ukrainian community but from the wider Toronto community. Dr. Bountrogianni thanked the committee for engaging the help of the Ukrainian community in driving the Trypillia project.

On July 6 Canada Post issued a postage stamp featuring the world's largest pysanka, located in Vegreville, Alberta. The pysanka is on display at the entrance to Elk Island National Park and was officially unveiled on July 28, 1975, in commemoration of the centennial of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The stamp featuring the pysanka is part of a series called "Roadside Attractions" that is designed to showcase monuments that "capture the spirit of small-town Canada."

A unique photo album – "Ukrainska Divizia 'Halychyna'" (Ukrainian Galicia Division) – was presented

in Toronto on December 6. A 254-page book, in Ukrainian, with 278 captioned photographs, it covers the history of the division from its founding in 1943 to the freeing of its members from prisoner of war camps in 1949. The compiler and editor of the photo album is former division officer Bohdan Maciw of Montreal. The photographs were selected with help from Prof. Roman Serbyn, who also wrote the afterword in which he examines the division in the context of Ukrainians in various armed formations in World War II. The album has a summary of the text and a catalogue of the photographs in English.

The presentation of the photo album was organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC) which holds a valuable archive of 46 interviews with former division members. Three excerpts of these interviews were shown at the presentation. The UCRDC has set up a Divizia Fund designated for various Division-related projects that it hopes to realize: doing more interviews, digitizing existing interviews, providing grants for students doing research on the history of the division and producing a film about the division using materials in the UCRDC archives.

The Canadian year is not complete without the traditional Ukrainian summer festivals – one, longest running, the second – the largest. For the 44th time, Canada's National Ukrainian Festival took place in Dauphin, Manitoba, held in 2009 from July 31 to August 2. There were changes made to the festival program: the re-enactment of a traditional Ukrainian wedding was performed on the main stage and the Sunday night show featured a single group: Ruslana and her back-up dancers. An estimated 7,000 people attended the festival.

The largest Ukrainian festival outside Ukraine – the Toronto Ukrainian Festival – was held September 18-20. Olya Grod, festival executive director, said the buzz around the featured group – Haidamaky – seven professional and patriotic musicians who delivered an alternative fusion of rock, punk, reggae and ethno-Carpathian music coupled with a high-energy stage show – helped to raise the attendance to the half-million mark.

The Haidamaky, who later also played in Edmonton, Saskatoon and Winnipeg, were brought to the festival thanks to the Celebrate Ontario program and the Ukrainian Credit Union. The non-stop three-day Toronto Ukrainian Festival stage program, organized by Festival Entertainment Director Ivanka Podilchak, had 40 different performing groups. Other highlights of the stage show were a two-hour youth concert for the under-18 crowd, directed by Ola Cholkan; the children's performer Maryka Chabluk from Winnipeg, and a Ukrainian American family folk band Korinya that sang and played on traditional Ukrainian instruments.

There were 45 entries in the festival parade, led by well-known philanthropist and businessman James Temerty, the parade marshal, accompanied by former Prime Minister John Turner. A record number of 80 vendors sold arts, crafts, books, memorabilia and delicious food. History and travel to Ukraine were represented by a joint effort of the Consulate General of Ukraine and the Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce. The children had their own midway of rides and games. The aim of the Toronto Ukrainian Festival is to provide a professional showcase for Ukrainian art and culture geared to the Canadian mainstream population.

Ukrainian diaspora makes headlines

Ukrainians from diaspora countries like Brazil, Belgium and Australia made headlines in The Weekly in 2009.

The year began with reports of brushfires in Australia that began on February 7 and damaged the Karpaty campground of the Ukrainian Youth Association (UYA) of Australia, near the towns of Narbethong, Buxton and Marysville, in southeastern Australia. Purchased in 1963, the campground has hosted local, national and international youth camps. The UYA launched an appeal for assistance and plans for rebuilding had been outlined.

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) was highly visible in 2009, which began with a statement on the Summit Meeting of NATO Heads of State and Government, held in Baden-Baden and Kehl, Germany, and in Strasbourg, France, on April 3-4. The statement called for approval of a Membership Action Plan (MAP) for Ukraine to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and stated that Ukraine's membership was essential for global stability. The April 2 statement noted Russian military posturing and rhetoric, but also recalled Europe's commitment to Ukraine via the Bucharest Summit, which agreed that Ukraine would one day be offered a MAP and become a NATO member.

Ukrainian Journalists of North America met at Soyuzivka on May 15-17. Represented were news outlets from the United States and Canada, with guest speakers from Ukraine. Participants discussed the role of Fourth Wave immigrants, use of the Ukrainian language, development of a proper image of Ukraine in the world, modern electronic media and journalistic ethics. Since its last meeting eight years prior, the organization decided to meet annually, while conferring via the Internet on a monthly basis. Juri Klufas was elected president and Roma Hadzewycz, Myroslava Rozdolska, Maria Klymchak, Oksana Bashuk-Hepburn, Volodymyr Kish and Olha Vovnysh were elected as executive board members.

Four Canadian scholars and visiting scholars from Ukraine, from the University of Alberta and the University of Winnipeg, conducted research on Ukrainian communities in Brazil. Points of interest for the folklorists, geographer and historian included Curitiba, Paranagua, Prudentopolis, Capanema, Tijuco Preto, Linha Parana, Craveiro, Costa Carvalho and the capital, Brasilia. The researchers witnessed a Ukrainian wedding, visited a Ukrainian-language school, and religious, political and cultural institutions.

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko met with the members of the Ukrainian World Congress at their annual meeting on August 20 in Lviv and promised to restore government funding of diaspora programs. She met privately with the UWC for 30 minutes and then again for a closed-door 90-minute buffet with the UWC board of directors. Many believed that Ms. Tymoshenko used the meeting with the UWC to further her political career by appealing to the diaspora, whose relatives live mostly in western Ukraine. Compared to the previous year, which allocated 110,000 hrv for diaspora programs, 2009 saw 47 million hrv for these same programs.

The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held its 40th biennial convention on July 1-5 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Members reviewed the organization's previous two years' work and discussed issues of patient safety, medical ethics, disaster management and projects for Ukraine. A new board was elected, headed by Dr. Wayne Tymchak of Edmonton, Alberta, and 35 new members were welcomed into UMANA's ranks.

The UWC stated on August 28 that there were 20 million Ukrainians from 32 countries living outside the borders of Ukraine. An organization representing Ukrainians living in Turkey had not been recognized by the UWC, but may join in the future. The UWC is concerned for the preservation of the national identity of Ukrainians living abroad and supports the development of Ukrainian culture in the diaspora.

Tetiana Petrova, department head at the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, said on October 6 that, based on estimates by experts, up to 3 million Ukrainian citizens were employed abroad. She said that it wasn't unexpected for large numbers of the Ukrainian workforce to migrate to the European Union because of the economic crisis.

President Viktor Yushchenko met with Poland's President Lech Kaczynski in Warsaw on September 7-8 to outline a road map for 2009-2010 Ukrainian-Polish

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Participants of the conference of Ukrainian Journalists of North America, held on May 15-17 at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center.

relations, as well as with members of Poland's Ukrainian community. During the visit to Warsaw the two leaders unveiled a monument to the victims of the Holodomor, and President Yushchenko and his wife laid flowers at the monument to the "Fighters of Ukraine's Freedom" in Pikulice, Poland, dedicated to the soldiers of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. On September 8 President Yushchenko praised Poland's decision to transfer the building of the Narodnyi Dim (People's Home) in Przemyśl (Peremyshl, in the Ukrainian transliteration) to the Ukrainian community.

In a demonstration of the Ukrainian diaspora working together, the Vesselka Ukrainian-Brazilian Folk Group from Prudentopolis, Brazil, performed with the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and Academy of Whippany, N.J., on October 9 at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany. Vesselka celebrated its 61st year, and Iskra celebrated its 10th anniversary.

President Viktor Yushchenko met with executives of the UWC on October 13 in Kyiv. The participants discussed ways that the government of Ukraine could cooperate with organized Ukrainian communities around the world, further international recognition of the Holodomor as genocide and improve Ukraine's image worldwide.

On October 14 Eugene Czolij, president of the UWC, was among 80 foreign Ukrainians from 26 countries

who addressed the Verkhovna Rada during a session on "Foreign Ukrainians: The Current States and Cooperation Prospects." Mr. Czolij called for the recognition of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) by the Parliament and the passage of legislation that would remove Communist monuments and bringing parliamentary immunity to European standards.

Mykhaylo Hamaliy, head of the Sports Commission of the UWC, and Ukraine's Minister of Family, Youth and Sports Yuriy Pavlenko signed a memorandum of cooperation in Kyiv on October 27. Points of cooperation include: the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, and the 2012 Summer Olympics in London; the coordination of events and camps between sports teams in Ukraine and the diaspora; and the promotion of non-Olympic sports disciplines.

Holodomor victims were remembered during a divine liturgy at Ss. Michael and Gudula Cathedral in Brussels, Belgium, on November 15. In attendance were members of Ukraine's diplomatic corps in Belgium, as well as Ukrainian community leaders and representatives of international institutions.

Brazil's Ukrainians also honored the victims of the Holodomor with the erection and unveiling of a monument in the city of Curitiba on December 19.

An eventful year for our Churches

The Orthodox and Catholic Churches had a busy year in 2009, with the construction of a museum, the enthronement of new bishops and parish centennials.

Construction began on January 19 for the Patriarch Mstyslav I Ukrainian Orthodox Museum as part of the Historical and Educational Complex of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. The museum is located on the grounds of the Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook, N.J.

Bishop Daniel of the UOC of the U.S.A. was enthroned on February 7 at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago and installed to head the Western Eparchy of the Church. He was elected bishop by the 18th regular Sobor of the Church in October 2008.

Eight bishops representing the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy of North America met on March 10-12 in Clearwater, Fla: Metropolitans Stefan Soroka (U.S.A.) and Lawrence Huculak (Canada), Bishops Richard Seminack, Paul Chomnycky and John Bura, representing the American delegation, and Bishops David Motiuk, Ken Nowakowski and Bryan Bayda of Canada. The two-day meeting helped to develop collaboration between the American and Canadian metropolia, especially in seminary formation.

Hierarchs of the UOC and the Ukrainian Catholic Church held an "Encounter" for the fourth time in eight years on March 12-13, also in Clearwater. The meeting provided a forum for a brotherly exchange of common concerns. Attending hierarchs included Metropolitans John, Stefan, Constantine, Lawrence, Archbishops Antony, Jeremiah, Yuriy, and Bishops John, Ken, Andriy, Richard, Paul, David, Bryan and Daniel. Participants agreed to foster stability and independence of ecclesiastical life in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) received its biggest individual donation by a Canadian when Dr. Maria Fischer-Slysh, a retired pediatrician residing in Toronto, donated \$1 million to the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, The Weekly reported in April. Dr. Fischer-Slysh, born in 1922 in Kolomyia, Ivano-Frankivsk region, is a longtime philanthropist and community activist. Her gift was used to endow two departments in the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology, help build a conference hall and offset UCU's operating expenses.

Argentina welcomed the consecration of Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk on April 7 by Major Archbishop Lubomyr Husar at St. George Cathedral in Lviv. The hierarch celebrated his first liturgy in Argentina on July 5.

Another momentous occasion for the Ukrainian Catholic Church came on June 18 with the consecration of Bishop Yosef Milyan in Kyiv – the first public consecration of a bishop in Kyiv by the Ukrainian Catholic Church since its establishment in 1596 by the Union of Brest. The service, led by Major Archbishop Lubomyr Husar, was held at the



At the Ukrainian World Congress annual meeting on August 20 at Lviv Polytechnical University (from left) are: Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, UWC President Eugene Czolij and UWC Vice-President Maria Shkambara.



Bishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. during his enthronement on February 7.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ.

Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, visited Ukraine during a 10-day trip July 27 through August 5. The motivation of the trip was questioned by many Ukrainians who saw the visit as Moscow reasserting its influence over Ukraine's Orthodox faithful – especially members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. Ukrainian Orthodox have sought support of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I to balance the influence of the Moscow Patriarchate in Ukraine's Churches. During the visit, Patriarch Kirill urged Ukraine to forge closer economic ties with Moscow to resolve their mutual problems. He also drew criticism for his suggestion that Ukraine and Belarus join Russia in a return to "Holy Rus'."

Bishop Robert M. Moskal, 71, Ukrainian Catholic eparch of Parma, Ohio, retired last year. Pope Benedict XVI accepted the hierarch's resignation and named Auxillary Bishop John Bura, 65, of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia to serve as the apostolic administrator. The appointment was announced on July 29 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

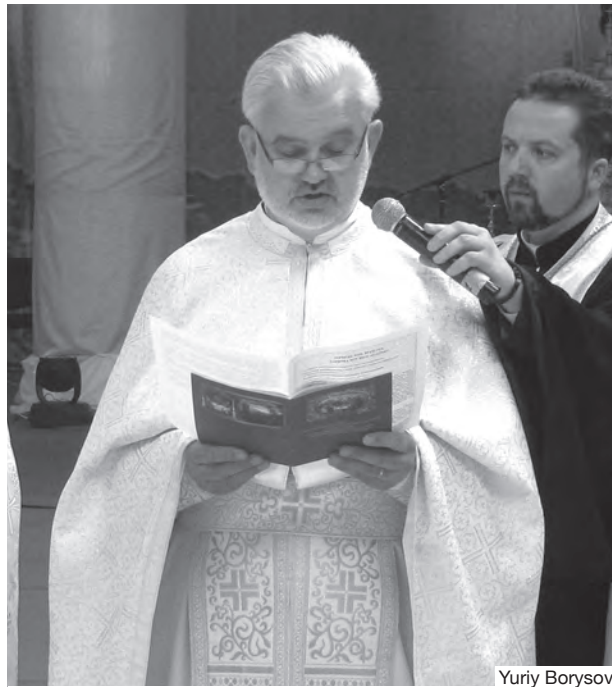
Also in 2009, a volunteer photography endeavor called "Sanctuary: The Spiritual Heritage Documentation Project" was launched by three professors at the University of Alberta, John-Paul Himka, Natalie Kononenko and Frances Swyripa, to "preserve in photographs" the unique and endangered Ukrainian church culture of rural Canada. Many of the churches are in disrepair or have been vandalized but are significant in understanding the role Ukrainian settlers played in the development of rural Canada.

As part of its outreach mission to Ukraine, the UOC of the U.S.A. sponsored a college-age mission trip to orphanages in Kirovohrad and Zhytomyr oblasts the Church sponsors. The trip attracted 11 participants, led by Bishop Daniel, during July 30 through August 15. The Church also sponsored a mission trip in December 2009-January 2010.

Other developments in Church relations were reported after the September 11 announcement that the UOC-Kyiv Patriarchate and the UOC-Moscow Patriarchate would hold a dialogue on issues related to Church unity. The UOC-KP is considered non-canonical according to Orthodox believers. The two Church groups held their first meeting in October and leaders acknowledge that the process of unification would take a long time.

Pope Benedict XVI canonized Archbishop Zygmunt Felinski, a native of Ukraine, at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on October 11. Archbishop Felinski was born in 1822 in the Volyn region and was the archbishop of Warsaw and founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary.

During his 12-day visit to the United States, Patriarch Filaret, the head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, blessed the All Saints of Ukraine mosaic on the façade of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bloomingdale, Ill., on October 23-25. A banquet was held on October 25, to mark the occasion. As part of his 10th arch-pastoral visit to Ukrainian Orthodox parishes of the Kyiv



Yuriy Borysov
Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Yosyp Milyan was consecrated in Kyiv on June 20.

