



releases people from the fear and inferiority 'inoculated' into them by Stalinism."

In the capital of Kiev in November, the President of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, launched a year of commemoration activities. Writing in *The Age* newspaper last week, he said the Holodomor turned Ukraine into "a vast death camp" where food was confiscated by authorities. But once it was over, he wrote, to speak of the mass starvation was a crime against the state and any international reports were attacked as "anti-Soviet".

Calling on other governments to recognise the Holodomor, Yush-

A man places a flower on a coffin placed in a mass grave during a day of remembrance in Ukraine for up to 10 million people who starved to death in the Great Famine of 1932-33.

Opposite page: Survivors Maria Janeczko, top left, and Alexandra Krywoszyja.

Today's cover: A man sets a candle during a memorial service at the Holodomor victims monument in Kiev.

Pictures: Karleen Williams and AFP

chenko said, "A world that indulges historical amnesia or falsification is condemned to repeat its worst mistakes."

However, the famine continues to cause controversy with some arguing it never occurred. Considered akin to Holocaust deniers by the Ukrainian Government, the views of the deniers, including the Russian Government, are being countered by photographic evidence and the recollections of those who were there.

One of whom is Alexandra Krywoszyja. She survived as a result of the love and resourcefulness of her mother who took a job in a dairy and would secretly take milk products separated during cheese-making and put it beneath her clothes, moulding it to her skin.

"She'd come home and she'd stand and take her clothes off and I would [scrape her skin] in my hands, they be little, and take the cheese from there. I remember it like now."

It was a diet supplemented by soup made from grass with a little bit of flour to thicken it up.

"Oh that's a lovely soup! You don't know how nice a soup it is. I never tasted in my life such a nice soup."

Her mother, whose legs were swollen from malnutrition, saved her daughter's life - "She never talked about things, she never even complained, nothing, just lived" - but less than 10 years later the then teenaged Krywoszyja was taken from Ukraine by the Nazis and forced into slave labour in Germany.

She never saw her mother again.

Maria Janeczko also suffered two of humanity's worst tyrants. She was taken away from her Ukrainian village by Hitler's army one spring Saturday morning in 1942 in a horse and cart, she says, and transported to Germany.

Escorted by SS soldiers to and from work in cruel conditions in a factory each day for three years, and contending with bombing, bunkers and the cold, she did at least meet Stanislav, who would become her husband, and get one guaranteed meal a day.

Following World War II both women migrated to Australia, and settled in Canberra and raised their families.

Years later Janeczko went back to Ukraine and visited her village to thank the woman who had provided her with a bath and clean clothes, but she was long gone. That act of kindness had left an impact on the urchin who had confounded Stalin to live many more decades on the other side of the world.

"Yes, yes, you never forget. You know, when you get older, sometimes I forget names of people I meet now, but the younger years, you remember these things," she says.

For Krywoszyja, who is about to be blessed with her 13th great-grandchild, while the memories of the Holodomor remain, the grief has, thankfully, faded over the years.

"That was a very hard time, but when I talk about it now it does not touch me. Deep, it does not touch me. That's all over and it's been about 75 years ago, so the pain just went away."

■ Holodomor 75th anniversary commemoration and requiem mass, Sunday, December 16, 1pm, Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church of St Nicholas, 6 Mackay Gardens, Turner, ph: 6257 1884, all welcome.

memo

Welcome to Memo - your weekly wrap-up of news from Canberra businesses

Authentic Chinese cuisine at Prince Palace

For fresh, authentic Chinese food, delicious dim sim and yum cha in stylish, lakeside surroundings, the newly opened Prince Palace Restaurant at 114 Emu Bank, The Boardwalk, Belconnen is the place to go. To help you enjoy the Christmas season, hosts Carol and Irene are offering every dinner guest a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink, and free entry to their Chinese New Year Lucky Draw from now until February 7, 2008. The Prince Palace chefs specialise in preparing live seafood, like the seasonal special Deluxe Seafood Banquet from only \$35 per person. They can also offer tailor-made packages and party banquets. For bookings, call The Prince Palace Restaurant on 6251 3838.



Try delicious, authentic Chinese food this Christmas season.

Mona Country Manor House

Mona Country Manor House, an historic property on the edge of Heritage listed Braidwood, just one hour east of Canberra, offers the discerning traveller a luxurious mix of beauty, relaxation and tranquillity. A country retreat comprising two villas set in eight acres of award-winning gardens, each villa can be reserved for your exclusive use. Ideal for gatherings of family and/or friends, Mona Country Manor House offers tennis, croquet, an indoor heated spa pool, massages, crackling fires and more. You won't ever want to leave! For more information, call (02) 4842 1288.



Mona Country Manor House country retreat offers relaxed luxury.

George Harcourt Inn's Big Gig

Enjoy a carnival festival of free live music, comedy, theatre performers and giveaways at the George Harcourt Inn Big Gig on Saturday, December 8. From 3pm to midnight, on the outdoor stage enjoy the jazzy Annie and the Armadillos, to the lickety-split rockabilly music of The Fuelers, to the tribal grooves of the Hoza African Band. These Canberra bands are headlined by Sydney's fabulous retro swing jump blues 'Chris Mawer Band'. Food and drinks will be available and families are welcome. The George Harcourt Inn is located at 3 Gold Creek Road, Gold Creek (opposite Cockington Green). For more information, call 6230 2484.



The Big Gig is an enjoyable day of entertainment for the whole family.

Kennards Canberra Cup

The Canberra Cup at Thoroughbred Park is one of the most exciting days on Canberra's horse racing calendar. Held at Lyneham's Thoroughbred Park, the cup will give punters the chance to check out Canberra's exciting new \$10 million upgraded state-of-the-art racing facility, which has been raved about by jockeys, trainers and owners as being

top class. With a wide variety of entertainment on offer there's something for everyone - premier horse racing, light entertainment throughout the day, great food and fashion parades every half hour. All this for only \$25 or \$5 concession, with free parking available. For more information, call 02 6241 3888 or visit www.thoroughbredpark.com.au

Mediterranean indulgence at Café Charisma

Canberra's best family-run Mediterranean restaurant, Café Charisma in North Lyneham is also Canberra's best-kept secret for seafood. Offering a wide range of freshly cooked Mediterranean dishes, Café Charisma also offers everything from mussels and prawns to calamari and seasonal fish. Be tempted by their superb seafood

marinara and platters or even better, bring a group along and opt for a luxurious seafood banquet. Café Charisma can cater for functions from 5-500 people, and also boasts a superb outdoor area so you can indulge in dining alfresco under the stars. For more information or to book your next meal, function or take-away, call Mary on 6262 5359.