Patriarchate in the United States, the patriarch stopped for a few days in Washington. His itinerary included a presentation at the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and meetings with representatives of the U.S. State Department and the National Defense Council, members of the Senate and House of Representatives and Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States.

Archbishop Myroslaw Stefan Marusyn, 85, died on October 21 at the Ukrainian Pontifical Major Seminary of St. Josaphat in Rome. He was elevated to the office of archbishop by Pope John Paul II, having served the priesthood since 1948 and the episcopate since 1974. He was known for his scholarly papers on theology, history, liturgics and holy scripture, and his ministry to Ukrainians via Vatican Radio.

Several Ukrainian churches in the diaspora marked their 100th and other anniversaries during 2009. Centennials were celebrated by St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Allentown, Pa., on October 9-10, and St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven, Conn., on November 8. The 90th anniversary of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Trenton, N.J., was celebrated on October 25.

St. Basil College and the Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford, Conn., hosted a photo exhibit on November 11, 2009, through January 15 to mark the rebirth of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine. The exhibit, curated by Lubow Wolynetz, was made possible through donations by Bishop (emeritus) Basil Losten, former eparch of Stamford.

A scholarly focus on the Holodomor

The Holodomor continued to make headlines in the world of academia. The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine (University of Toronto) and the Toronto-based Canadian Research and Documentation Center, which sponsored a 75th anniversary conference on the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide in Toronto in November 2007 under the title "The Holodomor of 1932-1933," this year announced the release of the conference proceedings in a special issue of *The Harriman Review*. The special issue was published by the Harriman Institute at Columbia University in New York as part of the Famine commemoration by the Ukrainian program at that university.

Harvard University's Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) announced in March that it had entered into an agreement with noted author, columnist and historian Anne Applebaum, commissioning her to research and write a new book on the Holodomor. The book will take into account the most recent evidence that has become available since the collapse of the Soviet Union and will address current scholarly debates on the questions of genocide, intentionality and population loss. The book will be a part of HURI's larger ongoing Holodomor Research Project, which is overseen by a committee of Harvard scholars, coordinated by Serhii Plokhii, Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History.

Americans and the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA) are spearheading an effort to plug Ukraine's universities into the Electronic Library (www.elibukr.org), which is expected to significantly boost severely underfunded Ukrainian scholarship. The first phase of the project will include database subscriptions to scientific journals and other publications that will not only allow unprecedented access to Western books, but also give Ukrainians a chance to share their knowledge. The project's first-year cost is \$1.5 million, \$450,000 of which was provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the government's foreign aid arm.

An exhibit titled "Hebrew Printing in Ukraine" was on display in the Gelman Library of George Washington University in Washington from November 2008 through May 2009. This exhibit is part of the Kiev Judaica Collection, established through the donation of the large personal library of I. Edward Kiev (1905-1975), one of the pre-eminent Judaica librarians of the 20th century. Ukraine, a historic center of Jewish civilization, was also a heartland of the Jewish book. A selection of books drawn from the collection offers a typographic panorama of every region of this cultural crossroads.

In 2009 President Viktor Yushchenko recognized a group of historians, archeologists, architects, restoration specialists, state and museum employees, and philanthropists, who have made a great contribution to the study and reconstruction of Baturyn, the capital of the Kozak Hetmanate (17th and 18th centuries). Among those honored were two scholars from Canada: Dr. Zenon Kohut, director of the CIUS and Canadian head of the Baturyn project, and Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev, a CIUS research associate, who serves as executive director of the project as well as co-manager of the Baturyn excavations. Both were awarded the Order "For Service," third class.

In Edmonton, Alberta, the Alberta Society for the Advancement of Ukrainian Studies was founded and held its first general meeting on April 8. The main aim of the society is to support the scholarly and educational programs and projects of the CIUS at the University of Alberta, as well as to serve as liaison between these two institutions, the Ukrainian community and Canadian society at large. Prof. (emeritus) Bohdan Medwidsky, well known for his scholarly, social, and philanthropic activities, was elected president.

On March 17 a collection of essays titled "At the Crossroads of Cultures: Essays in Honor of Leonid Rudnytsky," was officially presented to the public at an academic event held at La Salle University in Philadelphia. Publishing such a collection is an honored European academic tradition to honor outstanding scholars. Prof. Rudnytsky, has taught at La Salle University for many decades.

In January, the Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series – co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute of Columbia University and the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars – featured a presentation by Lviv poet, prose writer, literary critic and translator Viktor Neborak in both New York and Washington. Mr. Neborak works at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Institute of Literature, in



Pamela Jaresko
Patriarch Filaret blessed the "All Saints of Ukraine" mosaic on the façade of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bloomingdale, Ill., on October 25.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Participants in the first general meeting of the Alberta Society for the Advancement of Ukrainian Studies on April 8.

Lviv and has recently been a contributor to the monthly journal PostPostup. Dr. Mark Andryczyk, administrator of the Ukrainian Studies Program and lecturer of Ukrainian literature at Columbia University, interviewed Mr. Neborak on the pages of The Weekly, discussing today's Ukrainian literature and the Ukrainian diaspora in North America.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S. held its 19th general meeting at the society's New York headquarters on May 16. Dr. Orest Popovych was re-elected as the scholarly society's president by a unanimous vote. Proposed objectives for the future include publication of the second and third volumes of the Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora, organizing the society's archives, developing a more grassroots fund-raising campaign, and seeking professional financial planning for the society's funds.

The Shevchenko Society also released "Shevchenko Scientific Society, U.S.A. Activities and Press Reports 2000-2008," a 640-page compilation of English-language articles about the society and its members, as well as a registry of academic programs that were hosted by the society in the period under review. Although not a history, the book was compiled to create a historical record of activities by the society in the U.S.

The book "Contemporary Ukraine on the Cultural Map of Europe," edited by Larissa M.L. Zaleska Onyshkevych and Maria Rewakowicz, was launched during the international annual convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities held at Columbia University on April 23 and at the Shevchenko Scientific Society on April 25. This wide-ranging book explores Ukraine's European cultural connection, especially as re-established since the country regained independence in 1991. In it, an international group of contributors, specialists in their particular fields, discuss many aspects of Ukraine's contemporary culture.

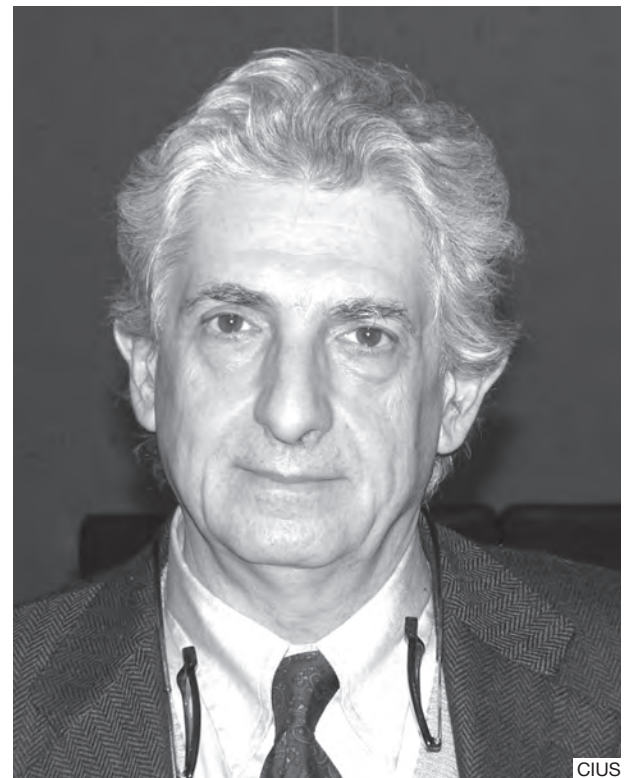
An agreement on scholarly collaboration between the CIUS, University of Alberta and NUKMA was signed on May 4 in Edmonton by CIUS director Dr. Zenon Kohut and Kyiv Mohyla Academy President Dr. Serhii Kvit. The agreement will promote cooperation in the fields of history, culture and Ukrainian literature of the 16th to 20th centuries. The first project will deal with the study of Ukraine's religious and cultural heritage.

Gene Lemcio, a long-time Seattle-based professor, filled for a passion for Ukraine and intellectual advancement, together with James West, a colleague and professor at the University of Washington, had the vision to harness the growth of the Ukrainian community in the Seattle area to create a Ukrainian Studies Endowment at the University of Washington. They envision that instruction and research to be funded by the endowment would focus not only on Ukraine's language, history and culture, but also on its current geopolitical significance, political development, role in regional security, and ties with the United States. Both professors realize that Ukraine's highly educated population, natural wealth, size and location make it an important country both regionally and globally.

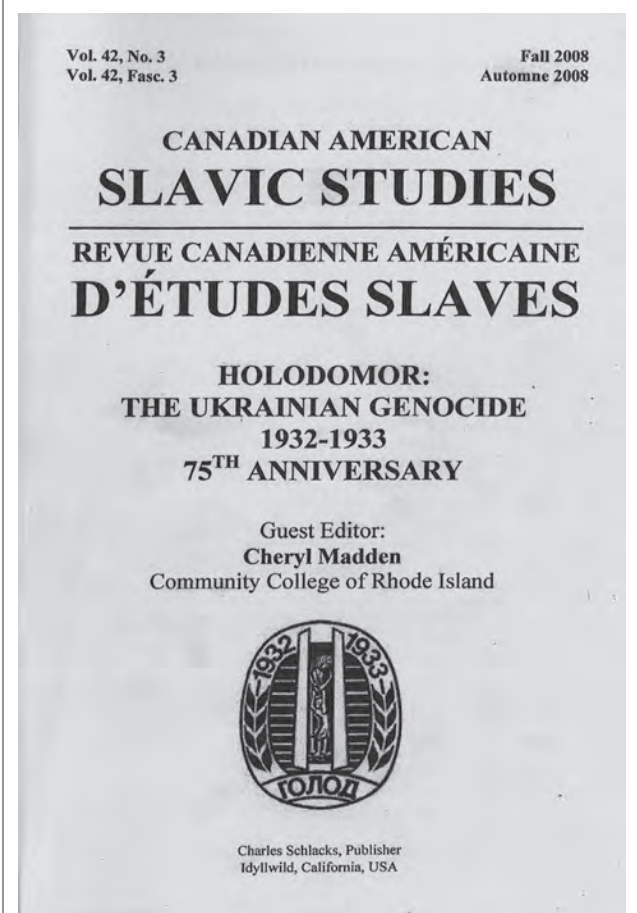
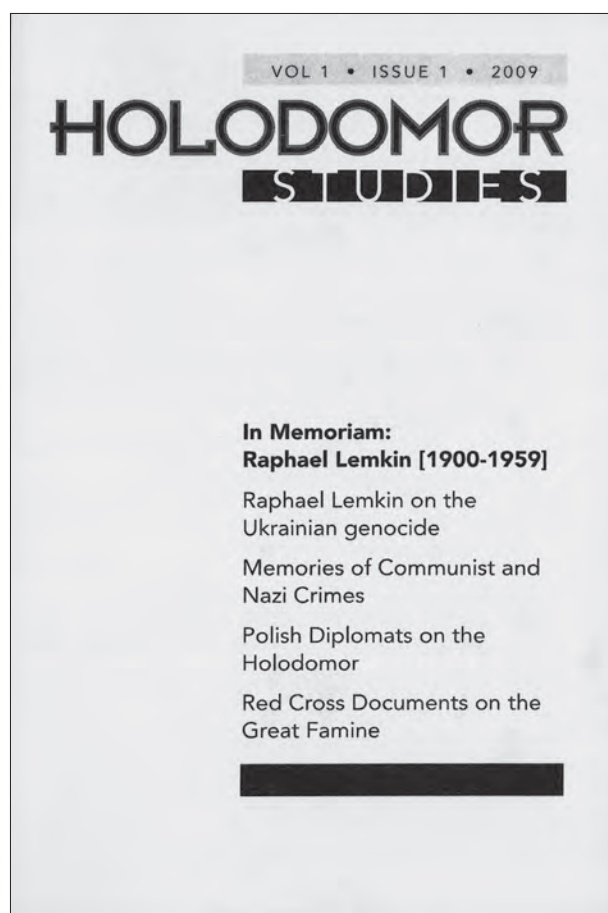
In memory of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, the fall 2008 edition of the established journal Canadian American Slavic Studies was entirely dedicated to awareness and proof of the Stalinist genocide. This edition, news of which was reported in 2009, includes scholarly articles, an interview and Holodomor-related artwork. It is filled with maps, reprinted letters and documents, all of which contribute to solid, erudite argument against virtually any Holodomor denier.



Author Anne Applebaum was commissioned by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute to write a new book on the Holodomor.



Prof. Andrea Graziosi spoke about the Holodomor and Soviet famines at the universities of Toronto and Edmonton in November.



The new scholarly journal Holodomor Studies was introduced in 2009, soon after the release in late 2008 of a special issue of the journal Canadian American Slavic Studies devoted to the Holodomor.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Participants of the May 16 general meeting of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S.A.; seated third from left is the newly re-elected president, Dr. Orest Popovych.

Following the publication of the Holodomor issue of Canadian American Slavic Studies, publisher Charles Schlacks in 2009 began publishing a new journal, edited by Roman Serbyn, devoted entirely to the study of the Holodomor, titled *Holodomor Studies*. This new journal is filled with articles and documents that effectively aid in the dissemination of information surrounding the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. The first issue of this semi-annual journal features a section devoted to Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term "genocide" and was one of the earliest voices of Holodomor studies.

"Hunger by Design: the Great Ukrainian Famine and Its Soviet Context" is a compilation of papers presented at a symposium about the Holodomor in October 2003. The symposium, "The Ukrainian Terror-Famine of 1932-1933: Revisiting the Issues and the Scholarship after the HURI Famine Project," was held at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute in Cambridge, Mass., in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Holodomor. The book, released in 2009, is a collaboration between Halyna Hryn, editor of the journal *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, and the HURI.

The 26th Conference on Ukrainian Subjects at the University of Illinois took place on June 24-27 in Urbana-Champaign. Titled "Contemporary Ukraine: Challenges and Perspectives," the conference comprised four subject categories: Ukraine and the European Union, Ukraine and Russia, Ukraine and North America, and the Ukrainian diaspora. In addition to 34 papers presented both in Ukrainian and English by scholars from Ukraine and the diaspora, the conference featured roundtable discussions, book presentations, readings of poetry and exhibits.

In August, it was reported that Kyiv historian Oleksandr Alfiorov of the Institute of Historical Education, Mykhailo Drahomanov National Pedagogical University, had discovered the only 18th century Ukrainian-language version of Hetman Pylyp Orlyk's Constitution of 1710. The Orlyk Constitution, adopted by Kozaks during a meeting in exile near the small town of Bendery, refutes the suggestion that the constitution, hitherto known only in a Latin original and copies, was a forgery. The Orlyk Constitution is regarded as the first in the world to establish the separation of government powers into legislative, executive and judicial branches.

The Selfreliance Foundation of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union in Chicago donated \$3,000 for the continuing research work of the *Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora*. For many years, Selfreliance has been a sponsor of the encyclopedia. This year, the first book of the American volume of the encyclopedia was published under the auspices of the Shevchenko Scientific Society of America.

Viktor Pedak first heard the word "ostarbei-ers" in a 1990 letter from a Zaporizhia resident, who admitted she was among the millions of Ukrainian youths forced to work for the Nazis. This letter sparked 16 years of research for Mr. Pedak that culminated in a book titled "Hirke Slovo Ostarbeiter," which was presented at a September 2 ceremony at the Great Patriotic War Natural History Museum in Kyiv. Dr. Mykola Zhulynskyi, chair of the National Council on Culture and Spirituality, estimated that Ukrainians

accounted for about 85 percent of the total Ostarbeiter workforce of 2.8 million that were dragged by the Nazis from the Soviet Union.

The Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University continued to offer courses during the fall semester aimed at deepening the understanding of Ukraine and its culture. Besides language, examples of other courses include: "Soviet and Post-Soviet, Colonial and Post-Colonial Cinema", which explored how film was used in the Soviet era as a tool of domination over Soviet-ethnic minorities; "Ukrainian Foreign Policy: Russia, Europe and the U.S." taught by career diplomat Ambassador Valeriy Kuchynsky; and "Early Modern Russia, Ukraine, and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth" taught by Prof. Frank Sysyn, acting director of the Ukrainian Studies Program.

In order to facilitate and encourage research on statistical data regarding the Ukrainian diaspora, the Shevchenko Society in New York created the Center for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research of Ukrainians in the U.S. A website (www.inform-decisions.com/ukrstat/) has been set up, which contains detailed information about the center, its mission, and objectives. It also provides free access to an integrated database with census and survey data about Ukrainians in the U.S.

The first of a series of articles by Dr. Oleh Wolowyna appeared at the end of October utilizing the data from the Center for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research to describe the geographical dispersion of Ukrainians in the U.S. in the years 1990-2006. It detailed the population flow as new immigrants arrived and described what drove many of them to move outside of established Ukrainian communities. The author pointed out that these geographical changes have significant implications for the Ukrainian community in the U.S. as a whole.

HURI participated in the yearlong international commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of Nikolai Gogol (Mykola Hohol) with the Petro Jacyk Memorial Symposium "Gogol and Ukraine: On the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Nikolai Gogol." The symposium consisted of two sessions that looked at Gogol's biography in reference to Ukraine, undertook an intensive literary analysis of the Ukrainian elements in his writing, explored his influence on Ukrainian literature and the question of his nationality, and concluded with a series of literary readings by contemporary Ukrainian and Ukrainian American authors, whose work was inspired by Gogol. The symposium, held on April 13 in Harvard's Center for Government and International Studies, drew a total of 55 scholars and Gogol enthusiasts from around the country.

On September 23-26, 63 scholars and 140 participants, representing 12 countries, attended a conference titled "World War II and the (Re) Creation of Historical Memory in Contemporary Ukraine" at the Goethe Institute in Kyiv. The focus of the discussion was to place the emerging Ukrainian historical memory and interpretation into a wider European and international context. The conference demonstrated that Ukraine must reset its understanding of its various roles in World War II from the traditional Soviet interpretation of the Great Patriotic War and victory over fascism.

The 2009 Harvard Ukrainian Summer institute was

attended by 27 students. They came from seven different countries and from a wide variety of universities. Introductory, intermediate and advanced language courses were offered, as well as courses in Ukrainian history, literature and linguistics. Outside the classroom, once a week students met for dinner at designated Ukrainian tables in Annenberg Hall, Harvard's main undergraduate dining facility, and were required to speak with each other exclusively in Ukrainian. Students also had the opportunity to further immerse themselves in the language and learn about current Ukrainian culture by attending viewings of short and feature films.

The University of Toronto Libraries has launched a project to digitize its Ukrainian imprints thanks to the generosity of the John and Mary A. Yaremko Foundation. So far over 400 volumes have been scanned as part of the Yaremko Ukrainian Digital Project and the texts, in their entirety, are freely available for scholars and the general public on Internet Archive. Future plans are to scan in total about 500 titles of Ucrainica from Robarts and Thomas Fisher Rare Book Libraries, with a focus on language and literature.

HURI and Loeb Music Library joined forces to co-sponsor the exhibit "Hetman of Ukraine, Ivan Mazepa, 1639-1709, the Cultural Legend." This exhibit explored the impact that story of Hetman Mazepa's turbulent youth, political promise, and ultimate tragic fate had on poets, novelists, composers and painters, particularly in the 19th century. The exhibit was conceived as part of the institute's commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava. It opened in November and is on view through January 29, 2010.

At the University of Toronto, prominent Italian historian Andrea Graziosi of the University of Naples, presented his lecture "The Holodomor and the Soviet Famines, 1931-1933" on November 17.

He said that since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the publication of new documents and new testimonies, denials of the 1932-1933 famine in Ukraine are no longer possible. The debate has now shifted to other questions: the reasons for the Famine, the intentions of Stalin and his ruling circle, the relationship of the Famine to other events then occurring in the USSR, and the consequences of the Famine for later Ukrainian history.

Prof. Graziosi explained that the Famine was a result of deliberate Soviet political and social policy – collectivization and the forced requisitioning of grain from the peasantry. Hence the term "Holodomor," which connotes some intention regarding "death by hunger," was quite appropriate. He said that the debate about the causes of the Famine and Soviet policy which focuses on the division between economic, peasant-oriented explanations (Stalin was anti-peasant) and political, nationally oriented explanations (Stalin was anti-Ukrainian) were off the mark.

The Great Ukrainian Famine did not start out as a national question, but rather became so in 1932, when Stalin received reports about nationalist "wreckers" and "Petliurists" infiltrating the Ukrainian SSR and the Ukrainian Communist Party," Prof. Graziosi pointed out. Thus, while other famines had occurred elsewhere in the USSR, they were quantitatively and qualitatively different from those in Ukraine and in the Kuban in 1932-1933, which came to be directed specifically against Ukrainians and in which victims numbered in the millions.

Turning to the question of whether the Famine constituted "genocide," Prof. Graziosi pointed out that the Ukrainian Famine easily fits the category of "genocide" accepted by the United Nations. But he cautioned that the entire concept of genocide was too broad and too legalistic to be of use to historians seeking factual explanations. He believed that even a decent Russian government would never admit that the Famine was "genocide" because of its legal-political, rather than historical, implications. These legal-political implications would most certainly imply reparations to Ukraine for harm done by Russia as the legal heir of the USSR. Prof. Graziosi spoke on the same topic at the University of Edmonton on November 20.

HURI, with support from CIUS at the University of Alberta, the Ukrainian Studies Fund and the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, sponsored a two-day conference "Poltava 2009: Revisiting a Turning Point in European History" on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the historic battle as well as the October 1709 death of Hetman Ivan Mazepa. The aim of the conference was to utilize new historiographic approaches to reassess the Battle of Poltava as a crucial military event in the geopolitical development of Europe. The November 10-11 conference, the only major scholarly event dealing with the anniversary in North America, drew 34 scholars from nine countries. The conference featured eight sessions and the presentation of 25 research papers.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Cultural events: art, film, and more

Cultural events were everywhere in 2009, whether it was music, art, film, dance or even ice sculptures. Here is a look at some of the most significant among them.

The Ukrainian Museum kicked off its year with an exhibit featuring works by Mychajlo Moroz (1904-1992), titled "A Generous Vision: A Major Gift of Works by Mychajlo Moroz," which opened on January 25 and ended on September 6. The exhibit featured the artists expressionist landscapes and seascapes, and was broken up into three sections with the artists time in Ukraine, Germany and in the United States.

Merkin Concert Hall in New York also played host for a memorial concert in honor of pianist Alexander Slobodyanik on January 31. Mr. Slobodyanik, known as one of the world's most Romantic piano virtuosos, died at the age of 66 of bacterial meningitis. His widow Laryssa Krupa and his son Alex performed piano works at the concert.

"The Orange Chronicles" by Damian Kolodiy and Peter Zielyk was signed to two non-exclusive distribution deals earlier in the year with Journeyman Pictures, based in London, and Forward in Time, based in North America. The film has won several awards including the "Audience Award" at the Phoenix Film Festival and "Best Feature Documentary" at the Boston International Film Festival, among others.

"Billy Elliot: The Musical" featured Kiril Kulish, 14, of San Diego, as one of three actors performing the role in rotation. Based on the 2000 film "Billy Elliot" Kulish was among 1,500 hopefuls that auditioned for the part. Mr. Kulish along with his two "Billy" co-performers were awarded the Tony Award for best actor for their performance.

The Vikenti Khvoika Museum featuring Trypillian artifacts opened in Kyiv. Khvoika, an archeologist (1850-1914), is credited with discovering the Trypillian culture of the 4th-3rd millennium B.C. and Slavonic archeological cultures on Ukraine's territory, and is credited with forming new methodologies in the study of Ukraine's Paleolithic era.

Ice sculptors from Ukraine participated in ice and snow sculpture competitions in Quebec City (February 1-9), Ottawa (February 6-8) and in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, (February 19-22). The Ukrainian team in Quebec City included Orest Dzyndra, Serhiy Kliapetura and Petro Romaniuk with their snow piece "Vertep," which won first prize "best in show" as selected by the public. Myroslav Dedyshyn was the solo contestant in Ottawa and won second prize with his ice sculpture "Angel."

Oles Yanchuk's film "Famine-33" about the Holodomor won the Henri-Langlois Prize at the Vincennes Cinema Festival in France on February 3. This was the first feature-length about the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, and Mr.



David Scheinman

Kiril Kulish onstage in the title role of "Billy Elliott: The Musical."

Yanchuk said that the film would be used in schools and translated into various languages, including Russian.

Composer Virko Baley was feted for his 70th birthday with a concert by Continuum, led by Cheryl Seltzer and Joel Sachs, on February 22 at Merkin Concert Hall in New York. The concert, "Illuminating Ukraine: Virko Baley and the Avant-Garde" featured some of Mr. Baley's works including "Song Without Words," "Dance Without Words," "Klytemnestra" and "Palm of the Hand."

A department of Kyiv's History Museum dedicated a section on March 2 to Sholem Aleichem (Sholem Naumovich Rabinovich, 1859-1916), a famous Jewish writer credited with 10 novels and 20 plays, as well as hundreds of short novels and stories.

The Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble celebrated its 30th anniversary on March 28 at New York University's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. Roma Pryma Bohachevsky founded the dance group. Its dance academy is based at Soyuzivka.

The new "Taras Bulba" released on April 1 in Moscow drew the ire of most historically conscious Ukrainians for its blatant Russian propaganda inserted into the film and the use of historically inaccurate identifying terms. Produced by Rossiya television and commissioned by the Russian

Ministry of Culture, the \$25 million film was the most expensive film in Russia's cinematic history.

The Digitization of Ukrainian Culture project, launched in 2008, aims to catalogue thousands of texts in an electronic database. The project, spearheaded by Kyiv-based attorney Bate C. Toms and Dudley Fishburn, a digitization expert, aims to preserve Ukraine's written cultural past and make them available to the public. Cooperation from universities and institutions, such as Harvard University Library, in this endeavor would prevent the distortions by Soviet rule and Russian imperialism. The five-year project was estimated to cost \$4.1 million, with the bulk of the funds being used strictly for the digitization at various universities with the necessary equipment. A story about the project appeared on April 5.

The Ukrainian Museum hosted a pysanka exhibit "In Full Bloom" from the beginning of April through August 30 that featured 82 examples by Iryna Bilianska (1899-1960s). The pysanky were created during the late 1920s and 1930s using a unique style, featuring multi-colored flower and embroidery motifs, traditional of the Sokal region of western Ukraine. The collection was discovered by Prof. Damian



Jurij Dobczansky

The Gospel of Peresopnytsia (facsimile edition) received by the Library of Congress on April 1.



Adriana Luhovy

Filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy (right) with scout-locator Volodymyr Bandura at the cross commemorating Famine-Genocide victims in Lubiazhe, Kharkiv Oblast. Mr. Luhovy's documentary on the Holodomor, "Okradena Zemlya," premiered in the spring.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Olya Soroka

Hromovytsia and Kashtan square off in “Saved by the Bell” during their joint program on May 16.



At the November 7 literary event “New Voices: Ukrainian American Writers” (from left) are: coordinator Anna Golash, and writers Katie Zapoluch, Sonia Arko, Petrusia Kowerko-Duncan, Irene Zabytko, Alex Sydorenko and Ania Antonovych-Metcalf.



Walter Ciszewycz

Some of the artifacts on display at The Ukrainian Museum-Archives of Cleveland, which hosted a grand re-opening on June 13.

Horniatkewych (1892-1980) in the 1920s, and the museum received the donated examples from his son, Andriy. Five embroidered shirts from the museum’s collection were also included in the exhibit from the Sokal region.

The Library of Congress on April 1 received replicas of the Gospel of Peresopnytsia, originally created between 1556 and 1561, and the Khrystynopil Apostol, a 12th century manuscript. The books were donated by the Rev. Dr. Cyril Hovorun, chair of the Department of External Church Relations, and Abbess Serafima (Shevchyk), chair of the Commission on Church and Culture of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP). A presentation was co-organized by the library European Division, the UOC-MP and the Embassy of Ukraine.

Chicago’s Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) featured an exhibit “From Lviv to Chicago” with works by Taras Borovyk, Serhei Mikhnovskyy and Orest Skop. Mr. Borovyk resides in New York, and the other two artists had their works shipped from Ukraine for the exhibit. The art is varied in the three approaches – simplistic, traditional and ethereal.

The University of Pittsburgh’s new Carpathian Music Ensemble held its first concert in March, featuring Gypsy and Klezmer music, as well as music from more than 10 Slavic countries, including Ukraine. The group of 20 was founded and directed by Dr. Adriana Helbig, assistant professor of ethnomusicology, and is supported by the university’s department of music and the Center for Russian and East European Studies.

Dr. Henry Marsh, the main focus in the BBC documentary, “The English Surgeon,” helped to shed light on the state of disrepair of Ukraine’s hospitals. The film traces the doctor’s work in the operating room as well as the waiting room. The film won several major awards, including best international documentary at the SilverDocs Film Festival.

Yuriy Luhovy’s “Okradena Zemlya” is a Ukrainian-language documentary about the Holodomor that features interviews with historians, survivors and specialists on Holodomor research. The film was screened in Montreal on May 20 and in Toronto on June 14, with the director being present for questions and commentary. It was shown later at other venues in Canada and the U.S. The next step, Mr. Luhovy said, would be to release an English-language version of the film to educate non-Ukrainians.

Ukraine’s prowess in the ballet world was made clear when Irina Dvorovenko and her husband, Maxim Belotserkovsky, the principle dancers at the American Ballet Theater, assumed the lead roles at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. Their profile offered a glimpse into their busy schedules and how they balance married life, a child and two careers in dance. Mr. Belotserkovsky was noted for his unassuming precise style, and Ms. Dvorovenko has charmed audiences with her beauty, grace and light-footed execution.

The Ukrainian Museum on June 13 through September 27 hosted “Fine Art / Folk Art: A Dialogue,” which put the two disciplines in a comparative presentation. The exhibit featured pysanky, klyms, embroidery, sculptures, paintings and folk costumes. The works of the artists demonstrate the folk roots of fine art, or the adaptation of fine art techniques and styles to folk art.

On May 23 Danny Schur’s “Strike! The Musical” recreated the Generals Strike of 1919 on Main Street in Winnipeg. The audience hailed the work as historically important and aesthetically interesting. Mr. Schur has won the 2006 Kobzar Literary Award, the 2007 Grant McEwan College Kostash Award and the 2008 Roger Charest award for the music.

Alexej Gorlach, 21, won the eighth annual AXA Dublin International Piano Competition on May 15 at the National Concert Hall in Dublin. Mr. Gorlach, a native of Kyiv, has won other piano competitions in Japan and Germany. Mr. Gorlach was presented a crystal trophy and two performances – at Carnegie Hall in New York and London’s Wigmore Hall – valued at more than \$125,000.

Two Ukrainian dance groups performed together in concert on May 16 at the North Shore Center for Performing Arts near Chicago. The show brought together on one stage Hromovytsia Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Chicago and the Kashtan School of Ukrainian Dance of Cleveland. Dances were performed by one group or the other, but one titled “Saved by the Bell” pitted dancers from each group against one another in a boxing-themed character dance.

A collection of works by Olga Antonenko was exhibited in June and July 26 at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago. Ms. Antonenko, a native of Kyiv, is known for her mural “Spring in Chicago” at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport, and has a recurrent theme of rural Ukraine in her work. Her works range from wall paintings and watercolors, to batiks and textiles.

The Ukrainian Museum-Archives (UMA) in Cleveland

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

hosted its grand re-opening on June 13. Thousands of artifacts, books, newspapers and artwork are housed in its collection. Andrew Fedynsky, director for the UMA, was recognized for his work in amassing the collection and overseeing the renovation of the building.

Dr. Serhiy Kot spoke in Washington on June 26 at the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation about cultural property of Ukraine that needs to be returned. Russia, he said, was the greatest offender of plundered treasures. Since independence Ukraine has seen the need to assert its identity, but the tug of war with Russia has been going on for centuries. Many churches and religious items were set to be destroyed during the Communist regime, he said. While some churches have been rebuilt, the priceless icons remain in foreign hands.

The Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, with guest artist violinist Vasyl Popadiuk, presented "Steppes: A Ukrainian Journey" at the Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia on June 27. The Steppes to Liberty Award was presented to Ruslana Lyzhychko for her work for the betterment of Ukraine.

Hollywood's "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide" by Marta Tomkiw and Bobby Leigh won the "Grand Jury Award for a Feature or Short for the Most Outstanding Movie Award of Discovery and Human Interest" at the Monaco Charity Film Festival, held in Monte Carlo. The 20.5-minute short is a preview to a feature-length 96-minute film.

"The Living" by Serhiy Bukovsky, a documentary about the Holodomor, won the Golden Apricot award at the sixth Yerevan International Film Festival in Armenia on July 12-19. "The Living" was ranked best among 104 competing films.

UIMA of Chicago presented works by Olexander Dubovyk and Vasily Fedorouk on August 2-30. The pairing demonstrated Mr. Dubovyk's expressive approach in contrast to Mr. Fedorouk's geometric abstracts.

The New Jersey State Opera hosted its annual Destination: Opera! festival at The Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, N.J. on September 11-13. As part of the festival, soprano Anna Shafajinskaia, a native of Odesa, starred in Verdi's classic "Requiem."

Cinematographer Andriy Parekh was director of photography for the 2009 release of "Cold Souls" featuring Paul Giamatti, who puts his soul into cold storage to properly interpret a character in an adaptation of the Chekhov play Uncle Vanya. Reviews of the film called Mr. Parekh's work evocative of Stanley Kubrick and Charlie Kaufman.

Iлона Sochynsky's works were on display at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York October 8 through November 1 in an exhibit called "Fragments. Fetishes. Capriccios." The exhibit combined elements of abstract with realism to form an unlikely interrelationship of dazzling visualization.

"Jajo's Secret" by James Motluk tells the personal story of discovering a grandfather's secret about the internment of Ukrainians in Canada during World War I. The 48-minute documentary features commentary by members of Parliament in addition to rare photos, government docu-



Vera Farmiga in a scene from "Up in the Air," which premiered on November 30.

ments and period newspapers.

The Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company were on a tour of North America in the fall. Stops included Morristown and New Brunswick N.J., Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Houston, Toronto and Montreal. The ensemble is known for its precision and rigorous training that has pupils in training from a young age in preparation for candidacy to join the renowned performing group.

Washington's Ukrainian and Ukraine-related cultural programs have experienced marked growth in recent years. The Washington Group's Cultural Fund and cooperation between the local community and the Embassy of Ukraine have been major factors in this development. Poet and novelist Yuri Andrukhovych on October 20 and violinist Zino Bogachek on October 18 were just a few of the cultural delights that graced the area's calendar of events.

To mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Mykola Hohol (Nikolai Gogol), the Hohol Arts Fest was held on November 5-8 at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York. The festival featured Hohol in art, film, music and the world, as well as works inspired by Hohol.

"New Voices: Ukrainian-American Writers" was a showcase at UIMA in Chicago on November 7. Participants included Katie Zapoluch, Sonia Arko, Petrusia Kowerko-Duncan, Irene Zabytko (the keynote speaker), Alex Sydorenko and Ania Antonvych-Metcalf. The event was coordinated by Anna Golash and Ms. Arko.

Soprano Stefania Dovhan debuted on November 8 at New York City Opera, with her performance as Donna Anna in "Don Giovanni." Ms. Dovhan has sung since the age of 15, having attended the Baltimore School of Arts, the University of Maryland and the Academy of Music in Augsburg, Austria and the Staatstheater in Nuremberg, Germany.

A retrospective on Andriy Kowalenko, a native of Zaporizhia, was held at UIMA in Chicago beginning on November 10. Works from 1951 through 1989 were on display and divided into three categories – from the 1940s-1950s, the 1960s-1970s, and post-1980. Kowalenko's works are noted for their stirring imagery and introspective effect.

Vera Farmiga stars in the film "Up in the Air" opposite George Clooney and has received high marks for her performance, including nominations for Best Supporting Actress from the Golden Globes and the Screen Actor's Guild Awards. The film premiered on November 30 and is a departure from Ms. Farmiga's typical weighty character roles. The critics at the Christian Science Monitor called her work and on-screen chemistry reminiscent of Lauren Bacall.

The Victor Pinchuk Foundation on December 8 announced the creation of the Future Generation Art Prize, a major biennial international competition for artists up to age 35. The competition provides an opportunity for undiscovered artists in Ukraine to ply their craft for a chance at a \$100,000 prize. Some of the contestants will be eligible to display their works at the PinchukArtCentre in Kyiv.

A banner year for the UNA

During 2009 the Ukrainian National Association marked the 115th anniversary of its founding. The Ukrainian Weekly's front page on February 22 carried greetings on the occasion from the UNA president, who noted: "We are guided by the principles we have inherited from the founders of this venerable organization: responsibility to our members and unity with our community. We are guided by our professional and community goal of developing our institution for the good of our people, for the benefit of myriad projects that assist and strengthen our community, and in the name of close contacts with our ancestral homeland, Ukraine."

An editorial in that same issue underscored: "In its activity from 1894 to the present, the UNA has been a leader, an innovator, a publisher, an organizer, a patron of the arts, a protector of its members and all Ukrainians, a supporter of causes, a facilitator of projects, an educator, a sports promoter and more. The UNA is so much more than an insurance company, although it is the success of its insurance business that allows the UNA to do all it does."

During 2009, Ruslana and annuities were the top news at the Ukrainian National Association. The famed Ukrainian pop singer because she was the headliner of the third annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka. Annuities because they continued to be the engine of the UNA's growth in 2009.

Between 6,000 and 7,000 visitors arrived at Soyuzivka on July 17-19 for the Ukrainian Cultural Festival featuring the international pop star from Ukraine, winner of the Eurovision Song Contest in 2004. The crowd was perhaps the largest ever to assemble at the UNA's Ukrainian heritage center in the Shawangunk Mountains of upstate New York. It was clear that Ruslana and her ensemble of eight dancers had wowed the crowd with their 75-minute non-stop concert of song and dance featuring elaborate costumes and a light show.

Following her first festival performance in the United States, Ruslana enthused: "Soyuzivka is truly a piece of Ukraine. It's no longer just a word... it's the 26th oblast of Ukraine." She promised that she and her troupe "are ready to come here again, again and again, and to sing for you again and again."

Other stars of the festival were the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Workshop, operatic singer Lyudmilla Fesenko, vocalists Nadia Kobelak and Filip Zmacher, bandurist Victor Mishalow and violinist Oleh Kulchytsky. But there were even more performers – 197 in all – including young performers who appeared on the outdoor stage on Sunday, which was designated as Family Day, and several bands, including the popular Klooch and Hrim. Masters of ceremonies Lida Kulbida and Andriy Stasiw kept things running smoothly over the festival's three days.

UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj underscored how pleased he and his fellow officers were with the 2009 Ukrainian Cultural Festival. "I am extremely pleased because we attained our goals at the festival. One of those goals was to integrate the Fourth Wave [of Ukrainian arrivals to North America] into our community life. Also, seeing the number of people who arrived at the festival from throughout the United States and Canada, as well as other parts of the world, I think we have good prospects for the future."

In a full-page advertisement published soon thereafter, the UNA expressed thanks to the festival's performers, volunteers (71 of them), vendors (45), Soyuzivka staff (67), security personnel (14) and sponsors for making the third Ukrainian Cultural Festival such a success.

As for the UNA's other major success during 2009 – sales of annuities – it should be noted that the UNA began the year by reporting that it had surpassed the \$10 million mark in sales of annuities in 2008. By the time of the UNA General Assembly's annual meeting on November 6-8, UNA National Secretary Christine Kozak reported that during the first nine months of 2009, the UNA had over \$20 million in new business income, primarily due to annuities sales. Considering that the figure for all of 2008 was \$11.4 million, this was quite an accomplishment for the UNA. By the year's end, annuities sales totaled \$35 million.

At the annual meeting of the General Assembly, advisors, auditors and executive officers heard President Kaczaraj report that "it has been a record-breaking year for the UNA." He was referring to the aforementioned over \$20 million in premium income (including annuities), over 100 independent agents who sell UNA products, and the growth of assets to the highest level in the UNA's history – just under \$99 million. By year's end UNA assets exceeded \$100 million.

UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich also had good news to



"The Dance" by Alexander Archipenko (1912-1913, bronze), on long-term loan from the David Niles Collection, was displayed at The Ukrainian Museum as part of "Fine Art / Folk Art: A Dialogue."

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Russ Chelak

Ruslana and her troupe of dancers wowed the crowds at Soyuzivka's third annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival held July 17-19.

Congratulations, UNA scholarship and award recipients of 2008-2009!

Our children are our future, and today's students are tomorrow's leaders. Education has always been an important aspect of society, and in today's world, where competition is a part of life, a solid educational foundation will be of the utmost importance. Therefore, we must ensure the young people who seek enlightenment, and from childhood have formed the Ukrainian language, the literary and traditions of Ukraine.

Via its Scholarship Program, the Ukrainian National Association annually awards scholarships to young students who are members of the UNA. The UNA has helped students since its founding in 1984, then presenting awards of \$20, which at that time was quite a sum of money. Since then, the UNA has awarded over \$2 million to nearly 5,000 student members.

For the 2008-2009 academic year, the UNA has awarded scholarships to 27 students, totaling \$16,600, of which \$4,250 is set aside for specialized scholarships. As it does every year, the Scholarship Committee reviewed applicants for these special scholarships, paying attention to their academic achievement, financial needs, and of study and activity in the Ukrainian community. Five of these special scholarships were awarded by the UNA for 2008-2009.

The highest award, the Joseph and Irena Galiushchak Scholarship, in the amount of \$2,000, was awarded to Mykhailo Horbacz, 22, of UNA Branch 264. An honors student in Duquesne University in Pennsylvania, he is specializing in bookkeeping and finance. During his time at the university, Mr. Horbacz has regularly appeared on the Dean's List. At the university, he is active in student life, belonging to the Student Accounting Association, Beta Alpha Psi and Duquesne Temporal Association. When he was younger, Mr. Horbacz danced with the Ukrainian dance group Kityo, attended the school of Ukrainian studies (Pittsburgh, Pa.), and belonged to youth groups at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church. Last year Mr. Horbacz volunteered for Joe Horvick, helping unaffiliated people to properly fill out assistance forms.

The Dr. Maria Danylo and Gliba Januszysz Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000, was awarded to Larissa Kibinich, a member of UNA Branch 399 and an honors student in psychology at Fairleigh University in New York. Reviewing her application, the Scholarship Committee recognized Mr. Kibinich's high level of activity. It was clear that her dominant characteristic was her Ukrainian pride. She graduated from New York's School of Ukrainian Studies with excellent marks and her summer vacations, since childhood, were spent at the Vovchuk family compound of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. She also fondly recalled spending time at her grandparents' house in Hunter, N.Y., where she participated in the Ukrainian FADKO dance group, learning traditional Ukrainian folk songs, reading Ukrainian poems and performing in short programs.

The Joseph Wolf Scholarship, in the amount of \$750, was awarded to Maryna Miloschuk, a member of UNA Branch 147 and an honors student at Jamias College in Pennsylvania. Mr. Miloschuk comes from a large family that keeps Ukrainian traditions alive. All five children are active in Ukrainian dance groups. Her father instructs the youngest group at their church and Mr. Miloschuk reminds the students with their regular dance steps. She is also musically talented and plays the harmonica piano and violin. Also active in sports, she is involved in cross-country running and swimming. Mr. Miloschuk is studying natural sciences and mathematics, and dreams of becoming a veterinarian because of his love for animals.

The Wickenburg Scholarship, created by the Ukrainian National Home Inc., in Blackstone, Mass., in the amount of \$500, was awarded to Iana Kim, 22, a member of UNA Branch 206. She is a student at Boston University, where she is studying theater arts, and hopes to become an actor on Broadway. The road to Broadway is not easy, so Ms. Kim dedicates all of her energy to this goal. She is active as student in at the actors' union, and often reads everything that she can to gain a better understanding of life. During the previous semester, as part of a special university program, she studied at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, and visited other European cities, including Paris, Rome, Venice and Dublin, to expand her cultural and educational experience. She was involved in a production of Anton Chekhov's play "The Cherry Orchard" at the Hamilton Theater, where she met actors such as David Newman and Joanne Whalley-Kilmer.

The remaining 18 awards were distributed based on the students' year of study. The breakdown is as follows: 77 freshmen were awarded \$125 each, 18 sophomores were awarded \$150 each, 17 juniors were awarded \$175 each, and 19 seniors were awarded \$200 each.

The UNA compiles all of this year's scholarship recipients and wishes them further success.

For more information about the UNA Scholarship Program, readers may call 973-252-0802, ext. 3011, or 800-253-0802. Information is also available on our website under "membership benefits" at www.una-usa.org.

 Nicholas Horbacz (UNA Branch 264), is a student at Duquesne University.	 Larissa Kibinich (UNA Branch 399), is a student at Fairleigh University.	 Maryna Miloschuk (UNA Branch 147), is a student at Jamias College.
 Iana Kim (UNA Branch 206), is a student at Boston University.	 Joseph Wickett (UNA Branch 399), is a student at Fairleigh University.	 Nadia Belikova (UNA Branch 422), is a student at Duquesne University.
 Zofia Kim (UNA Branch 206), is a student at Boston University.	 Joseph Wickett (UNA Branch 399), is a student at Fairleigh University.	 Nadia Belikova (UNA Branch 422), is a student at Duquesne University.
 Michael Chisholm (UNA Branch 47), is a student at Fairleigh University.	 Jeremy Chisholm (UNA Branch 47), is a student at Fairleigh University.	 Nicholas Horbacz (UNA Branch 147), is a student at Jamias College.
 Adam Hipp (UNA Branch 372), is a student at The Ohio State University.	 Markian Horbacz (UNA Branch 402), is a student at The University of Toronto.	 Lauren Magowski (UNA Branch 316), is a student at Manhattan College.
 Ivan Mishko (UNA Branch 407), is a student at The University of Toronto.	 Alexander Mykita (UNA Branch 134), is a student at Rochester Institute of Technology.	 Michael Poterilo (UNA Branch 73), is a student at Calicut University.

The cover page of the special insert about UNA scholarship recipients for academic year 2008-2009.

report, as she focused on the UNA's investment portfolio, noting that the UNA showed a healthy growth in investment income during a year when most insurance companies suffered investment losses. In fact, the UNA's investment income for the first nine months of 2009 was \$3.6 million, outpacing investment income for the same period in 2008, when it stood at \$2.9 million. Moreover, Ms. Lisovich predicted that the UNA's investment income would continue to grow at

about 6 percent during 2010.

In other developments at the UNA, the 2009 Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association was dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the independence of Carpatho-Ukraine, as well as several other historic milestones, including the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ukrainian nationalist leader Stepan Bandera.

Meanwhile, the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group and the Ukrainian National Association released the 2009 Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation Calendar, featuring beautiful photos of scenes and doings at Soyuzivka. The calendar is an annual fund-raising vehicle for the Soyuzivka Heritage Center.

The February 22 issue of The Weekly carried a special four-page section about the UNA's scholarship and award recipients for academic year 2008-2009. Eighty-two students received scholarships totaling \$16,600.

Organizing achievements of 2008 were highlighted on The Ukrainian National Association Forum page in The Weekly on April 19. Kudos went to Lubov Streletska, a UNA advisor and secretary of UNA Branch 10, for collecting the most premiums with membership applications. She was cited as the outstanding branch secretary for 2008. Other top organizers hailed were Valentina Kaploun of Branch 269 (also a Home Office employee) and Stephanie Hawryluk of Branch 88.

On March 18 the UNA learned about the death of Vasyl Luchkiw, member of the UNA Auditing Committee, former UNA advisor, as well as New York District chairman and secretary of Branch 16 for many years. He was 79.

Dr. Luchkiw's position on the Auditing Committee was later filled by Advisor Eugene Serba, whose spot among the advisors was filled by Ms. Hawryluk, a former advisor.

The Auditing Committee – comprising Chairman Slavko Tysiak and members Wasyl Szeremeta and Mr. Serba – conducted a review of UNA operations, including those of its subsidiaries, Soyuzivka, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, on May 4. Their detailed report about the financial condition, management and operations of the UNA for the period January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2008, was published in the September 6 issue of The Weekly.

Paying a visit to the UNA Home Office in April was Dr.

Serhiy Kvit, president of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, an educational institution in Ukraine's capital that traces its beginnings to 1615. Dr. Kvit came to thank the UNA for its support and to outline plans for the future of this progressive university, which hopes to expand its student body from 3,500 to 5,000.

In May, the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group, assisted by three members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's Newark, N.J., branch, held the sixth annual spring cleaning before the summer season at Soyuzivka. BUG members focused on preparing the Lviv building for campers, while the Plast members took on garbage pick-up on the Soyuzivka grounds.

In June, the UNA Seniors' Conference took place at Soyuzivka with 104 seniors participating in a week of activities that included presentations on various topics, exercise, a banquet, an auction, Bingo and other fun events. Oksana Trytjak was re-elected as president of the UNA Seniors.

Toward the end of the year, the UNA focused attention on its charitable arm, the Ukrainian National Foundation, and the various funds it comprises to support educational, cultural and humanitarian causes and projects that benefit the Ukrainian community in the United States, Canada and Ukraine. A two-part article by UNA Treasurer Lisovich was published in The Weekly in December, and advertisements encouraging donations to the UNF appeared in Svoboda and The Weekly. The Ukrainian National Foundation was established in 1992 and is registered as a 501 (c) (3) corporation.

As 2009 came to an end and 2010 approached, the UNA began looking ahead to its next quadrennial convention. National Secretary Kozak authored articles about the upcoming convention that appeared in October-November to inform branches and their members about the procedure for electing delegates and to encourage branches to increase their membership rolls in order to qualify for more representation at the convention. The 37th Regular Convention of the UNA is scheduled for May 20-23, 2010, at Soyuzivka.

Miss Soyuzivka 2010



Emilia Kuzemka, the daughter of Theresa and John Kuzemka of Long Island City, N.Y., was crowned on August 21, as Miss Soyuzivka 2010. Former Miss Soyuzivka 2009 Dianna Dekajlo performed the honors.

Miss Kuzemka is a Dean's List student at Pace University and a vice-president of the Society for Human Resources Management at the university. She also belongs to the Spartanky Sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, is a member of the Syzokryli Dance Ensemble and sings in the choir at Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria, N.Y. She is a member of Branch 130 of the Ukrainian National Association.

In attendance to view the crowning of the new Miss Soyuzivka were a number of former winners, Ulana Kebalo-George, Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych, Dianna Shmerykowsky, Alana Lenec, Ksenia Hentisz, Lidia Chopivsky-Benson and Marianka Hawryluk, who was the mistress of ceremonies for the event.



Oksana Trytjak

The more than 100 participants of the Conference of UNA Seniors held on June 14-19 at Soyuzivka.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Sports: individual and team winners

Outstanding team and individual athletic accomplishments were the hallmarks of 2009.

Our (one-man) sports department sifted through volumes of matches, tournaments, championships, grand prix events, competitions of all sorts in over 30 sports, and decided the time was right to introduce our first annual Ukrainian Weekly Sports Awards.

The award winners:

- Ukrainian Team of the Year: Shakhtar Donetsk (soccer);
- Most Valuable Ukrainian Pro Athlete: Vitali Klitschko (boxing);
- Ukrainian Rookie of the Year: Kateryna Bondarenko (tennis);
- Inspirational Humanitarian Award: Basil Tarasko.

Following is an alphabetical review of the top sports news of 2009 by sport:

Viktor Ruban and Viktoria Koval won the 2009 **ARCHERY** World Championships in South Korea, on September 7. The Ukrainian pair eked out a close one over China, 149-147.

In **BASEBALL**, Ukraine's Kirovohrad Technical University won the Euro Cup held in Slovakia, defeating Croatia, 5-4 in the finals. Ukraine finished the tourney with a 5-1 record, losing only to Sweden. Hitting star was Maksym Symchyna (.409 with 7 RBI's), while top pitcher was Dmytro Cimarenk (14 innings, 6 hits, 12 strikeouts).

After 52 trips to the dugouts of Ukraine in the 18 years of leading off the development of youth baseball and softball programs, Mr. Taraska really should just change his name to Mr. Baseball.

Ukraine now numbers 18 different leagues, second most in Europe, with over 1,000 boys and girls playing baseball or softball. Several of the organized clubs comprise orphans (including a team that advanced to the European regionals in 2008). Speaking of home runs, the first ever Little League championship for children from orphanages was held in Kyiv.

The **BASKETBALL** Federation of Ukraine in July announced the creation of a single Ukrainian Super League for the 2009-2010 season, with 16 hoop squads expected to compete.

In NBA news, the Atlanta Hawks made Ukrainian Sergiy Gladyr their No. 2 pick in a surprise move at the 2009 NBA Draft. The Minnesota Timberwolves acquired Ukrainian Oleksiy Pecherov in a trade with the Washington Wizards, while the Utah Jazz exercised its option on center Kyrylo Fesenko for the 2009-10 season.

Vita Semerenko and Serhiy Sednev won silver medals in pursuit races at the Open European **BIATHLON** Championship in Russia. Olena Pidhrushina, Valentyna Semerenko, Inna Suprun and Vita Semerenko won gold in the women's 4X6 km relay.

In **BOXING** news Andreas Kotelnik retained his WBA junior welterweight title in Rostock, Germany, on January 7, in a split decision over Argentine Marcos Rene Maidana. It was Maidana's first loss, while Kotelnik improved to 31-2-1, 13 KO's.

January saw Vitali Klitschko awarded "Comeback of the Decade" by the World Boxing Council after he reclaimed the WBC heavyweight title with a TKO over Samuel Peter in late 2008. More honors followed in late March, when the WBC named Vitali the greatest puncher ever among heavyweights. His record of 37 wins, 36 by knockouts (97.2%) was cited as proof.

Vitali Klitschko defeated Juan Carlos Gomez with a ninth-round technical knockout on March 21, in a WBC title fight held in Struttgart, Germany. An inadvertent head butt by Klitschko spurred the champion into a punching spree which resulted in the final knockdown.

Wladimir Klitschko defeated Ruslan Chagaev on June 20, in Germany's Veltins Arena, a technical knockout in the 10th round. The victorious bout earned Klitschko Ring magazine's heavyweight championship belt. He set an IBF record with his seventh title defense, the first-ever loss for Chagaev. The Klitschko brothers' promotion company, K2, was honored by the WBO for drawing some 60,000 supporters to the Chagaev fight.

Vitali Klitschko again retained his WBC heavyweight title against Chris Arreola with a 10th round TKO in Los Angeles on September 26. After absorbing more than 300 punches, Arreola's trainer threw in the towel before the end of Round 10. Klitschko announced that he would probably fight two or three more challengers before retiring.

One of those remaining fights came on December 12, when Vitali again retained his WBC heavyweight title against Kevin Johnson in Switzerland by unanimous deci-



The Weekly's Ukrainian Team of the Year, Shakhtar Donetsk, defeated Werder Bremen 2-1 on May 20 to win the UEFA Cup. Above, the deciding goal is netted in overtime by striker Jádson.

sion. Klitschko set a new Compu Box record for jabs thrown in a match (749). Next up is a bout with British challenger David Haye, the reigning WBA heavyweight champion.

Viacheslav Senchenko retained his WBA welterweight title against Motoki Sasaki in Donetsk on October 3. On the same card, Oleh Yefimovich knocked out Esham Pickering to defend his European featherweight title.

Grandmaster Stanislav Savchenko won the FINEC 2009 international **CHESS** tournament in St. Petersburg (Russia). Ukrainian Mykhailo Brodsky placed second. Grandmaster Serhiy Bilosheyev won the world chess championship in Chelyabinsk (Russia) in early March. Grandmaster Pavlo Eljanov won the 39th International Chess Super-Tournament 2009 in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in mid-May.

Ukraine placed 10 of the world's top 100 as selected by the World Chess Federation. Ruslan Ponomarev (16th), Sergey Karjakin (20th) and Pavel Eljanov (21st) were Ukraine's top three.

Yuriy Kuzbov won the Spice Cup Grandmaster Invitational in Texas on September 29 when he broke a three-way first place tie with a blitz tournament victory.

In **BICYCLING**, Ukraine's cyclists won three bronze medals at the UCI Track World Cup 2009-2010 in England at the end of October. Bronze medal events were men's scratch race final, team pursuit final and individual pursuit.

Ukraine's team of athletes won 67 medals at the 21st Summer **DEAFLYMPICS** in Taipei on September 5-15. The medals breakdown: 20 gold, 22 silver and 25 bronze, finishing second best overall.

In **DIVING**, Ukraine's athletes won 31 medals at the Universiade in Belgrade on July 12: seven gold, 11 silver and 13 bronze medals. Konstantin Milayev (platform diving) and Olympic archery champ Viktor Ruban won gold, while Ukraine's team was ranked sixth among 56 countries.

Oleh Kharlan captured three gold and a silver medal in major **FENCING** competitions throughout 2009, including the Orleans Women's Saber Grand Prix, the Moscow Grand Prix and World Fencing Championships in Bulgaria and Turkey.

Fourteen-year-old Matej Silecky of Verona, N.J., competed at Ukraine's Junior Nationals in **FIGURE SKATING** in late January. The Olympic hopeful was the 2009 North Atlantic Novice Regional Champion, placing in the top performers at various sectional competitions.

Ukraine's policemen **FUTSAL** (indoor soccer) team repeated as champions at the Worldwide Indoor Soccer Police Association Tournament in New Zealand. FC Time Lviv bested Shakhtar Donetsk 5-4 in penalty kicks, winning the Green Ball Cup international futsal tournament in the Czech Republic on August 9.

Ukrainian pro Jim Furyk just happens to be one of the most consistent performers in **GOLF** over the past 10 years, with a top-10 ranking for over 270 weeks between 1999 and 2009. So consistent, his fan base nicknamed him, "The Grinder."

In **GYMNASTICS**, Ukraine's team at the European Athletics Championship in Milan, Italy, won a gold, two silvers and a bronze medal. Yana Demianchuk took the gold in balance beam, Anna Kalashnyk won bronze in the vault,

Oleksandr Vorobiev took silver in the rings, while Mykola Kubenko earned silver in the high bar.

Olena Movchan and Yulia Domchevska won the gold in women's synchronized trampoline finals at the World Games in Taiwan on July 16-27. Mykola Popov and Mykola Shcherbakov took gold in men's duo acrobatic gymnastics.

Oleksandr Yakubovsky and Vitaliy Nakonechny each won three gold medals at the Beresh Cup international artistic gymnastics tournament in Crimea.

In May, readers of The Weekly enjoyed an exclusive interview with Dallas Stars' goaltending prospect Tyler Beskorowany. Sports columnist Ihor Stelmach met up with the Owen Sound junior at the 2008 National **HOCKEY** League Entry Draft in Ottawa.

More prospect news followed with a year in the life of Zach Boychuk, Carolina's 2008 top selection. Blessed with speed and great offensive skills, Boychuk is expected to join the big club later this season.

The start of the 2009 NHL season saw Jeff Woywitka moving to Dallas, Kyle Brodziak to Minnesota and Todd Fedoruk relocating to Tampa Bay. Ruslan Fedotenko won another Stanley Cup and re-upped with Pittsburgh, Keith Tkachuk stayed in St. Louis, and Travis Zajac got big bucks to remain a Devil.

The dropping of the puck on the current campaign saw the unfortunate resignation of Wayne Gretzky as coach of the bankrupt Phoenix Coyotes. After a well-deserved respite, we hope to see the "Great One" back in hockey real soon.

A pair of Ukrainians, Volodymyr Soroka (gold) and Tigran Kazarian (bronze) were medalists at the 2009 **JUDO** World Cup in Tbilisi, Georgia, on January 25. Roman Hontiuk won the New York Open Judo Championship in March.

Soroka again won a gold medal in the 73kg division at the European Judo Championships in Tbilisi, this time in late April. Ukraine finished in third place overall, with three medals.

The World Judo Cup in Estonia (men) and Spain (women) saw Ukraine's team win seven medals. Ukraine won six medals at the Cadet European Judo Championships in Slovenia on June 26-28. Ukraine's Sambo team collected nine medals at the 2009 World Sambo and Combat Sambo Championships in Greece, held on November 5-9. Natalia Verloka bested American Soolmaz Aboali to win the Karate World Cup 2009 in Poland on October 10.

A Ukrainian **MOUNTAIN CLIMBING** team from Donetsk composed of athletes and coal miners successfully scaled the summit of one of Tian Shan's peaks in early August. The mountain range extends from Kyrgyzstan to northwest China. Climber Serhiy Koralev reported the peak to be 5,123 meters high.

The president of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, member of the International Olympic Committee and first vice-president of the International Association of Athletics Federation, Serhiy Bubka, was elected to the board of the Association of Summer **OLYMPICS** Federations during its General Assembly in Denver on March 25.

Twenty of Ukraine's athletes for the 21st Winter Olympic Games to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 2010

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

will be awarded scholarships by the International Olympic Committee, doubling the previous quota of 10. Scholarship recipients will receive \$1,000 monthly from July 2009 through February 2010.

Ukrainian athletes won 22 medals: six gold, eight silver and eight bronze at the IPC Biathlon and Cross Country World Championships in Finland on February 3. Athletes from 20 countries took part in preparation for the X Winter **PARALYMPIC** Games to be held on March 2-12, 2012, in Vancouver.

Pavlo Tymoshchenko won the silver medal at the Modern **PENTATHLON** World Cup Final in Brazil on September 15.

Oleksander Salyuk's **ROWING** team won the fifth Prime Yalta Rally on September 13. The three-day rally comprised of 12 different categories and had 14 countries competing. Eight of the top 10 finishing teams were Ukrainian.

Ukraine's women's team of Yana Dementyeva, Anastasia Kozhenkova, Tetiana Kolesnikova and Svitlana Spiriukhova won the gold medal at the 2009 World Rowing Championships in Poland, on August 31.

SAILING headlines featured a Dnipropetrovsk native, Victor Kovalenko, being named Australian Coach of the Year by the Australian Institute of Sports in February. Kovalenko, who works with three different yacht clubs, coaches the 470-class fleet for men and women. Ten of his crews have won world titles, including six medalists at the Olympic Games.

Ukraine's **SHOOTING** team fired off 18 total medals (six gold), winning second place overall at the 2009 World Running Target Championships in Finland, on August 26-30. Ukraine's large-caliber pistol shooting team won the gold medal at the 44th World Military Shooting Championships in Croatia on August 16.

Ukraine's U-17 junior **SOCCER** team won the fifth international soccer tournament in Minsk, Belarus, when Filip Budkovsky tallied both goals in a 2-1 final win over Russia on January 19. Budkovsky earned top forward honors in the tourney.

January saw Dynamo Kyiv's president, Ihor Surkis, appointed a member of the FIFA Committee for Club Football.

Anatoliy Tymoschuk, Artem Milevsky and goalie Andriy Pyatov were voted some of the best soccer players of the former Soviet Union by Ukrainian and Russian publications.

Andriy Voronin was voted by a Sports Express poll as a player of the month among soccer players of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic nations. Voronin plays for the German club Hertha BSC Berlin and the Ukrainian National Team.

Shakhtar Donetsk made history with its 2-1 triumph over Werder Bremen on May 20 in Istanbul for the UEFA Cup. A goal in the seventh minute of extra time secured the victory for Shakhtar – the first ever European trophy for a Ukrainian club since Ukraine declared its independence. The road to the finals was paved with wins over Dynamo Kyiv, Paris Saint-Germain FC and Olympique de Marseille.

Dynamo Kyiv took solace by winning the Ukrainian Soccer League, besting Tavaria Symferopol 3-2 in mid-May. Dynamo finished with 70 points, 12 better than second-place Shakhtar Donetsk.

FC Vorksla Poltava won its first Ukrainian Cup 1-0 over UEFA Cup winner Shakhtar Donetsk on May 31.

The head coach of Ukraine's national team, Oleksiy Mykhailychenko, proposed reducing the foreign-born quota in Ukraine's soccer clubs to six players, one less than the current allowance. The proposed reduction would reduce the risks of losing talented Ukrainian players.

On June 17, the Wings soccer club from Chicago's Ukrainian American Youth Association traveled to Ukraine to compete against four Ukrainian soccer clubs: Karpaty of Lviv, Lviv soccer club, Karpaty of Yaremche and Hazovyk of Borodchany.

Ukraine won the UEFA Under-19 Championships in Donetsk, making history in the process, when England went down 2-0. Ukraine was the only team in the tournament to win on home soil.

World-renowned striker Serhiy Rebrov announced his retirement on July 20. The ex-Dynamo Kyiv striker will return to the club as assistant senior coach of the youth team. Rebrov's storied 18-year career saw him play in the English Premier League, Turkey and Russia, in addition to Dynamo and Shakhtar Donetsk.

Speaking of Dynamo, striker Artem Milevsky was awarded the Golden Ball of Ukraine by football.ua, based on his performance during the 2008-2009 Ukrainian Premier League Championship.

Ukraine's U-21 team defeated Turkey 1-0 to win the seventh Valeri Lobanovsky Memorial Tournament off a Mykola



Aleksandr Lepetukha/UNIAN

Tennis player Kateryna Bondarenko, The Weekly's Ukrainian Rookie of the Year.

Mazuryk penalty kick in the 13th minute.

The 62nd National Soccer Coaches Association of America Convention held in St. Louis on January 14-18 was most special for Ukrainians, when Gene Chyzowych was named to the National Soccer Hall of Fame. His official induction ceremony was on August 1 in Oneonta, N.Y., home of the National Soccer Hall of Fame. Gene joined brother Walter as the only brothers in the hall.

Ukraine and Poland agreed to a soccer challenge as part of events kicking off the countries' co-hosting the Euro Cup in 2012. UEFA selected Kyiv as the site of the Euro-2012 final match. Construction on Kyiv's new stadium is said to be on schedule.

Later, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) shocked the Ukrainian soccer community on May 13 when it announced it was dropping Dnipropetrovsk as a host city of Euro 2012. Lviv was left with a chance at joining Kyiv, Kharkiv and Donetsk – plus four Polish cities in hosting the European soccer-Olympics event.

All of the Ukrainian cities have hotel and transportation infrastructure projects ahead in preparation for the soccer world's second-most prestigious tournament, behind only the World Cup. Another obstacle to overcome in several cities is the issue of stadium completion according to UEFA requirements.

The official logo and slogan for the Euro-2012 soccer championships were unveiled on December 14 in Kyiv. The logo consists of a soccer ball joining two tulips – one red-and-white (Poland), the other blue-and-yellow (Ukraine).



UNIAN

Vitali Klitschko was named by The Weekly as Most Valuable Ukrainian Pro Athlete.

The slogan is "Creating History Together."

Ukraine failed to secure a 2010 World Cup spot after losing 1-0 at home to Greece in a second-leg playoff in Donetsk on November 18. Coach Oleksiy Mykhailychenko was disappointed, yet proud of the run his national team made throughout its qualifying matches in 2009. "I feel very disappointed and sad that we lost," he said in his post-match press conference. "The boys did everything they could to get the win but they didn't succeed." Ukraine's record in the World Cup qualifying games was four wins, two ties and two losses.

Superstar Andriy Shevchenko ended a nightmare stay with the U.K.'s Chelsea plus an unwelcome return to A.C. Milan by returning home where his soccer career first bloomed: on August 30, the former European Footballer of the Year was triumphantly re-introduced as a member of Dynamo Kyiv.

In a **STRONGMAN** competition, Dmytro Khalaji set a new world record in Kyiv on May 18, when he endured two vehicles running over him with a total weight of two tons and 1.5 tons, respectively.

Four-time Olympic champion Yana Klochkova announced her retirement from competitive **SWIMMING** on January 26. Klochkova won five Olympic medals and



Roman Woronowycz

"Mr. Baseball" Basil Tarasko, seen here with some of his young baseball hopefuls in 2004, was tapped for The Weekly's Inspirational Humanitarian Award.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

set 50 Ukrainian records in 12 different swimming events.

Ukraine's synchronized swimming team won silver and bronze at the European Synchronized Swimming Champions Cup in Andorra on May 15-17.

Early February saw Ukraine's women's team of Alona and Kateryna Bondarenko, Mariya Koryttseva and Olga Savchuk defeat Israel 3-2 in Round 1 of the International **TENNIS** Federation Fed Cup.

Nadia Kichenok, 16, won the junior ITF tournament in Australia on January 22.

Serhiy Bubka won the Kyoto Challenger tennis tournament in Japan on March 15. His first singles title earned Bubka \$35,000 in winnings.

Anastasia Lytovchenko and Tetiana Arfyeva won the women's doubles event at the ITF Pro Circuit in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on April 20.

Sisters Alona and Kateryna Bondarenko won the ECM Prague Open women's doubles final in the Czech Republic on July 19. The second-seeded Ukrainians defeated the top-seeded Russian pair, Benesova-Strycova, 6-1, 6-2.

Kateryna Bondarenko was the first ever Ukrainian tennis player to advance to the final eight of a Grand Slam tournament at this year's U.S. Open. She lost to Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium in her quarterfinal match, 5-7, 4-6. Bondarenko had entered the U.S. Open riding high from her upset of Venus Williams in the Rogers Cup on August 15-23 in Toronto, winning 20 of 28 service points. Both Bondarenko sisters made it into the third round before being eliminated.

Serhiy Stakhovsky earned his second ATP title when he defeated Horacio Zeballos to win the St. Petersburg Open on November 1. The 93rd ranked Ukrainian upset the 54th ranked Argentine, 2-6, 7-6, 7-6.

Alona Bondarenko was prominently featured in a major advertising campaign by K-Swiss, a tennis shoes/accesso-

ries company whose slogan is "Keeping it Pure."

The WTA ranks continue to attract young Ukrainian hopefuls like Viktoriya Kutuzova, Mariya Koryttseva, Yulia Beygelzimer, Tetiana Luzhanska and Tetyana Arefyeva. On the men's side, Oleksandr Dolgoplov Jr. and Sergiy Stakhovsky are Ukrainians competing on the ATP tour.

In **TRACK AND FIELD**, Ukraine won five medals at the Grand Prix European Athletics Association Tournament in June. Natalia Semenova captured gold in the discus, while Maksym Mazuryk (silver) bested countryman Oleksandr Korchmid (bronze) in the pole vault. Tetiana Petliuk added another silver medal in the women's 800-meter race.

Maksym Mazuryk won the gold medal in men's pole vault (5.7 meters) at the IAAF World Athletics Finals in Greece on September 14. A week earlier, Mazuryk cleared 5.52 meters to tie for first with Russian Viktor Chistakov at the Riete Grand Prix in Italy.

Oleksiy Siutkin won a gold medal at the 209 ITU **TRIATHLON** European Cup in Turkey on August 4. Yuliya Sapunova won the 2009 Eilat International Triathlon Union European Premium Cup in Israel on November 21. Nataliya Dobrynska won the International Association of Athletics Federations women's World Combined Events Challenge in France on September 19.

Oleksiy Kasyanov won first place overall at the IAAF's men's World Combined Events Challenge in France on September 19 with 8,291 total points.

Nadia Trotsenko defended her title with a gold medal win at the European **WEIGHTLIFTING** Championships in Bucharest, Hungary, in early April. Yuliya Kalina won silver in the aggregate/snatch/clean+jerk event, and Yuliya Dovhal notched a bronze medal in the over 75 kg division. On the men's side, Ihor Shymchko took gold, while Oleksiy Torkhtiy won a silver in the 105 kg division.

Nine Ukrainian wrestlers won medals at the European **WRESTLING** Championships in Vilnius, Lithuania on March 29 through April 6. Men's winners included Volodymyr Shatskykh (silver, Greco-Roman), Vitaliy Lishchynsky (bronze), Andriy Stadnik (gold, freestyle), Ibragim Aldatov (silver) and Vasiliy Tesmineckiy (bronze). In women's, Nataliya Synyshyn (gold, 55kg), Kateryna Burmistrova (gold, 67kg), Iryna Khariv (silver, 59kg) and Yuliya Blahinya (bronze, 51kg).

The 2009 FILA Junior World Championships in Turkey saw Alina Makhyna win gold and Iryna Hysyak win silver in their respective wrestling weight categories. Ukraine's women's team finished ranked second overall out of 40 teams. On the men's side, Stanislav Zinchenko and Andriy Nahorny won bronze medals.

Yulia Ostapchuk won gold at the 20th European Juniors Greco-Roman Wrestling Championship in Georgia on July 2-4. Maxym Fesenko, Ruslan Oleksenko, Anzhela Kleshecheva, Iryna Netreba, Yulia Kuzmiv and Yulia Blabinya won bronze medals. In men's freestyle, Mykola Aivazian won silver. Ukraine's women's team came in second out of 27 nations with five medals.

The year 2009 was a record breaking medal winning year for independent Ukraine. Tracking results at international sports competitions at the highest levels, Ukrainian athletes won 224 medals at World and European championships and cups. The medal breakdown: 54-gold, 75-silver and 95-bronze.

The press service of the Family, Youth and Sports Ministry reported another 151 awards were won by Ukrainians in non-Olympic events – 36 of which were gold. In 30 Olympic-event European Championships, Ukrainian athletes won 18 additional gold medals.

Diaspora sports

In diaspora sports news, Hunter Mountain hosted the 55th annual Carpathian Ski Club races on March 7 with over 90 competing participants. Founded in Ukraine (1924) and reborn there (1989), KKK (the Ukrainian acronym for the club) began its activity in the United States after World War II. The club commemorated its 85th anniversary with a special fall weekend at Soyuzivka, where Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations, Yuri Sergeyev, presented awards from Ukraine's minister of family, youth and sports.

In an effort to encourage diaspora Ukrainians to nurture their national identity and remain true to their roots, 14 soccer players from the eastern United States participated in the International Ukrainian Football Tournament in Nottingham, England, in mid-May. A total of eight teams took part in the tournament: Australia, two from Canada, four teams from England and the U.S. squad. Canada's USCAK team bested the host, Nottingham Trident, 3-1, to win the third annual tourney.

The Chornomorska Sitch Sports club's men's team captured its first league championship in nine years with a 2-1 victory over the Newark Enforcers. The May triumph propelled Sitch to the top of the Garden State Soccer League – Semi-Pro Elite Central Division.

Chornomorska Sitch Ukrainian Athletic Educational Association defeated Sport Club Portugal, 1-0, to capture the Garden State Soccer League's Semi-Pro Elite League Cup on June 21.

The Philadelphia area's Ukrainian American Sport Center unveiled its most recent innovation in July: the Tryzub Foundation, whose goal is to proactively meet all future challenges in protecting, prolonging and expanding Tryzub's historic legacy.

The 53rd annual USCAK-East Tennis Tournament was held at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center on June 27-28, attracting 36 players, many from Soyuzivka's tennis camp. Players competed in six singles groups, three doubles groups and two in mixed doubles.

Labor Day weekend at Soyuzivka saw swimmers from Chornomorska Sitch, the Tryzub Sports Club and the Ukrainian American Youth Association compete in the annual USCAK swim meet. Thirty hopefuls engaged in the competition, with Chornomorska Sitch coming out a resounding winner in team competition.

The 43rd USCAK chess championship was held on October 17 at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, where six participants, representing two Ukrainian American sports clubs, played five rounds, with no clear winner.



Team Canada (A) hoists the International Ukrainian Football (Soccer) Tournament trophy after winning the final match against Trident FC of Nottingham, England, on May 24.



The Chornomorska Sitch team, winners of the Garden State Soccer League's Semi-Pro Elite League Cup. Sitch President Omelan Twardowsky (right) beams after the June 21 victory.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Our community mourns their passing

During 2009 Ukrainians mourned the passing of many of its important members. Among them were the following, in chronological order:

- Anastasia Baburova, 25, alumna of the USA/USA Program for promising students, Sevastopol-born journalist for Russia's Novaya Gazeta, gunned down in broad daylight along with Russian human rights lawyer Stanislav Markelov – Moscow, January 19.

- Iwan "Uke" Prynada, 59, former U.S. Army Specialist and decorated Vietnam War veteran, veteran of the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, former president of the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of American (known as SUSTA), political activist in New Jersey, member of the Fraternal Order of Police, first Ukrainian American interred in the new Sarasota National Cemetery – Englewood, Fla., January 29.

- Pavlo Zahrebelny, 84, renowned author of 20 novels, Red Army veteran of the defense of Kyiv, laureate of the State Prize of the USSR, editor-in-chief of Literaturna Ukrayina, Hero of Ukraine, laureate of Ukraine's prestigious Shevchenko Prize, and national deputy of Ukraine – Kyiv, February 3.

- Wasyl Rudyk, 55, member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, U.S. Army veteran, served in the Military Police and Criminal Investigation Division before becoming a warrant officer in Military Intelligence, buried on April 29 with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery – February.

- Lydia Krushelnysky, 93, renowned director of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, honorary member of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, 1989 recipient of a lifetime achievement award from the Ukrainian Institute of America, awarded the title of Honored Artist of Ukraine in 2002, recipient of Ukraine's Order of Princess Olha, third class – New York, March 4.

- Joseph Terelya, 65, former Soviet political prisoner imprisoned for nearly 23 years for his Ukrainian Catholic faith and for seeking legalization of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, founder of the Initiative Group for the Defense of the Rights of Believers and the Church in Ukraine, editor of the samvydav journal Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Ukraine, collaborator with the Ukrainian Helsinki Group – Toronto, March 16.

- Vasyl Luchkiw, 79, longtime community activist, past national commander and board member of the Ukrainian American Veterans; current auditor, former advisor, longtime district chairman and branch secretary; head of the Ukrainian Library Association, officer of the Ukrainian Free University Foundation – New City, N.Y., March 18.

- Dr. Oleksa Bilaniuk, 82, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A. and professor of physics at Swarthmore College, distinguished member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Ukrainian Engineers'



Roman Iwasiwka

Lydia Krushelnysky

Society of America and the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, member of the editorial board of the Ukrainian Journal of Physics and collaborator on the English-Ukrainian-English Dictionary of Physics and technology – Wallingford, Pa., March 27.

- Maria Zobniw, 60, noted Ukrainian American community activist of Binghamton, N.Y., longtime president of the Binghamton branch of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, secretary of the local branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and secretary of UNA Branch 271 – Binghamton, N.Y., April 3.

- Iwan Makar, 89, longtime member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), community activist with leadership roles in Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation, co-founder of the Ukrainian American Youth Association resort in Ellenville, N.Y. – May 1.

- Orest Vlokh, 74, co-founder of Rukh, deputy in the first session of the Verkhovna Rada, researcher and physics professor at the Ivan Franko University in Lviv – May 4.

- Roman Wrzesnewskyj, entrepreneur and philanthropist, founder of the Future Bakery in Toronto – May 31.

- Leo Mol, 94, world-renowned sculptor with works on display on several continents, sculptor of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington, also famous for his stained glass, particularly at the Cathedral of Ss. Vladimir and Olga in Winnipeg – Winnipeg, July 4.

- Ludmilla Schmitt, Ph.D., 63, professor of foreign languages at Rider University specializing in Spanish language and Latin-American literature – Trenton, N.J. July 22.

- Eugene Woloshyn, 92, former president of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America, the Ukrainian Professional Society of North America, the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation of North America and the Ukrainian National Association of Seniors; special agent in the U.S.



Yakiv Suslensky



Tania D'Avignon

Ihor Ševčenko

Army's Counter Intelligence Corps on occupied Germany and at one point a member of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's security detail – Stow, Ohio, July 22.

- Archbishop Myroslav Marusyn, 85, close advisor to Archbishop Buchko, the apostolic visitor for Greek-Catholic Ukrainians in Rome, later an apostolic visitor for Ukrainians in Western Europe, vice-president of the papal commission assigned to the revision of the Eastern Code of Canon Law, celebrated countless divine liturgies and preached many homilies for Vatican Radio that were broadcast to the "Catacomb Church" during the Soviet era – Rome, September 21.

- Maj. Gen. Pavlo Popovych, 78, Ukraine's first astronaut and the Soviet Union's fourth cosmonaut, awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union, finished his service as the deputy head of the astronaut training center in charge of research work (1982-1988), member of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, head of the Slavutych Society of Ukrainian Culture in Moscow which aided in the opening of the Ukrainian Cultural Center on Saryi Arbat Street in Moscow – Hurzuf, Crimea, September.

- Julian Kotlar, 85, long-serving member, activist and convention delegate in the UNA, veteran of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and president of Former Members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, executive publisher of Litopys UPA, past president of the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivschyna – Clifton, N.J., October 17.

- Yakiv Suslensky, 80, former Soviet political prisoner, became an advocate for the Ukrainian cause after encountering Ukrainian dissidents in the gulag, founder and president of the Society for Jewish-Ukrainian Contacts, fought for a balanced historical interpretation of the roles of Petliura and Shukhevych, and succeeded in having over 2,000 Ukrainians recognized as Righteous Gentiles at Yad Vashem, assisted the defense during the Demjanjuk trial – Jerusalem, October 19.

- Iryna Senyk, 83, Soviet political prisoner who spent



Iryna Senyk



Vasyl Luchkiw

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Leo Mol

34 years in captivity, member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and distinguished member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group – Kyiv, October 25.

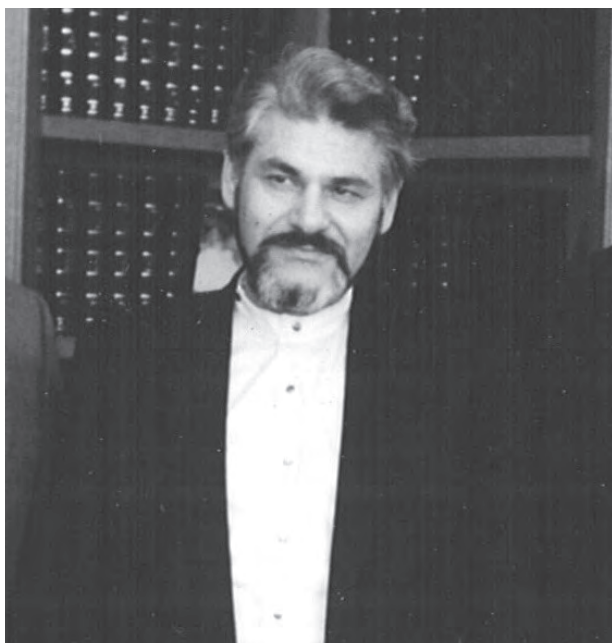
- Stefan Tatarenko, 62, community activist, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America of the Passaic-Bergen branch, noted accordionist and musician with the Tempo orchestra, served on the Clifton City Council and Clifton Board of Education, president of the Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Clifton, U.S. Army veteran – Clifton, N.J., November 12.

- Murray Senkus, 95, prolific research chemist with significant contributions in organic chemistry, insecticides, chemotherapeutic agents, synthetic rubber and penicillin, holder of 57 U.S. patents and author of 20 scientific articles, assisted in the founding of the Prairie Center for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage at the University of Saskatchewan, awarded the Nation Builders Award of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Saskatchewan Provincial Council – Winston-Salem, N.C., November 12.

- Victor Pedenko, 73, former general secretary of the Ukrainian World Congress, activist and leader in the Ukrainian Youth Association of Canada and Ukrainian Canadian Congress – London, Ontario.

- Vera Rich, 73, poet, well-known translator of Ukrainian works in the United Kingdom who produced editions of great literature and poetry from Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko and Pavlo Tychyna – London, December 20.

- Ihor Sevcenko, 87, leading scholar of Byzantine and Slavic history and literature at Harvard University, co-founder and acting director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, obtained George Orwell's permission to translate "Animal Farm" into Ukrainian, with a special preface by the author, for dissemination in DP camps in post-war Germany – Cambridge, Mass., December 26.



Joseph Terelya

The noteworthy: events and people

Noteworthy is the name for the section on developments and people in the news during 2009 that defy inclusion in one of our usual categories.

- The 100th anniversary of the birth (January 1, 1909) of Ukrainian nationalist leader Stepan Bandera was marked during 2009 with numerous events in Ukraine and in the diaspora. 2009 was also the 50th anniversary of the assassination (October 15, 1959) of Bandera, who headed the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists. In Ukraine, nationalists wanted President Viktor Yushchenko to bestow the title Hero of Ukraine on Bandera, but the president failed to act on the matter.

- Volodymyr Ivasiuk, the iconic composer, poet and a founder of Ukrainian pop music, was named a Hero of Ukraine on March 2 by President Viktor Yushchenko. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the young songwriter's death, when his mutilated body was found hanging from a tree in the forests outside Lviv. Soviet authorities declared it a suicide, but Ukrainians have always suspected KGB involvement in Ivasiuk's death at age 30.

- Melanne Verveer, a Ukrainian American known for her lifelong dedication to working with emerging women leaders through the non-profit Vital Voices Global Partnership, was tapped by President Barack Obama on March 6 to serve as ambassador-at-large for global women's issues, a newly created post within the Department of State. Ms. Verveer (née Starinshak) has worked closely with the White House in the past, serving as an assistant to the president and chief of staff to the first lady during the Clinton administration.

- Paula Dobriansky, who served most recently as U.S. undersecretary of state for democracy and global affairs in 2001-2009, was selected to join the board of directors of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. The foundation is dedicated to memorializing the more than 100 million victims of communism and educating the public about this history. Dr. Dobriansky, daughter of noted Ukrainian community leader and U.S. ambassador Dr. Lev Dobriansky, has also been senior vice-president and director of the Washington office of the Council on Foreign Relations and associate director for policy and programs at the United States Information Agency.

- On March 21 over 1,000 members of People's Rukh of Ukraine commemorated the 10th anniversary of the death of their beloved leader, Vyacheslav Chornovil. After a morning Orthodox church service, the procession made its way to the Chornovil monument in central Kyiv. A decade since the car accident that cut short the life of the noted dissident and activist, there has yet to be an official re-investigation of the suspicious circumstances surrounding Chornovil's death, which was declared the very next day by authorities to be nothing more than an accident.

- A U.S. federal appeals court on April 11 upheld the conviction of former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko on money-laundering and conspiracy charges. He has been in U.S. custody since February 1999 when he fled Ukraine after being accused of siphoning at least \$200 million from state coffers. In May 2004 he was found guilty on 14 counts; in April 2009 the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the conviction on six counts but upheld the remaining eight. Mr. Lazarenko's request for a rehearing of his case was also been denied, meaning the ruling was the final judgment of the appeals court.

- President Viktor Yushchenko took time off from a state visit to the Czech Republic to be present at the dedication of a monument to Ukraine's national poet Taras Shevchenko in Prague in late March. Mr. Yushchenko expressed gratitude for the statue on behalf of the Ukrainian people and noted that it was in Prague that the first full and uncensored publication of Shevchenko's "Kobzar" was published in 1876.

- The Kyiv City Administration's Commission for Renaming and Memorial Signs agreed to rename a secondary school in the city's Desniansky district for James Mace, the noted U.S. scholar and Holodomor researcher. The school was to work closely with the doctor's widow, Natalia Dziubenko-Mace, to prepare all the informational and educational work necessary for the renaming.

- The May 31 edition of The New York Times ran an article on the continuing legacy of Surma, the Ukrainian shop on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The article's author, Jim Dwyer, focused on Markian Surmach's return



Lev Khmelkovsky

Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko received a papal award on June 29. The presentation was made by Msgr. George Appleyard.

to the store to save it from shutting its doors, on the changing needs of the store's patrons and the changes in the surrounding community.

- First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko was recognized by the Catholic Church with the papal award "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" at a ceremony at the Ukrainian Institute of America on June 29. The medal was presented on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI by Msgr. George Appleyard, pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pa. The first lady was nominated by Bishop Robert Moskal for her work through the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation, which focuses on reform of health care and maternal and pediatric medicine.

- Ukrainian American research scientist Andrew Chraplyvy and his colleague Robert Tkach were awarded the prestigious Marconi Prize, which annually recognizes scientists who significantly contributed to developments in the field of communications and information technology. The two men traveled to Bologna, Italy, in October, where they participated in a two-day Marconi Symposium before being awarded the prize at the Palazzo Re Enzo. Their research, in conjunction with a Bell Labs team in Atlanta, into improving fiber optic cable technology ensured that the increasing amounts of information streaming through the Internet would not overload networks. Roughly 50 million miles of the new fiber, now known generically as Non-Zero Dispersion Fiber (NZDF), have been installed worldwide.

- After a stunning performance at the Soyuzivka Ukrainian Cultural festival, Ukrainian pop star Ruslana paid a surprise visit on July 20 to the young campers at the Plast campground in East Chatham, N.Y. As July is the month for summer camps the children were not able to



Official Website of Ukraine's President

President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine in late March unveiled a monument to Taras Shevchenko in Prague.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Pop star Ruslana on July 20 paid a surprise visit to the Plast campground in East Chatham, N.Y., where she received a rousing welcome from the Ukrainian scouts.

attend the festival at Soyuzivka, but all were excited and grateful that Ruslana took the time to meet with them and sing songs around a campfire. As a former member of Plast herself, the pop singer was moved to see so many enthusiastic children come together to learn about their heritage as members of Plast.

• Rukh, the people's movement that paved the way for Ukraine's reborn independence, celebrated the 20th anniversary of it founding. Since then, the movement-turned-party has suffered two major splits. As a result, two separate anniversary commemorations were held in Kyiv in September. The September 6 event was organized by the Rukh party, today led by Borys Tarasyuk, at Kyiv Polytechnic University and was attended by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. The September 12 celebration was organized by the Presidential Secretariat at the Ukraina Palace and was attended by President Viktor Yushchenko and several veterans of the Ukrainian independence movement.

• October marked the 25th anniversary of the passing of a Congressional bill to create a U.S. government commission to study the Holodomor. After years of lobbying and legislative work, the commission became a reality and its very creation a source of pride for all Ukrainians. After four years of research, collecting data and interviewing eyewitnesses, in 1988 the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine rendered its report. Among its findings: that Joseph Stalin and his government had committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933. This commission and its conclusions laid the groundwork for many other efforts aimed at raising international awareness of the Great Famine and recognizing the Holodomor as genocide.

• The Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor chose to honor Vera Kostiuk-Busch of Germany as the 2009 Ukrainian of the Year at their 70th anniversary banquet on November 1. A lifelong community activist, Ms. Kostiuk-Busch visited Ukraine after independence and was struck by the material needs of the local schools, and decided immediately to do what she could to help alleviate their needs. Ever since, she has been organizing fund-raisers and initiating supply drives of donated material to send to Ukrainian schools and needy children. In 2003 Ms. Kostiuk-Busch took the next big step and founded Pro Ukraine e. V., an official German charitable organization dedicated to providing assistance.

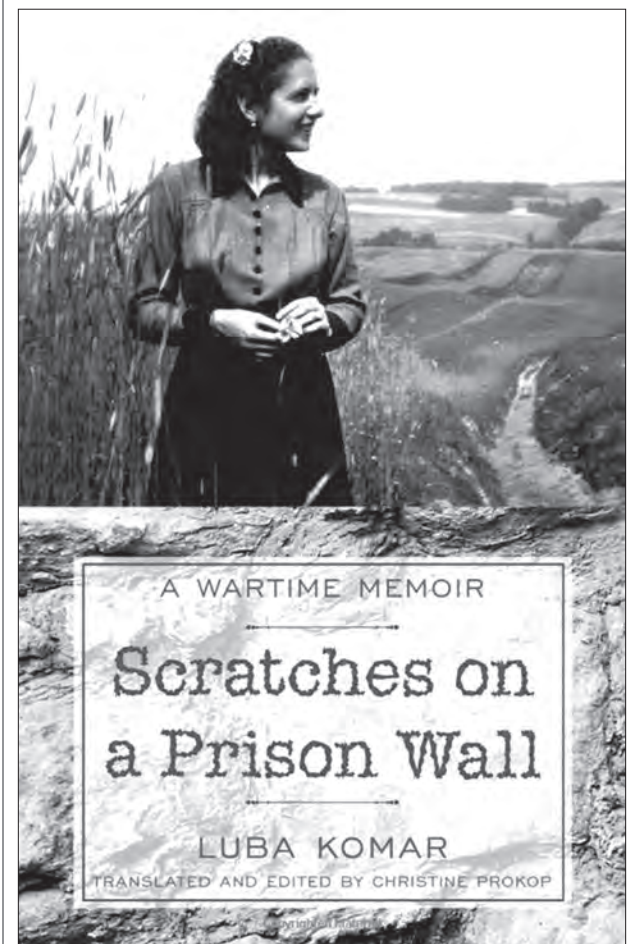
• The Ukrainian Museum in New York was the site of a book launch on October 17 for "Scratches on a Prison Wall," the stirring wartime memoir of Luba Komar that was translated into English by daughter Christine Prokop. The event drew one of the largest crowds the museum had seen in three years at its new location. After several introductory speeches, the highlight of the evening was a series of dramatic readings of book excerpts by Ms. Prokop herself. Accompanying the reading were pictures and video footage of interviews with the now deceased author, who spent the war years as a courier for the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists before being arrested by the NKVD and sent to the gulag.

• The Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS) of Pittsburgh named Stephen Sivulich, Ed.D., their 2009 Ukrainian of the Year at its 40th annual award dinner and ceremony. He was honored for 45 years of service to the Ukrainian community, particularly the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the Ukrainian Orthodox League and his local parish, as well as his humanitarian outreach to the elderly, disabled

and needy, and his achievements in the area of higher education administration.

• Gareth Jones, the young Welsh journalist who bravely traveled through Soviet Ukraine during the Holodomor to report on the horrific events, was honored at his alma mater, Trinity College at the University of Cambridge, with an exhibit from his personal diaries of his trip to Ukraine. The recently discovered diaries are believed to be one of the few surviving first-hand accounts of the terror, and there is hope the exhibit will be shown at other venues around the world and possibly translated.

• The Ukrainian Homestead in Lehighton, Pa., was the site of a 150th anniversary re-enactment of the historic Battle of Konotop on the weekend of October 3-4. In 1659 a combined force of Ukrainian Kozaks under Hetman Ivan Vyhovsky, armies of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Tatar allies defeated a Muscovite army led by Prince Trubetskoy. Visitors were not only treated to a recreation of the battle, but were invited to tour the camps, view demonstrations of period weapons and tools, and enjoy Ukrainian artwork and dancing.



"Scratches on a Prison Wall," a wartime memoir by Luba Komar, was launched on October 17.

The strange case of John Demjanjuk (continued)

John Demjanjuk of Seven Hills, Ohio, was charged by German prosecutors on March 11 with 29,000 counts of accessory to murder for his alleged role as a guard at the Nazi death camp in Sobibor, Poland. The German news magazine Der Spiegel said the case "will most likely be Germany's last big Nazi war crimes trial."

On April 10 an immigration appeals board in the U.S. ruled that Mr. Demjanjuk could be deported. After his appeals in the U.S. to block his deportation were exhausted – the Supreme Court declined to hear the case – Mr. Demjanjuk, 89, arrived in Germany on May 12. That day, seated in a wheelchair and breathing through a nasal tube, he heard a German judge read a 21-page warrant. His lawyer Gunther Maull filed a challenge to the charges; he argued that the evidence was slim and that Germany's jurisdiction in the case is questionable.

A key piece of evidence in the new case is the Trawniki ID card that had been used as evidence in Mr. Demjanjuk's previous trial on other war crimes charges in Israel. It was also reported that the Munich court that issued an arrest warrant for Mr. Demjanjuk had relied heavily on material provided by the U.S. Office of Special Investigations.

Mr. Demjanjuk denies that he ever served the Nazis, but

admits giving false statements when entering the U.S. in order to escape repatriation to the USSR. He says he served in the Soviet army and was a prisoner of war captured by the Germans. Mr. Demjanjuk's son, John Jr., commented: "Prosecutors claim he was an active participant at Sobibor, yet they cannot allege one specific harmful act, because there is not a shred of evidence he ever hurt a single person..."

His son says Mr. Demjanjuk has bone-marrow and kidney diseases, for which he is undergoing medical treatment. However, on July 3 it was reported that doctors in Munich had found that Mr. Demjanjuk was fit to stand trial, with the proviso that his court appearances be limited to two 90-minute sessions a day.

The November issue of Esquire magazine carried an in-depth article on the Demjanjuk case titled "The Last Nazi." Written by Scott Raab, the 9,000-word article raised questions about whether the Demjanjuk case is about justice or vengeance, or something else. "...guilt and innocence, not to mention truth and justice, are beside the point in this case. The Germans did not bring Demjanjuk here to determine his guilt, but to assuage their own. Regardless of the verdict, the old man's fate will be the same: Demjanjuk they brought here to die," Mr. Raab wrote.

Mr. Demjanjuk's trial began on November 30 with the reading of the 10-page indictment. Prosecutor Hans-Joachim Lutz said the prosecution will prove that, Mr. Demjanjuk volunteered to serve the Nazis and was a willing participant in the Holocaust. Speaking after the court hearing that day, defense attorney Ulrich Busch said:

"There is absolutely no evidence for that – it is purely the prosecutors' fantasy." Mr. Busch filed a motion on December 1 for the case to be thrown out, arguing it had been illegal to deport – rather than extradite – Mr. Demjanjuk from the U.S., and that the Sobibor charges were addressed in Mr. Demjanjuk's trial in Israel and thus the current trial constitutes double jeopardy.

Speaking with The Globe and Mail, Rebecca Wittmann, associate professor of German post-war legal history at the University of Toronto, said "I find it a bizarre showpiece." She added, "Of course it's important to put Demjanjuk on trial. But the defense has good arguments – that he's a relatively unimportant character, that he's Ukrainian, not German, and that thousands of others in much higher positions – including a former guard who's set to testify against Demjanjuk – have gotten away scot-free."

On its third day, the trial was delayed because the defendant was too ill to attend. After a three-week recess, the trial resumed in late December, with continuing testimony by co-plaintiffs – Holocaust survivors and family members of Sobibor victims. The trial is expected to continue through May 2010.

The case dates back to 1977. Mr. Demjanjuk had previously been accused of being the notorious camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" at the Treblinka death camp. He was extradited in 1986 to Israel, where he stood trial and was sentenced to death in 1988. However, the guilty verdict and sentence were overturned on appeal by Israel's Supreme Court in 1993 after it was learned that the real "Ivan" was one Ivan Marchenko.

2009: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Meanwhile, back at The Weekly...

Another year here at The Ukrainian Weekly meant more donations for the joint digital archives project of The Weekly and our sister publication, Svoboda, that will eventually make it possible for anyone with access to the Internet to read all the newspapers' issues published since 1933, when The Weekly was founded, and since 1893, when Svoboda was established.

During 2009, the donors to this mammoth undertaking were: the Heritage Foundation of 1st Security Savings Bank, \$5,000 (May); Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, \$10,000 (May); a donor who wished to remain anonymous, \$10,000 (August); and the Bahriany Foundation, \$2,000 (December).

Our anonymous donor noted: "Before the Internet and its World Wide Web, Svoboda was the premier Ukrainian-language news source in the world. And both Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly have been the primary chroniclers of Ukrainian politics and culture and of our Ukrainian community life in North America from 1893 to today. This unique treasure trove of historical news, commentary and analysis, with our community's financial support, can now be accessible in electronic form to everyone in the world – not only directly at the two electronic archive websites but also, and probably more importantly, through Internet search engines such as Google."

The \$27,000 received during 2009 helped the digitization project to make great progress. Previous donors were the Shevchenko Scientific Society, which got the ball rolling in December of 2007 with a \$15,000 grant, and Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, whose very generous donation of \$50,000 in April 2008 allowed the project to grow exponentially.

What can we say? We simply couldn't have done any of the work on our digital archives without these wonderful supporters.

At present, visitors to Svoboda's website (<http://www.svoboda-news.com>), can read all issues released since 1986, plus issues from 1893 and 1894. Most of the issues are in DjVu format. Issues for the years 2008 and 2009 in are in Flash format, which is easily viewable on virtually any computer, and PDF format, which is suitable for downloads. Currently, UNA Almanacs for years 1903, 1915, 1996-2008, and Veselka for years 1954-1965 and 1994 are available for reading online. Eventually, all issues of Svoboda, UNA Almanacs (published since 1903) and issues of the children's magazine Veselka (1954-1995), both published by Svoboda Press, will also be online.

On The Weekly's website (<http://www.ukrweekly.com>) readers will find all issues published since the newspaper's founding in PDF format. Copies of these issues in the Flash format, which are best suited for on-screen reading, are under development. The Weekly's website also includes the two-volume compilation of the most significant stories published from 1933 through 2000 titled "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000" and the collection of articles chronicling Ukraine's drive toward independent statehood and the first 10 years of its independence titled "Ukraine Lives!"

At the beginning of 2009, in our February 1 issue, we announced a new section on our website called "Community Events." The new section allows members of the community to have their major events listed well in advance in an online calendar. The aim is to help community activists keep track of what is going on when and where, and thus help them in planning their own events, as well as to help readers plan their attendance at such events. We advised readers that to have a major event listed they should e-mail info on the type of event, venue and date (e.g., Dance, Hromada Hotel, West Town, NJ, November 13, 2009) to community@ukrweekly.com. We hope to see the calendar used more widely in 2010.

We published several special issues of our newspaper this year, among them the "2008: Year in Review" issue (January 11), the "Ukrainian Debutante Balls" section (April 5) and "A Ukrainian Summer" (May 3). For those keeping count, the year in review was our 34th, the debutante balls issue was our ninth and the summer section was our 13th.

Our first yearend review issue, covering 1976, was a modest one that simply listed, in bullet form, the top stories and developments of the year. It was headlined "1976 – The Year That Was At A Glance." In 1979, the last issue of the year provided a review titled "The 1970s: A Look



At the annual meeting of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, representatives of the credit union are seen with the editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda, Roma Hadzewycz. In the photo (from left) are: Yaroslav Zaviysky, Walter Kovbasniuk, Michael R. Kos, Michael Szpyhulsky, Bohdan Watral, Daria Twardowsky Vincent, Orest Ciapka, Ms. Hadzewycz, Ihor Laszok, Andrew Hrechak and Michael Dziman. At the meeting, SUAFCU presented a \$10,000 donation to the newspaper's digital archives project.

Back." In 1980 the section, titled "1980: An Overview" took on the format familiar to readers today, with separate, but very short, articles on the top developments of the year. The following year, the yearend review took on the look of the current special sections.

In subsequent years, as The Weekly's ability to publish larger issues was enhanced – in 1992, we began to publish 20- and 24-page issues – the size of the special section grew. In 1998, when the printing of the UNA's newspapers was outsourced, the papers were able to print even larger issues. That year The Weekly published its first 28-page issue and a huge yearend issue that weighed in at 44 pages.

It should be noted also that until 2000 the Year in Review section appeared in the last issue of the year. Afterwards we began publishing reviews of the prior year's developments in the first issues of the new year, thus allowing us more time to work on the issue and to include news breaking at year's end.

At the end of November 2009 The Weekly and Svoboda switched to a new print shop in Philadelphia – a move that should save the newspapers an estimated \$35,000-\$40,000 per year. The new printer also gives us more flexibility in the number of pages we can print, as well as how many pages (and which ones) can be appear in color.

The new print shop, which also mails our newspapers, employs new bar-coded mailing labels meant to work more efficiently with the U.S. Postal Service's automated systems. It was hoped this would also speed up mail delivery, but as of year's end there still appeared to be glitches in the system as some readers reported erratic or delayed delivery. (Please do notify our circulation/subscription department about any such issues by calling 973-292-9800, ext. 3042.)

An innovation this year on the pages of The Weekly was Dr. Oleh Wolowyna's series "U.S. Ukrainians in Numbers" providing demographic and socio-economic analyses of Ukrainians in the United States. The articles are based on the integrated databases made available by the new Research Center for the Study of the Ukrainian Diaspora in the United States at the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York. The first article in the series, "Geographical dispersion of Ukrainians in the U.S.: 1990-2006," appeared on October 25. The second, "Growth and decline of Ukrainians in metropolitan areas: 1990-2006," appeared on December 13.

A few words about our small, but very hard-working staff.

Our editors are Matthew Dubas, who was been with The Weekly since March 2006, and Zenon Zawada of our Kyiv Press Bureau, who had been with us since February 2005 (except for the period between mid-January and late August of 2008) and continues to do an excellent job covering the major news and developments in Ukraine. Roma Hadzewycz has served as editor-in-chief since 1980.

The Weekly's production team is led by layout artist David (Darko) Bushnell, who joined the staff in October 2007. Meanwhile Awilda Rolon, who began working at the newspaper as a typesetter back in December 1980, marked her 29th anniversary with us. 2010 will be a big anniversary for this loyal staffer.

Returning this past summer to our editorial offices in

Parsippany, N.J., was intern Tyrssa Korduba of Oakland, N.J., a student at the University of Virginia (Charlottesville) who is majoring in Eastern European studies. In Kyiv, for the second summer in a row, we had a summer intern in the person of Danylo Peleschuk of Stamford, Conn., a journalism graduate of Northeastern University in Boston.

Our webmaster is Ihor Pylypchuk, who is also Svoboda's layout artist and computer troubleshooter. Mr. Pylypchuk is also in charge of the digital archiving of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly.

Our regular correspondents include: Yaro Bihun in Washington and Oksana Zakydalsky in Toronto. Our columnists are: Dr. Myron B. Kuropas ("Faces and Places"), Andrew Fedynsky ("Perspectives"), Andrew Sorokowski ("Crosscurrents"), Orysia Paszczak Tracz ("The Things We Do..."), Khristina Lew ("Double Exposure") and Mr. Bihun ("Let's Talk About It"). In addition, Mr. Zawada pens an occasional column from Kyiv called "Reporter's Notebook."

We gained two columnists during 2009: Oksana Bashuk Hepburn ("From a Canadian Angle"), who joined the line-up in July, and Alex Kuzma ("On Second Thought"), whose first column appeared in September. But we also lost a columnist as Taras Szmagala, who authored "View from the Trembita Lounge" informed us that, with a newborn son, he has no time to write his column. We will miss him.

Now, what would our newspaper be without readers?

Reader support for our newspaper continued to be strong in 2009, as donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund totaled \$33,779.65. (That total was significantly higher than the amount received in the prior year, \$29,153.80.) A hearty thank you to all donors, large and small.

"The Ukrainian Weekly and you" was the title of our April 5 editorial addressed to subscribers and readers. We thanked our benefactors – those who support our work by donating to the Press Fund, as well as to our community correspondents – those volunteers who send in stories about events and people in their neck of the woods. The main point of the editorial, however, was to encourage more community correspondents to send in stories, photos, letters, etc., to "share the good news about your activities with our community."

We offered our readers a partnership, noting that "together we can not only keep our community in touch, but also make it stronger for our generation and those who come after us." We firmly believe in that and we hope for an even stronger partnership in 2010.

Author, author ...

The sections of "2009: The Year in Review" were prepared based on materials published in The Weekly, and written by numerous authors, during the past year. The sections were compiled by: Roma Hadzewycz, Matthew Dubas, Zenon Zawada, Yaro Bihun, Oksana Zakydalsky, Ihor Stelmach, Lesia Lebed and Markian Hadzewycz.

Credit for the layout of this special section – a huge annual undertaking – goes to Darko Bushnell.